



LEADERSHIP CRISIS IN AMERICA

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





Leadership Crisis in America

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Leadership Crisis in America

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 29:2

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1939

God has ordained our government and commanded us to get involved in the decisions made for the country.

Adrian Rogers says, "Leadership is really stewardship, because the leader acts for God." Jesus taught us to participate in government when He said we are to render to "Caesar the things that are Caesar's" and to "God the things that are God's." (See Matthew 22:21.)

There are four basic principles to consider when responding to the leadership crisis in America.

Think first about the character that God requires in leadership. God blesses good character over ability. When you go to vote, consider the following qualities that God requires:

- **Godliness:** Nobody is fit for leadership who is ungodly or unrighteous.
- **Wisdom:** Does your candidate have the wisdom that can only be given by God?
- **Honesty:** Proverbs 20:28 says, "Mercy and truth preserve the king."
- **Discernment:** Someone who is able to distinguish between good and bad.
- **Sexual Morality:** If a man has no moral standard of his own, he can't set a moral standard for the nation.
- **Sobriety:** Look for a leader who is not only sober-minded, but simply sober.
- **Protectiveness:** A good leader protects the weak and defends those who cannot defend themselves.

Secondly, remember the choice that God respects. God allows us to choose against His will, and that is the reason we receive the poor leadership we deserve. Adrian Rogers says, "Wicked rulers are God's reward for wicked people."

Third, see the consequences that God reveals. It is deeply disturbing to consider that America doesn't know the trouble she's in on the path she's currently walking. Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

But ultimately, remember the control that God reserves.

Even if wicked men make wicked choices for wicked rulers to lead, God has not forsaken control. God is still the King of kings. Adrian Rogers says, "If we do not allow God to rule in America, God will still overrule."

Life Application

What should we do about the leadership crisis in America?

1. Pray for revival.
2. Prepare for suffering.
3. Prepare for His arrival.

Let the voting polls be a reminder: Jesus is coming, soon.



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INTRODUCTION

- a) America is in a crisis.
 - i) This crisis is a moral crisis and a crisis of leadership.
- b) Leadership is crucial.
 - i) If those at the top and at the helm are not right, then what will happen to the rest of us?
- c) The Bible addresses national leadership.
 - i) Proverbs 29:2
- d) It is vitally important that we vote in our elections.
 - i) We are disobedient to the Lord when we do not vote.
 - (1) Matthew 22:21
 - (a) Our Caesar is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.
 - (i) The genius of our government is that the people participate.
 - (b) It was none other than Jesus, therefore, who taught us to participate in government.
 - (c) It is unthinkable that Almighty God would have ordained government and then told His people to stay out of it.
 - (i) Whom, then, would that leave to influence and to lead?
- e) In the Scriptures we'll study today, we see four basic things about leadership.

1) THE CHARACTER GOD REQUIRES

- a) Some say that character makes no difference in leadership; that it's ability that counts.
 - i) It is foolish to say, however, that character makes no difference in national leadership.
 - ii) When we say that character is not important, we are saying that God is not important.
 - (1) It is God who blesses good character.
 - (2) It is God who blesses a leader who has more than ability, but who also has character.
 - (3) When we say that character is not important, we are saying that righteousness is not important and that we can handle things by ourselves; that skill is all we need.
- b) A national leader who does not have character will contaminate everything he touches.
- c) There are certain leadership characteristics and qualities that God requires of leaders:
 - i) Godliness
 - (1) Psalm 148:11-13
 - (a) Leaders over all the Earth, whether they be kings or princes or judges, are to praise God.
 - (i) The framers of our Constitution understood this.
 - 1. While we believe in the separation of church and state rightly understood, we never have believed in the separation of God from government.
 - (2) Leadership is actually stewardship because the leader acts for God.
 - (a) Romans 13:4
 - (3) An ungodly man or woman is unfit for leadership.
 - (a) Even if he carries a Bible and attends church, he is unfit for leadership if he is ungodly or unrighteous.
 - (4) Proverbs 16:12
 - (5) To claim that character makes no difference is to say that God's Word is not true.



- ii) Wisdom
 - (1) Proverbs 8:12-16
 - (2) It is far better for a leader to be wise than to be intelligent, smart or gifted.
 - (3) 2 Chronicles 1:7-11
 - (a) Because King Solomon asked for wisdom, God granted him wisdom; and God also established his kingdom and gave King Solomon riches, honor and prosperity.
 - (4) When we vote, we should look for a godly candidate who has real wisdom.
 - (a) Leadership comes from godliness, righteousness and wisdom.
- iii) Honesty
 - (1) Proverbs 17:7
 - (2) Proverbs 20:28
 - (3) Leaders and liars are not the same.
 - (a) A man who is a liar has a basic character flaw.
 - (b) If you cannot trust a man to tell the truth, then you cannot trust him for anything.
 - (4) If a man is not a truth teller, then he cannot lead with God's approval.
 - (5) John 8:44
 - (a) Every liar is acting like the devil.
 - (b) Every truth speaker is acting like the Lord Jesus Christ.
- iv) Discrimination
 - (1) Discrimination is a bad thing if it is discrimination against a person because of characteristics over which they have no control, such as race, national origin, etc.
 - (2) Discrimination is good, however, when choosing between good and bad and between wise and unwise.
 - (a) If this type of discrimination is not present, then that person cannot lead.
 - (3) Proverbs 25:4-5
 - (a) A national leader does not need to be surrounded by wicked people.
 - (4) A wise leader will purge wicked advisors and associates from his administration wicked.
 - (5) Proverbs 29:12
 - (a) If you want to know what a ruler is like, then look at the kind of people he surrounds himself with.
 - (b) If a man is not a truth teller, then he will surround himself with wicked people.
- v) Sexual morality
 - (1) If a person is sexually immoral, then he is unfit to lead.
 - (2) Proverbs 31:1-3
 - (a) Immorality destroys a leader.
 - (3) If someone will not keep his word concerning the most sacred vow, which is the marriage vow, then he will not keep his word concerning any other vow.
 - (4) If a man has no moral standard of his own, then how can he set a moral standard for the nation?
 - (5) Someone who is sexually immoral according to the Word of God cannot be the kind of leader that God desires him to be.
- vi) Sober
 - (1) Proverbs 31:1-5
 - (a) God's Word says that the leader is not to drink beverage alcohol.
 - (b) While drugs are not mentioned in this Scripture, they are certainly implied.
 - (i) Anything that takes away a person's right or ability of discrimination is implied in this passage.



- (2) Many leaders in our nation are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.
- (3) We should look for leaders who are not only sober-minded but who are sober.
- vii) Protective
 - (1) A leader is not necessarily protective of himself, but he should have a spirit of protecting the weak.
 - (2) God gives us leaders primarily to protect the weak and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.
 - (a) A national leader is to watch out for the afflicted.
 - (i) Proverbs 31:5
 - (3) Proverbs 31:8-9
 - (a) The king is to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.
 - (b) He is to be a defender and protector.
 - (4) The king and leader must speak for the unborn babies who cannot speak for themselves.
 - (a) Proverbs 31:8
 - (b) Psalm 94:20-21
 - (i) In this passage, the psalmist is speaking to God, and he speaks about the throne as a throne of iniquity.
 - (ii) Just because something is legal does not make it right.
 - (iii) When leaders declare that pre-born babies are no longer individuals, they frame mischief by a law and gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood.
 - 1. This is an abomination to God.
 - (c) Jeremiah 22:2-5
 - (d) Proverbs 29:2
 - (i) Wicked people make wicked laws.
 - (e) Nothing is politically right that is morally wrong.
 - (f) Habakkuk 2:12
 - (g) Any political candidate who will not stand up for the unborn should not have our vote.

2) THE CHOICE GOD RESPECTS (Hosea 8:4)

- a) God will allow us to choose against His will.
 - i) Hosea 8:4
 - ii) This is why we get the kind of leadership we deserve.
 - (1) Wicked rulers are God's reward for wicked people.
- b) There was a time when the people of Israel wanted a king.
 - i) The prophet Samuel told the people that they did not need a king, but the people demanded a king.
 - ii) 1 Samuel 8:18-21
 - (1) The people did not want God's will, and God allowed them to choose.
- c) God allows people to choose the kind of leaders they wish.

3) THE CONSEQUENCES GOD REVEALS (Proverbs 29:2)

- a) When people choose wicked leaders, the people weep.
 - i) Proverbs 29:2
 - ii) The choice is ours to either rejoice or to weep.
- b) There are consequences a nation will pay for choosing wrong leadership.
- c) America needs a spiritual awakening so that we might repent.
- d) We need to choose righteously and abide by the standard of leadership set forth in God's Word.



4) THE CONTROL GOD RESERVES

- a) Even when wicked people make wicked choices and wicked rulers lead, God has not forsaken control.
- b) Isaiah 40:23-24
 - i) God is still the King of kings.
- c) Psalm 47:7-8
 - i) Not only is God King of all the Earth, He is also King forever.
- d) Psalm 29:10
 - i) We do not vote God in, and we will not vote Him out.
- e) Where God does not rule (if we do not allow Him to rule in America), God will still overrule.
 - i) Psalm 33:10-12
 - ii) As Corrie Ten Boom once said, "There is no panic in Heaven, only plans."
 - iii) The Lord Jesus Christ is King over all and is King forever.
- f) Isaiah 14:26-27
 - i) Even the ungodly people of this world, including ungodly presidents and kings and Supreme Court justices, cannot stop the hand of Almighty God any more than Pharaoh could stand against Moses in the Exodus.
- g) God uses even ungodly kings.
 - i) The Bible teaches that He is also over those who do not know Him.
 - (1) Proverbs 21:1

5) CONCLUSION

- a) The Holy Trinity never meets in emergency session; God is still in control.
- b) Jesus Christ is still King, regardless of who is elected in November.
 - i) We have a hope and a future that is steadfast and sure in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) There are certain things we as Christians need to do:
 - i) We need to pray for revival.
 - ii) We need to prepare for suffering.
 - iii) We need to teach our children and build character into them.
 - iv) We need to look.
 - (1) Not only should we prepare for revival and prepare for survival, but we also need to prepare for Jesus' arrival.
 - (2) Jesus is coming again.
 - (a) Our King is coming.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Would you be finding in the Word of God Proverbs chapter 29 and in a moment we're going to look at verse 2; Proverbs chapter 29 and verse 2. I want to say that we are in a crisis in America; and the crisis is a moral crisis. But the crisis is also a crisis of leadership. And it goes perhaps without saying, though we've said it often, that a nation gets the kind of leadership that that nation deserves. But may I say clearly and plainly that leadership is crucial.

There's an old proverb, not a Bible proverb, but a wonderful proverb that says this, "If the gold rust, what shall the iron do?" And the import of that proverb is; if leadership, those at the top, those at the helm, if they're not right, what's going to happen to the rest of us? "If the gold rust, what shall the iron do?"

Now, what does the Bible have to say about national leadership? Well, I want you to look if you will please in Proverbs chapter 29 verse 2. The Bible says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule the people mourn."

So we're going to be talking today about the leadership crisis in America. In the coming days, Americans will go to the polls and vote. And I hope you vote. If you don't vote, I believe that you have disobeyed your Lord. For Jesus said in Matthew chapter 22 verse 21, "We are to render to God the things that are God's." But He also said, "We are to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's." Our Caesar is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The very genius of our government is that the people participate. It was none other than Jesus, therefore, who teaches us to participate in government. It's unthinkable that God Almighty would have ordained government and then told His people to stay out of it. Then who would that leave to influence and to lead? And so, friend, Jesus said, "We are to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. We're to render to God the things that are God's."

Now there're four basic things I want to lay on your heart today. And I pray God that the Holy Spirit will lay them on your heart, not just this preacher. But as we think about leadership today, I want you to think about **the character that God requires in leadership**. There's something frightening that is happening in America today. There are those who are saying today that, "Character makes no difference; it's ability that counts." Now friend, that's absolutely, totally foolish, to say that character makes no difference in national leadership.

Here's the illustration they might use. They say, "What difference does it make if the character of the airplane pilot is bad, so long as he knows how to fly the airplane?" But you know what you're saying when you say that character's not important? Think about it. What you're saying when you say that character is not important, only ability, you're saying that God is not important. Because you see, it is God that blesses good character. It is God that blesses a leader who has character, who has more than ability, but character. So when you're saying that character is not important, what you're really saying is that God is not important because righteousness is not important. What you're saying is, "God, we can handle this by ourselves. And skill is all that we need." But you see, to say that skill is important but character is not, it's like saying that a skilled surgeon doesn't need to scrub before he performs surgery. Now if a surgeon, no



matter how skilled he is, does not scrub before he performs surgery, he's going to contaminate everything that he touches. And so will a national leader if that national leader does not have character.

Now in this message today I'm not going to mention any names. And in this message today I'm not talking about political parties. Now after I finish preaching, there will be some who are going to accuse me of being partisan. But what I'm going to do is preach the Bible, and if anything is partisan the Bible will be partisan. And I want you to listen very carefully. I was preaching a message one time in another state and a lady called me after the service and said, "Preacher, were you preaching to me?" And I said, "Bert," her name was Bertha, I called her Bert. I said, "Bert, I was shooting down in a hole; if you were down in it I can't help it." Now, there will be some today who are going to think that I have called names. There are some today who are going to think that I have talked about parties, but I am not. I am going to give you some principles straight out of the Word of God and you can apply them as you wish. The names will be withheld to protect the guilty.

All right, now, let me give you some leadership characteristics, some leadership qualities that God requires of leaders. Now you may be surprised to know that the Bible has much to say about political leaders. Sometimes the Bible calls them kings or princes or governors or authorities. But these, these Scriptures are as applicable today as they were when they were written centuries ago.

First characteristic is **godliness**. Now, you won't have time to turn to all of these Scriptures, so get out a piece of paper and jot them down. Psalm 148 verses 11 through 13, "Kings of the earth, and all people, princes and all judges of the earth, both young men and maidens, old men and children, let them praise the name of the Lord for His name alone is excellent. His glory is above the Earth and Heaven." Now in plain English that verse says that leaders over all of the earth, whether they be kings, princes or judges, are to praise God. Americans understand this. There for a while, they believed in the separation of church and state rightly understood; they never have believed the separation of God from government. Leadership is really stewardship; because the leader acts for God. The Bible calls him over in Romans chapter 13 and verse 4, "A minister of God." An ungodly man or woman is unfit for leadership.

Now, you say, "What about a man who carries a big black Bible and attends church?" If he's ungodly he's unfit for leadership no matter what he does on Sunday. Nobody is fit for leadership who is ungodly or unrighteous. Proverbs 16 verse 12, "It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness, for the throne is established by righteousness." Don't tell me that character doesn't make any difference. What you're saying is that God's Word is not true. "It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness for the throne is established by righteousness."

Now here's the second characteristic that a godly leader will need. Not only will he need godliness, but he will need **wisdom**. Put these Scriptures down, Proverbs chapter 8 verses 12 through 16, "I wisdom dwell with prudence and find out knowledge of witty inventions. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride, and arrogancy and the evil way, and the froward mouth do I hate. Council is mine," wisdom is speaking now, "council is mine and sound wisdom. I am understanding. I have strength. By me kings reign and princes decree justice. By me princes rule and nobles, even all the judges of the earth." Now this is wisdom speaking. It is far, far better for a leader to be wise than it is for a leader to be intelligent, smart, and gifted.

King Solomon was coming to the throne of Israel. Second Chronicles chapter 1 verses 7 through 11. Here's what it says, this is Solomon's encounter with God, "And that night did God appear unto Solomon



and said unto him, 'Ask what I shall give thee.'" What if God were to come to you and say, "What do you want? Here it is, carte blanche, what do you want?" "Ask what I shall give thee.' And Solomon said unto God, 'Thou hast showed great mercy unto David, my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, oh, Lord God, let Thy promise unto David my father be established for Thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now wisdom and knowledge that I may go out and come in before this people for who can judge this, Thy people, that is so great.'" And God answered him and said, "Solomon, because you've asked for wisdom, I'm going to give you wisdom. But beyond wisdom, I'm going to establish your kingdom and I'm going to give you riches and honor and prosperity."

Now, when I go to vote, I'm going to look for a man that is a godly man or for a godly woman, and I'm going to look for a person who has real wisdom. I'm not going to look for a person who leads according to the polls. I'm not going to look for a person who goes out and leads by the chapped finger to see which way the wind is blowing. I'm going to vote for a person that I believe has godly wisdom.

Harry Truman said this. He was talking about polls, P-O-L-L-S, and leadership. He said, "I wonder how far Moses would've gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt. What would Jesus Christ have preached if He had taken a poll in Israel? Where would the Reformation have gone if Martin Luther had taken a poll? It isn't the polls, or public opinion of the moment that counts. It is right and wrong and leadership. Men with fortitude, honesty, and a belief in the right that makes the epics in history of the world." Leadership comes from godliness. Leadership comes from righteousness. Leadership comes from wisdom.

I'll tell you what else I'm going to look for when I vote. Here's another characteristic, it is **honesty**, honesty. Put it down. And here's the Scripture. Now remember I'm giving you Scripture that deals with national leaders and the character that God requires. Proverbs chapter 17 and verse 7, "Excellent speech becometh not a fool. Much less do lying lips a prince." Proverbs 20 verse 28, "Mercy and truth preserve the king." "Mercy and truth preserve the king." Leaders and liars are not the same. If a man is a liar he has a basic character flaw. If you cannot trust a man to tell the truth, you cannot trust him for anything. I know some politicians you can tell when they're lying, that's when their lips are moving.

A little girl asked her mother, "Mother, do all fairy tales begin with these words, 'Once upon a time?'" The mother said, "No, sometimes they begin this way, 'If I am elected.'" Listen to it again, friend. The Bible says that it is, "Excellent speech becometh not a fool, much less lying lips to a prince."

Abraham Lincoln was a great American. Abraham Lincoln is purported to have said, "You can fool all of the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." If a man is not a truth-teller, he cannot lead with God's approval. The Bible says in John chapter 8 and verse 44, Jesus speaking to the unsaved Pharisees, "You are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He," the devil, "was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth because there's no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own for he is a liar and the father of it." And every liar is acting like the devil. Every truth speaker is acting like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, not only am I going to look for a godly man, and not only am I going to look for a wise man, and not only am I going to look for an honest man, but I'm going to look for a man with **discrimination**, a man who has discrimination. Now discrimination is bad if it is discrimination against a person because of characteristics over which they have no control, such as race, or national origin or whatever. But



discrimination, if choosing between good and bad, wise and unwise, if that is not present, then the person cannot lead. Listen to Proverbs 25, verses 4 and 5, “Take away the dross from the silver and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.” That is, in order for the jeweler or the refiner to make a silver vessel, first of all he has to take the scum, the dross, out of the silver ore. And then God says in verse 5, listen to it, “Take away the wicked from before the king and his throne shall be established in righteousness.” The national leader does not need to be surrounded by potheads. He doesn’t need to be surrounded by wicked people.

Listen to what God’s Word says, “Take away the wicked from before the king and his throne shall be established in righteousness.” A wise king will purge out from among his administration wicked advisors and associates. Proverbs 29 verse 12 says, “If a ruler harken to lies, all his servants are wicked.” If you want to know what a ruler is like, see the kind of people that he surrounds himself with. “If a ruler harken to lies, all his servants are wicked.” That is if the man himself is not a truth-teller, he’s going to surround himself with wicked people.

Now I’ll tell you another characteristic. This is kind of a Biblical voter’s guide. We’re not mentioning names, we’re not calling parties. **Sexual morality**; if the leader does not have sexual morality he’s unfit to lead. Listen to Proverbs 31 verses 1 through 3, “The words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. ‘What, my son? And what? The son of my womb? And what, the son of my vows? Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.’” God says here in this verse that immorality destroys a leader. Now, if a person is sexually immoral, he is unfit to be a leader. If he has no sexual morals, if he will not keep his word concerning the most sacred vow, which is the marriage vow, how is he going to keep his word concerning any other vow? If a man cannot control his sexual desires, how can he lead a nation in a time of crisis? If a man has no moral standard of his own, how can he set a moral standard for the nation? How can he speak to the young people? If a man is sexually immoral according to the Word of God, he cannot be the kind of a leader that God desires him to be.

Now, here’s another characteristic that I look for in a leader. He must be **sober**, he must be sober. I just read from Proverbs 31, continue to read verses 1 through 5, “The words of King Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. ‘What, my son? And what? The son of my womb. And what, the son of my vows? Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings;’” and then listen to this verse, “It is not for kings, oh Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor princes, nor for princes, strong drink lest they drink and forget the law and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.”

It grieves me to see people lift these cocktail glasses and seal covenants by taking a drink of beverage alcohol. If anybody else can drink it, God’s Word says that the king is not to. I think we all ought to be teetotalers. But God’s Word says here clearly and plainly, “It is not for kings, oh Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine nor for princes strong drink.” And while drugs are not mentioned here, certainly they are an implied; anything that takes away your right of discrimination.

You know what the three biggest parties in Washington are? The Democrat, Republican, and cocktail. We have a nation that is led by people, many of them, who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. I’m going to look for a leader who’s sober. Not just sober-minded but sober.

Then here’s another characteristic in my voter’s guide that I’m going to look for. I’m going to look for someone who is **protective**. Not of himself, but who has a spirit of protecting the weak. Why does God give us leaders? God gives us leaders primarily to protect the weak and to defend those who cannot



defend themselves. Now, remember where God says that the king is not to be a drunkard? And he says in Proverbs 31 verse 5, “Lest they drink and forget the law and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” The national leader is to watch out for the afflicted.

Now I want you to look down in Proverbs 31 verses 8 and 9 of this same chapter. The Bible says, “Open thy mouth for the dumb,” that is, for those who cannot speak, “in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.” Now, he’s talking to the king. And he says, “King, you are to speak for those who cannot speak who are about to be destroyed.” It’s very important that you see this ladies and gentlemen. Look if you will in verse 9, “Open thy mouth and judge righteously and plead the cause of the poor and the needy.” God says that the king is to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. He is to be a defender. He is to be a protector.

I was in Washington testifying before a Senate committee on the subject of abortion. And I told then-Senator Orin Hatch what I felt that the Bible had to say about this matter. And when I went out of that room, a woman met me in the hall. She put her hands on her hips and looked in my eyes, she was a lawyer. She said, “Mr. Rogers, I want to tell you something.” She said, “You don’t understand what it is like for a woman to have an unwanted pregnancy. You don’t understand that trauma.” I said, “Now let me get you straight, lady. What you’re saying is this that if somebody causes you trauma, you have the right to eliminate them.” I said, “Because you’re causing me trauma right now.” Then I said to her, “Suppose I were to put both of my thumbs in your wind pipe,” and I put my hands out here like this a little bit, “and began to throttle you.” I said, “At least you could scream. At least you could run. At least you could cry for help.” She backed away and I’m sure she went back somewhere and said, “That Baptist preacher threatened to throttle me.” But you see these little ones, these babies in the womb cannot speak for themselves! And it is the king who must speak for them!

Take your Bible and turn to Proverbs 31 and verse 8 and look at it, “Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction!” God is speaking to the leader! And God says to the leader, “You speak up for these.” Now let me give you another verse. This is Psalm 94 verses 20 and 21, “Therefore, shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with Thee which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood.” Somebody says, “Well, what if it’s legal?” Just because it’s legal doesn’t make it right. Listen to this again, Psalm 94 verses 20 and 21. The psalmist is speaking to God; and he speaks about the earthly throne as a throne of iniquity. And he says, “Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with Thee, a throne that frames mischief by a law?”

When Supreme Court justices decree that little pre-born babies are no longer individuals, what they have done is, they, “Frame mischief by a law. They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood.” Now that’s an abomination to God. And somebody says, “Well, it’s legal.” Friend, learn this; everything that is legal is not right. It is not right! “Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with Thee which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous and condemn the innocent blood.”

Now, friend listen to what God said through Jeremiah. Jeremiah 22 verses 2 through 5, “And say, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, that sitteth upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants and thy people that enter in by these gates;’ thus saith the Lord, ‘Execute ye judgment and righteousness and



deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place. For if thou do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house, kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he and his servants and his people. But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by Myself,' saith the Lord, 'that this house shall become a desolation.'" That's what God says. God says to the king, "If you do not protect these innocents, if you do not do it," God says, "I swear by Myself, this house shall become desolation." "When the wicked rule the people mourn." Wicked people make wicked laws, but nothing is politically right that is morally wrong.

Habakkuk 2 verse 12, "Woe unto him that buildeth a town with blood and establisheth a city by iniquity." When I come to vote, if that man will not stand up or that woman will not stand up for the unborn, they shall not have my vote period.

These are the characteristics that God requires, the character that God requires. Now, here's the second thing I want you to see; **the choice that God respects**. Did you know that God will allow you to choose against His will? Listen to Hosea chapter 8 and verse 4, "They have set up kings, but not by Me. They have made princes and I knew it not." "They set up kings, but they didn't do it by Me." God gave the people of Hosea's time that ability to choose against God's will. That's the reason we say that we as Americans get the kind of leadership we deserve. Wicked rulers are God's reward for wicked people.

There was a time when the people of Israel wanted a king. Samuel the prophet said, "You don't need a king right now." They said, "Oh, we want a king." First Samuel chapter 8 verses 18 through 21. Here's what Samuel said to these people, "And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye have chosen you." God says, "You're going to cry out because of the very choice that you've made." "Ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye have chosen you. And the Lord will not hear you in that day.' Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, 'Nay, but we will have a king to rule over us that we also may be like all the nations.'" They wanted this globalism. "And that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles'. And Samuel heard all the words of the people and he rehearsed them in the ears of the Lord." Now these people said, "We don't want God's will. We're going to choose," and God allowed them to choose.

Now, I've talked to you about the character that God requires. I've talked to you about the choice that God respects. God allows people to choose the kind of leaders they wish. The third thing I want you to see is **the consequences that God reveals**. What happens when wicked people choose wicked leaders? Well, we come back to our text. Proverbs chapter 29 and verse 2, "When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice, but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." The choice is ours to rejoice or to weep. I wonder if we realize what desperate trouble we're in. I wonder if we as a nation cannot understand that God has taken down the hedge, and He's no longer protecting America. I wonder if rivers of tears and buckets of blood and oceans of sweat will be the price that America will pay for choosing wrong leadership. Oh, that there might be a mighty spiritual awakening in America! Oh, that we might repent! Oh, that we might choose righteously and take the Word of God and see what God's Word says is the standard for leadership!

Now, here's the fourth and final thing I want you to see. Not only do I want you to see the character that God requires, the choice that God's respects, the consequences that God reveals, but here's the blessed part now, **the control that God reserves**. Don't ever think for one moment that because wicked men



make wicked choices and wicked rulers lead, that God has forsaken control. He has not. These Scriptures are important, so put them down. Isaiah 40 verses 23 and 24. It speaks of God that bringeth the princes to nothing. "He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall be planted, yea they shall not be sown, yea their stock shall not take root in the earth and He shall also blow upon them and they shall wither and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble." Now folks, God is still the King of kings.

Psalm 47 verses 7 and 8, "For God is the King of all the earth." Verse 8, "He reigneth over the heathen." And not only is He King of all the earth but He is King forever. Psalm 29 verse 10, "The Lord sitteth king forever." I'll tell you this much about Almighty God, you didn't vote Him in and you won't vote Him out. You'll never impeach Him. Now here's the important thing. Where God does not rule, if we do not allow God to rule in America, God will still overrule.

Listen to these verses. Psalm 33 verses 10 through 12, "The Lord bringeth the council of the heathen to naught, He maketh the devices of the people of noneffect. The council of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance."

One day I had lunch with that saint who's now in Heaven, Corrie Ten Boom. I decided I'd talk very little and listen a lot. One thing that Corrie Ten Boom said, who'd suffered such persecution under the Nazis in World War II. Corrie Ten Boom said, "There is no panic in Heaven, only plans." Now I hope that gets into your heart, because there is the control that God reserves. Jesus is King. He is King over all of the earth. He is King forever. And soon, one of these days, He will be sitting upon the throne of David when He comes again.

Now listen to Isaiah 14 verses 26 and 27, "This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth. And this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations, for the Lord of Hosts hath proposed, and who shall disannul it? And His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" Even the ungodly people of this world, even ungodly presidents and kings and Supreme Court justices, they cannot stop the hand of God any more than Pharaoh could stand against Moses in the Exodus, wicked as he was. God uses even ungodly kings.

The Bible teaches very clearly that He is over even these who don't know Him. Proverbs 21 verse 1, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord and as the rivers of water, He turneth it withersoever He wills." And so folks, you ask me, "Pastor Rogers are you, are you discouraged or encouraged? Are you an optimist or a pessimist?" I'm neither one; I'm a Bible believer. And brother I want to tell you, I know that I know we're in desperate trouble. But I know this also; that the Holy Trinity never meets in emergency session. And I know this; that God is still in control. And I know this; that it, with Jesus Christ as my King, no matter who gets elected in November, I have a hope and a future that's steadfast and sure in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now having said this, what should we do? What should we do? Well, number one, the very first thing that we need to do is to pray for revival, pray for revival. The second thing we need to do is prepare for suffering, prepare for suffering. We need to teach our children, we need to teach our boys and girls that it may not be like we had it. We need to be building character into these boys and girls. And then the third thing we need to do, we need to look; not only prepare for revival and prepare for survival, but we need to prepare for His arrival. I mean, He is coming. Jesus is coming. Don't you believe the signs of the times are saying that Jesus is near! Don't you believe that! I believe it.



I had a seminary president, Dr. R.Q. Level, an old gentleman. He told a story when I was in seminary I'll never forget. He said, "I was in a foreign country, and it was announced that the king of that country was to come through the streets of that city riding in an automobile. And they said when the king was going to pass through; everybody was very excited about that. It was announced. And he said, "I made up my mind I would be there to see the king." He said, "The people crowded and they got there, crowds of people," but he said, "I got right on the curb, where nobody could be in front of me. I wanted to see a king." He said, "I'd never seen a real live king before." And he said, "After a while", he said, "I heard a tumult, and the people were shouting and I could see the people waving and clapping and I could see the automobile coming and I could see in the back there was a man sitting there. I said, 'Well that must be the king.'" And he said, "It got closer and closer and I was filled with anticipation because the king is coming." And then he said, "He passed by and I looked at him," and he said, "It was so anticlimactic." He said, "He was just a man, wearing a suit, necktie, sitting there, two eyes, two ears, a nose, a mouth. He just went by. And I thought, there's something wrong here. I mean, I stood here on this curb to see a king. He puts on his trousers just like I do, just a man." He said, "I tried to figure that out. Why was it so disappointing to me?" And he said, "I saw it in an instant. He wasn't my king." And he said, "He didn't even know my name." Friend, our King is coming, our King is coming. I don't know who's going to get elected in November. But I'll tell you, I look beyond that. My King is coming. His name is Jesus. I love Him with all of my heart. His name's Jesus. And I want you to know Him. I want you to receive Him. I want you to believe on Him, because He and He alone is worthy.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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