

The Kingdom(s) of the World

Five Principles to Consider

Based upon Ch11 in the book, *The Kingdom that Turned the World Upside Down* by David Bercot, and the bible study found on TheHistoricFaith.com

Sunday, 10/4/26

Principle number one: God has ultimate control of the kingdoms of the world.

Principle number two: All earthly rulers derive their power from God.

Principle number three: God's oversight of earthly kingdoms is separate and distinct from His governance of His kingdom.

Principle number four: All earthly kingdoms are temporary.

Principle number five: Satan has considerable involvement in the kingdoms of men.

Principle number one: God is in ultimate control of the kingdoms of the world.

King Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 4:17, 30-32

17 This decision is the decree of the watchers, the verdict declared by the holy ones, **so that the living will know that the Most High rules over the kingdom of mankind and gives it to whom He wishes, setting over it the lowliest of men.'**

....

30 The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”

31 While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, **until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”**

Proverbs 21:1

1 The **king's heart** is a waterway in the hand of the LORD; **He directs it** where He pleases.

Ezra 7:27

Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has **put into the heart of the king** to so honor the house of the LORD in Jerusalem...

2 Chronicles 36:22

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken through Jeremiah, **the LORD stirred the spirit of Cyrus** king of Persia to send a proclamation throughout his kingdom and to put it in writing...

Daniel 5:18-23

18 As for you, O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness, glory and honor. 19 Because of the greatness that He bestowed on him, the people of every nation and language trembled in fear before him. He killed whom he wished and kept alive whom he wished; he exalted whom he wished and humbled whom he wished.

20 But **when his heart became arrogant and his spirit was hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and his glory was taken from him.** 21 He was driven away from mankind, and his mind was like that of a beast. He lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like an ox, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven **until he acknowledged that the Most High God rules over the kingdom of mankind, setting over it whom He wishes.**

22 But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this. 23 Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven. The vessels from His house were brought to you, and as you drank wine from them with your nobles, wives, and concubines, you praised your gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But **you have failed to glorify the God who holds in His hand your very breath and all your ways.**

Message: God is in ultimate control.

1. God does not let a ruler's evil go unchecked forever.
2. They may rule for a while, but only as long as God permits them.
3. *Sometimes* regime changes can be due to people needing to learn that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses”, though hearts must remain open to receiving this truth.

Principle number two: All earthly rulers derive their power from God.

Pontius Pilate

John 19:10-11

10 Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that **I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?**”

11 Jesus answered, “**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

Romans 13:1

1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**

Why has God given them this authority?

Paul explains,

"Rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For He is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid, for He does not bear the sword in vain. For He is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil." (Romans 13:3-4)

- So God has given power to the kingdoms of men **because of the sinfulness of mankind.**
- Even evil rulers may be better than anarchy.

Saddam Hussein:

After Saddam Hussein was removed in 2003, Iraq went through a very difficult time. The old government was gone, but a new one was not ready yet. Different groups fought for power, and there were many bombings, shootings, and kidnappings. American soldiers were also in Iraq, helping fight the violence and build a new government. Many families were afraid, lost loved ones, or had to leave their homes. Over time, Iraq held elections and formed a new government, but life remained difficult for many years.
(ChatGPT)

MESSAGE: As evil as his regime was, anarchy is not necessarily an improvement than a wicked leader.

Why has God given them this authority?

When Paul said that the ruler is God's minister, the man who was ruling the Roman Empire was Nero. He killed his mother, his first two wives, his 14 year old step-brother and many more people who were close to him.

Paul did NOT mean that the ruler is an intimate friend with God, or that everything that a ruler does is sanctioned by God. He is there to “punish evil”, to ensure the safety and well-being of the nation. He is a minister (diakonos)—a servant.

So, he is saying that the ruler is God's servant because God is the Master. Like Nebuchadnezzar, Pilate or Nero, while they are given the authority to lead their nations, most kings and rulers have not acknowledged or fully submitted to God's authority over them.

Principle number three: God's oversight of earthly kingdoms is separate and distinct from His governance of His kingdom.

Jesus explained this to Pilate in John 18:36, saying, "**My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.**"

Though leaders are supposed to be servants of God, all earthly governments are pressured by fear, greed, and power. This puts them in contrast and usually in opposition to the kingdom of God.

No earthly kingdom can ever be a true and fully cooperating partner with the kingdom of God, because their values are different.

- GOD (perfect in every way) is King of one kingdom, while MAN (often rebellious) is king of the other.
- God is the MASTER and man is the SERVANT, but, although man is given certain authority by God, he is also governed by his own flesh, his own arrogance; and, his stubborn and excessive pride (hubris)

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To try to bond one of the kingdoms of men with the kingdom of God would be like trying to bond modeling clay to plastic.

- In my industry, our collection totes are made from hdpe (**High-Density Polyethylene**) plastic, which can crack at stress points.
- Repairs have to be done with materials that match. If we use epoxy with hdpe, they will not bond properly, because their natures/substances are too different.
- God's kingdom and man's kingdom are too different to be bonded together. There may be some areas of overlap, but the world's values will always corrupt the purity of God's kingdom values.

Dirk Willems rescuing pursuer Martyrs Mirror

Artist Jan Luyken

In the year 1569 a pious, faithful brother and follower of Jesus Christ, named Dirk Willems, was apprehended at Asperen, in Holland, and had to endure severe tyranny from the papists. as he had founded his faith not upon the drifting sand of human commandments, but upon the firm foundation stone, Christ Jesus, he, notwithstanding all evil winds of human doctrine, and heavy showers of tyrannical and severe persecution, remained immovable and steadfast unto the end; wherefore, when the chief Shepherd shall appear in the clouds of heaven and gather together His elect from all the ends of the earth, he shall also through grace hear the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Concerning his apprehension, it is stated by trustworthy persons, that when he fled he was hotly pursued by a thief-catcher, and as there had been some frost, said Dirk Willems ran before over the ice, getting across with considerable peril. The thief-catcher following him broke through, when Dirk Willem, perceiving that the former, was in danger of his lite, quickly returned and aided him in getting out, and thus saved his life. The thief-catcher wanted to let him go, but the burgomaster, very sternly called to him to consider his oath, and thus he was again seized by the thief-catcher, and, at said place, atter severe imprisonment and great trials proceeding from the deceitful papists, put to death at a lingering fire by these bloodthirsty, ravening wolves, enduring it with great steadfastness, and confirming the genuine faith of

the truth with his death and blood, as an instructive example to all pious Christians of this time, and to the everlasting disgrace of the tyrannous papists.

NOTE.—In this connection, it is related as true from the trustworthy memoirs of those who were present at the death of this pious witness of Jesus Christ, that the place where this offering occurred was without Asperen, on the side of Leerdam, and that, a strong east wind blowing that day, the kindled fire was much driven away from the upper part of his body, as he stood at the stake; in consequence of which this good man suffered a lingering death, insomuch that in the town of Leerdam, towards which the wind was blowing, he was heard to exclaim over seventy times: "O my Lord; my God," etc., for which cause the judge or balliff, who was present on horseback, filled with sorrow and regret at the man's sufferings, wheeled about his horse, turning his back toward the place of execution, and said to the executioner: "Dispatch the man with a quick death" But how or in what manner the executioner then dealt with this pious witness of Jesus, I have not been able to learn, except only, that his life was consumed by the fire, and that he passed through the conflict with great steadfastness, having commended his soul into the hands of God.

As we have come into possession of the sentence which these rulers of darkness passed upon this friend of God, we have deemed it well, to add it here for the benefit of the readers, in order that reading the same, they may be able to perceive the truth of this matter.

