

God and Government: Our Hope



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Our Purpose: To be a community of believers where, no matter who you are, you can experience life change through Jesus Christ.

Key thought: No matter who is in charge, God is still in control.

9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

—Isaiah 46:9-11 (ESV)

God is ultimately in control of:

1. The Seemingly Random

33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

—Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)

2. Nature

And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah...

—Jonah 1:17 (ESV)

Now the LORD God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah...

—Jonah 4:6 (ESV)

But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.

—Jonah 4:7 (ESV)

15 He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. 16 He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. 17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? 18 He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

—Psalm 147:15-18 (NIV)

39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

—Mark 4:39 (ESV)

"There is no wind, no storm, no hurricane, no cyclone, no typhoon, no monsoon, no tornado over which Jesus can say, "Be still" and it will not obey."

— Pastor John Piper

3. The Future

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

—James 4:13-15 (ESV)

4. Those in Authority

A. All authority comes from God.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

—Romans 13:1 (ESV)

21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

—Daniel 2:21 (ESV)

10 So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

—John 19:10-11 (ESV)

B. God can steer the hearts of those in authority.

The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

—Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)

Examples:

1) Cyrus king of Persia

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation ...

—Ezra 1:1 (ESV)

2) King of Assyria

And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

—Ezra 6:22 (ESV)

3) Pharaoh

But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

—Exodus 7:3 (ESV)

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

—Romans 9:17 (ESV)

No matter who is in charge, God is still in control!