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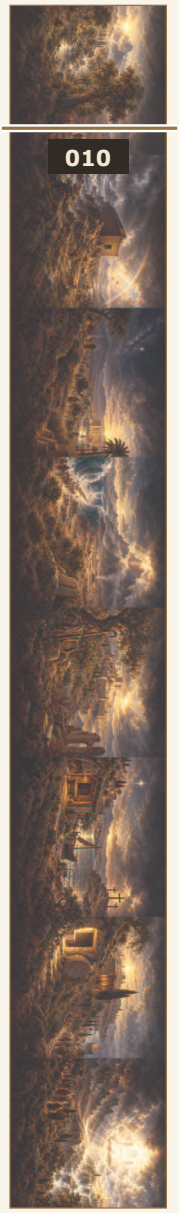
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."

PSALM 119:105



JOHN WEAVER

WEAVER BIBLE COLLEGE



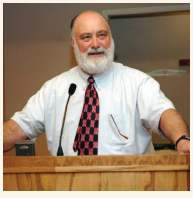
Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

PROVERBS 14:34

How should believers respond to rulers whose conduct conflicts with biblical standards? This volume presents John Weaver's message on the biblical attitude toward ungodly rulers. The discussion considers authority, responsibility, and national judgment while asking readers to examine civil life through Scripture.

"We have not realized the danger we are in with ungodly rulers."

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

John Weaver's sermons form the teaching collection presented by Weaver Bible College. This volume gathers his teaching from that collection.

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Ungodly Rulers and National Judgment

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Ungodly Rulers and National Judgment

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CHAPTER 1

Biblical Attitude Towards Ungodly Rulers

The Biblical Attitude Toward Ungodly Rulers

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Samuel 15:1-11 (KJV)

Introduction and the Dominion Mandate

> Samuel also said unto Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel. Now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.
>
> And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them:

> for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.
>
> But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.
>
> Let me just begin this morning by telling you that the word of God teaches what is known as the biblical doctrine of dominion.

In Genesis 1 and 2, you have what is known as the Great Charter, or the Dominion Charter, or the Great Mandate. God created Adam and Eve and told them to multiply, subdue the earth, and have dominion over it. God basically gave the earth to man to have dominion over. Man was to serve God as God's vice-regent, so to speak, as he ruled over the earth for God and as unto God.

Of course, everyone knows the story in Genesis chapter 3, when Adam sinned and God drove him out of the garden. But the interesting thing is that, in Genesis chapter 9, God gives the same dominion mandate to Noah and to his sons. Once again, they are commissioned to have dominion over the earth. God there placed the fear of man upon every creature, the Bible says. In Psalm 8, once again the Bible says that God has given the earth to the children of men and that we are to exercise dominion over the earth.

When you come to the New Testament, the Great Commission is nothing more than this same dominion mandate, now given in the terms and words of our Lord. That is why He said that we are to go out into all the earth, make disciples, and baptize them; but the third thing is to teach them all things whatsoever I have commanded you. So He is still exercising dominion.

The Need for Biblical Thinking

The point is this: We have lost the biblical attitude of dominion, and consequently we have developed unbiblical and ungodly attitudes. Let me tell you how I came to prepare this message. I was sitting in church a couple of weeks ago on Wednesday night. I was going to be preaching for the Peacocks, and I was flipping through my Bible, going to another passage, when this passage just fell open. I did not intend to read it, but my eyes caught verse 11, in fact, the last part of that verse: "...and it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night."

I knew what the context was about, and I thought, Isn't that interesting? The Bible said it grieved Samuel, and we are talking about an ungodly ruler. I said, Lord, I certainly want to be biblical, I want to have a biblical attitude, and I want to know what my attitude is to be toward ungodly rulers. So I began to study this passage out.

An attitude is a disposition, a mental frame of thinking that we develop toward an individual, an action, or a subject. Unhappily, most of our attitudes are unbiblical, and thus they lead to apathy, indifference, and inaction. Basically speaking, most attitudes are unbiblical, and that leads to disobedience, sin, and rebellion.

As a Christian, you must understand that we must submit and surrender our minds to the Word of God. In fact, we are to be biblical in our thinking in every sphere and area of our lives. One of our biggest problems is that we do not know how to think biblically. Remember what God said in Isaiah 55, verses 8 and 9? He said, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts," saith the Lord. God is not going to condescend to think the way we think, because the way we think is sinful and wicked and wrong. We must learn to put aside our humanistic way of thinking, surrender our minds to the Word of God, and learn to have the attitude that God tells us we are to have.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Do not be pressed into the mold of the world. The Greek word is metamorphoo, from which we get our English word metamorphosis. Being metamorphosized, let it go through changes. How? By the renewing of your mind. That is why he said in Ephesians 4:23, "...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind." The Bible says in 1 Peter 4 and verse 1 that we are to arm ourselves with the mind of Christ. In Philippians 2 and verse 5, he said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Very obviously, we are to think the way Christ would have us to think. That is why 2 Corinthians chapter 10 and verse 5.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” You and I can only think like Christ and have a biblical attitude as we study and learn from the Bible what our attitudes ought really to be.

Biblical thinking and biblical attitudes require biblical study. It is impossible to think right unless we are taught right. That is why the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:15 to “study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” That is why Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:18, “but grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

We have to learn to think the way Scripture tells us to think about ungodly rulers, but also about every other subject in the Bible.

General Truths About Rulers

Hold 1 Samuel 15; we are coming back there. Turn in your Bibles to Proverbs 29. Let me begin by showing you two passages that give us general truth in relation to ungodly rulers. Here is Proverbs 29, verse 2. The first general truth is this: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” When the righteous are in authority, what happens? The people rejoice, because righteous men rule righteously, justly, and honestly. But when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn.

The word mourn here means to groan or sigh. There is groaning because of persecution, oppression, and tyranny. So when the wicked are in authority, the righteous mourn, groan, and sigh.

Now look in Proverbs 28:12: “When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.” When the wicked rise, a man is hidden. What does that mean? When the wicked are in authority, righteous men begin to hide their possessions, their families, and themselves—to keep their possessions from being stolen and their families and themselves from being murdered.

One of my favorite illustrations is when the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. I don't know if you remember what Gideon was doing when the angel appeared to him. The Midianites had invaded the land, and Gideon was hiding behind a rock, threshing his wheat. Why was he hiding? To keep the Midianites from stealing what he had. The very first thing the angel says to him is, "Hail, thou mighty man of valour!" Well, if you are a mighty man of valour, why are you hiding? This is why: the wicked were in control, and he was trying to protect that which he had.

Biblical Qualifications for Civil Rulers

Now, we have got to understand that it is God who has ordained civil government. Since God is the one who has ordained and instituted civil government, He has the absolute and sovereign right to lay down the qualifications for those who are going to be in civil government. The first, most basic, and most fundamental principle given in the Word of God concerning civil rulers is found in Deuteronomy chapter 17, beginning with verse 15. God says, "Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother."

Here is the most basic and fundamental requirement. God said you cannot have a civil ruler whom He does not choose. Moreover, whomever you choose and whom He ordains must be one from among thy brethren. That is, he must be a believer. He says, "Thou shalt not set a stranger over thee." So, very obviously, the very first

requirement is that a man be a believer, that he be a Christian. This is not merely a preference or a secondary consideration; it is the first requirement stated concerning those who are placed over the people as civil rulers.

Exodus 18:21 gives another exceedingly clear requirement: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers." The passage specifically says, "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God." The fundamental requirement for being a civil ruler is fearing God. The ruler must be an able man, a man of truth, and one who hates covetousness; but above all, he must fear God.

Now, turn to 2 Samuel, chapter 5, beginning with verse 1.

God requires all civil rulers to be believers. We have already seen this, and now we should watch how it works out when Israel comes to anoint David to be king over them.

The record says, “Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.” What was one of the first requirements? He had to be a brother. So they said, “We are thy bone and thy flesh.” Now watch verse 2: “Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel.” Here are three requirements. First, he was a brother; he was a believer. Secondly, he had a godly testimony. Thirdly, and most importantly, God said, “Thou shalt feed my people Israel”; he was to be the ruler.

So here it is all put together. Look in 2 Samuel, chapter 23, and read the first three verses. Notice how often David claims direct inspiration for what he says. He tells us that God said this, but he says it in such a way that it is emphasized. The passage begins, “Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,” and then David says, “The Spirit of the Lord spake by me,” one time; “and his word was in my tongue,” two times; “The God of Israel said,” three times; “the Rock

of Israel spake to me," four times. Four times David claims direct inspiration for this next statement. What did God say four times?

"He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." Isn't that interesting? David says four times, God says, if you're going to be a civil ruler, you've got to be just, and the only way you can be just is you must be a believer ruling in the fear of God, applying the Word of God.

Historical Evidence from Colonial Charters

Our Christian forefathers who founded this nation took the Word of God very seriously. Consider some of the original charters and constitutions of the thirteen colonies, and determine whether our forefathers were right, or whether we are right today. These are the fundamental constitutions for the province of New Jersey, written in 1683. Paragraph 16 says: "Yet it is also hereby provided that no man shall be admitted a member of the Great or Common Council or any other place of public trust who shall not profess faith in Jesus Christ." You could not be a ruler in New Jersey unless you were a Christian, professed faith in Jesus Christ.

The Charter of Delaware, 1701, states: "And that all persons who also profess to believe in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, shall be capable, notwithstanding other persuasions and practices in point of conscience and religion, to serve this government in any capacity, both legislatively and executively."

Here is literally what the Charter of Pennsylvania said in 1701: "and that all persons who also profess to believe in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, shall be capable to serve this government in any capacity, both legislatively and executively." What does that mean? If you did not profess faith in Jesus Christ, you could not serve that government.

The Constitution of Delaware, 1776, Article 22, says exactly the same thing: "And that all persons who also profess to believe in Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world shall be capable to serve this government in any capacity, both legislatively and executively." It continues: "Every person who shall be chosen a member of either House or appointed to any office or place of trust, before taking his

seat or entering upon the execution of his office, shall take the following oath or affirmation." Anyone in government had to take this oath: "I, [blank], do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration." If you were in Delaware in 1776 and wanted to be a public officer, you had to be a Christian and believe that the Bible was indeed the Word of God.

The Constitution of Georgia said in 1777, Article 6: "The representatives shall be chosen out of the residents in each county who shall have resided at least twelve months in this state, and they shall be of the Protestant religion and of the age of 21 years." They had to be Christian believers, Protestant or Baptist; a Roman Catholic could not serve. They had to believe in Jesus Christ.

The Constitution of Maryland, 1776, paragraph 55, stated that every person appointed to any office of profit or trust, before entering its execution, had to take this oath: "I, [blank], do swear that I do not hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the state of Maryland; and shall also subscribe a declaration of my belief in the Christian religion."

The Constitution for Massachusetts, 1780, Article 1, required every governor, lieutenant governor, counsellor, senator, or representative, before executing the duties of office, to declare: "I, [blank], do declare that I believe the Christian religion and have a firm persuasion of its truth; and that I am seised and possessed, in my own right, of the property required by the constitution as one qualification for the office or place to which I am elected."

"I believe the Christian religion and have a firm persuasion of its truth." This is from New Hampshire, the Constitution of New Hampshire, 1784: "and every denomination of Christians demeaning themselves quietly and as good subjects of the state, shall be equally under the protection of the law: and no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another shall ever be established by law." That means you cannot have the Baptist over the Presbyterian or the Presbyterian over the Baptist.

It continues: "provided nevertheless, that no person shall be capable of being elected a senator who is not of the Protestant religion." "Every member of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by ballot and shall be of the Protestant religion."

The Constitution of North Carolina, 1776, paragraph 32, states: "that no person who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the state, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this state." If you believed anything contrary to the Old and New Testaments, anything contrary to Christianity, you could not hold a place of office or trust in North Carolina.

The Constitution of Pennsylvania, 1776, section 10, required each member of the House of Representatives, before taking his seat, to declare: "I do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."

The Constitution of South Carolina, 1778, declared that “as soon as may be after the first meeting of the Senate and House of Representatives, they shall jointly in the House of Representatives choose by ballot from among themselves or from the people at large a governor and commander-in-chief, a lieutenant-governor, both to continue for two years, and a privy council, all of the Protestant religion.”

Paragraph 12 stated, “and that no person shall be eligible to a seat in the said Senate unless he be of the Protestant religion.” Paragraph 13 continued, “No person shall be eligible to sit in the House of Representatives unless he be of the Protestant religion.” Paragraph 38 declared, “That all persons and religious societies who acknowledge that there is one God, and a future state of rewards and punishments, and that God is publicly to be worshipped, shall be freely tolerated. The Christian Protestant religion shall be deemed, and is hereby constituted and declared to be, the established religion of this state.” That was all there was. A man had to be a Christian in order to be a civil officer.

The Constitution of Vermont, 1777, Section 11, or Section 90, required each member of the House of Representatives, before taking his seat, to declare belief in one God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked; to acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as divinely inspired; and to own and profess the Protestant religion.

Our forefathers actually believed that a man could not be a civil ruler unless he was a Christian. He thought he could not rule justly nor in the fear of God.

Colonial Blasphemy Laws

Now let me go a little bit further. I want you to understand how seriously our forefathers took the word of God. Because every colony, let me rephrase that, every state, passed laws that made blasphemy a crime. Every colony made blasphemy a criminal act. Let me read to you just a couple of these. In Massachusetts, the General Court enacted a law entitled An Act Against Atheism and Blasphemy in 1697, and here's what it said, quote, "that if any person shall presume willfully to blaspheme the holy name of God, Father, Son, or Holy Ghost, either by denying, cursing, or reproaching the true God, his creation or government of the world, or by denying, cursing, or reproaching the holy word of God, that is, the canonical scriptures contained in the books of the Old and New Testaments, every one so offending shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months, and until they find sureties for the good behavior, or by setting in the pillory, by whipping, boring through the tongue with a red-hot iron, or setting upon the gallows with a rope about their neck."

If you blasphemed God or the Bible, you either were imprisoned, sat in the pillory—with your feet, hands, and head through it—or had your tongue bored through with a hot iron, or sat upon the gallows with a rope around your neck. It tended to make you think before you tried to blaspheme again.

The General Assembly of Maryland passed this law in 1723: anyone who "wittingly, maliciously, and advisedly, by writing or speaking, blaspheme or curse God, or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ

to be the Son of God, shall for the first offense be bored through the tongue and fined twenty pounds sterling. On a second offense, the offender is to be stigmatized by burning in the forehead the letter B, that is, blasphemer, and fined forty pounds sterling. From a third offense, the offender is to suffer death without the benefit of clergy."

Pennsylvania, in 1700, said that "whosoever shall willfully, premeditatively, and despitefully blaspheme or speak loosely and profanely of Almighty God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the Scriptures of truth, and is legally convicted thereof, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds for the use of the poor of the county," or suffer three months' imprisonment and hard labor for the use of said poor.

In Delaware, a law was passed in 1741 requiring one guilty of blasphemy to be "branded in his or her forehead with the letter B and to be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes well laid on." The General Court of Connecticut enacted a law in 1750 requiring the death penalty for any person guilty of blasphemy.

Did our forefathers take the word of God seriously? Very obviously. Did our forefathers believe the word of God taught that you had to have Christian rulers? Very obviously. Who is it that has apostatized, left the faith, and is wrong? It was certainly not our forefathers. It is we who are in America that have apostatized and left the faith.

Samuel's Grief as Righteous Anger

Why in the world are we in the mess that we are in today? We not only tolerate but choose and elect unprincipled and unconverted rulers. Why? Because we do not have a biblical attitude toward ungodly rulers. If our forefathers were alive today, Bill Clinton would not be President of the United States. Most of our congressmen would not be in office, either in the federal government or in the state governments.

Why do we put up with it? Because we do not have a biblical attitude toward ungodly rulers. Look back in your Bibles to 1 Samuel chapter 15, and let me begin to show you what this biblical attitude

is. In verse 11, the Bible says, “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.”

The thing that caught my attention when this verse jumped out at me was the grief of Samuel. I got to thinking, Lord, I do not know if I am really grieved for these ungodly civil rulers. When you hear the word grief, a totally different thought enters our mind. I thought, What in the world? Let me show you.

King Saul had disobeyed God. He was the king, and he had publicly and willingly disobeyed God. Evidently, it was not just this one time, because in verse 11 God says he is turned back. The Lord indicates that it happened not only in time past, but that there was now a continual course of turning back. The Hebrew word for “turn back” is shub, meaning to return, go back, or retreat. The evidence that Saul had turned from God is given in verse 11: “He hath not performed my commandments.” How does God know that Saul had turned back from Him?

Yes, but we know that Saul had turned back from God because he ceased performing His commandments. How do we know that we have ungodly rulers? They do not perform God's commandments. I do not care what they profess or how many times they say they are Christians. If they do not obey the Word of God, they are ungodly rulers.

Some of you will remember when Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States. He had an interview with Playboy magazine. All across the country, people were offended, up in arms, angry, and upset that Jimmy Carter would be interviewed by Playboy magazine. Let me tell you something, folks: it did not upset me that Jimmy Carter was interviewed by Playboy magazine. What upset me was what he said. He promised that if he were elected President of the United States, he would not allow his Christianity to interfere with his office. He kept that promise.

In fact, I don't even more believe he's a Christian than I believe that doorknob is over there. He said, “But we rebuild all these houses.” I don't care, folks. You cannot turn your back upon the

Word of God, deny Christ in spheres of your life, and be a Christian. What does he say in 1 John 2? He said very clearly in verse 4, “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” So we know we have ungodly rulers because they did not perform the Word of God.

Now, I want you to note something. Because Saul had rejected God, God rejected Saul. Look in your Bibles, verse 26: “And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.” Saul rejected God, and God rejected him.

Let me point out something that most people never think about. Did you know that Saul reigned for forty years? Probably anywhere from a half to a third of that reign was under the curse and judgment of God. Most people think, well, if God does not want somebody on the throne, or if someone is up there under the curse and judgment of God, God might remove him instantly. That is not so. God did get Saul, but He did not get him instantly. God's paydays are not always on Friday. Just because a civil ruler continues in office does not mean that ruler has the approval of God. He can be in office and still be under the curse and judgment of God, and God is just biding His time until He is smart enough.

Now, note Samuel's attitude concerning Saul. Samuel is listed in Hebrews 11:32 as one of the heroes of faith. He was a man of God. Hebrews says, "The time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Samuel is therefore given as a hero of faith and a man of God. Very obviously, whatever his attitude was toward King Saul had to be a biblical attitude because he was a man of God and a man of faith.

The Bible said, "and it grieved Samuel." What does it mean when it says it grieved Samuel? When we think of grief, we think of someone troubled, upset, and often inconsolable—a little woman at her husband's funeral, weeping, while people put their arms around her, hug her, and try to comfort her. Nothing anyone says will comfort her. She keeps grieving, sometimes for months or years. We think of parents who have lost children, whose grief seems overwhelming, and nothing anyone can say or do can console them.

When that verse struck me, I thought, Lord, I do not mourn and grieve over these ungodly rulers like that. Something must be wrong with me. I had better find out what it means.

And boy, was I surprised. But I found out that I had a biblical attitude and did not even know it. Why? Let me tell you what the word grieved means. The Hebrew word is charah, H-A-R-A as we would spell it in English. Charah means to burn, to be kindled, or to cause fire to burn. The word emphasizes the kindling of anger. It relates to a fire once it has gotten started and the heat is hot.

The verb and its derivatives are used over 139 times in Scripture. What does it mean when it says that Samuel was grieved? It literally means that Samuel was angry. He was exceedingly mad. Let me put it this way, as politely as I can: he was ticked off. He was ready to fight. This word is used both of God and man, and I want to show you how it means to be really ticked off.

Everyone knows the story in Genesis 39, when Potiphar's wife lied to her husband about Joseph. Now, men, what if some strange man came up to your wife, perhaps even in your presence, hit upon her, and tried to seduce her right in front of you? Would you casually say, “Well, we will just see what happens”? I tell you what: you mess with my wife, and you are going to end up either on the floor or dead, one of the two. I am going to get angry very quickly. You follow me?

Look at what happened in Genesis 39:19: “And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.” Do you not think he was upset? Of course he was.

Now consider Numbers 25. The Israelites were engaged in idolatry and adultery. Verse 3 says, “And Israel joined himself unto

Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel." Verse 4 continues, "And the Lord said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may be turned away from Israel." Do you think it upset God when His people began to commit fornication and idolatry?

God's Attitude Toward Ungodly Rulers

So greatly exhausted was everyone involved in this that they said, Take him out and kill him. The word fierce anger is the same word translated grieved in 1 Samuel 15.

Jeremiah 25:37-38 gives us the same word, translated once again as fierce anger: "And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the Lord. He hath forsaken his covert, as the lion: for their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger." Once again, we see this word is fierce anger. Samuel got mad. Samuel was angry.

Now I want to show you that Samuel's attitude was the same as God's. If Samuel was a godly man, he must have the same attitude that God has. Let us see God's attitude toward ungodly rulers in Hosea 7. There we find ungodly people as well as ungodly rulers.

Hosea 7:2 says, "And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face. They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies. They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened. In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners. For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire. They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me."

Verse 13 continues: "Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me. Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me."

"They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt." Would you say that God was upset with the ungodly rulers? Was He ticked off? Was He mad? Well, of course He was.

There is a righteous anger. The Bible says in Ephesians 4 and verse 26, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." There is a way to be righteously angry. Samuel's anger was righteous because it led to a proper solution of the problem.

Samuel's Righteous Actions

You say, what are you talking about? Let us go back to verse 11. The Bible said, "and it grieved Samuel." It ticked him off. He was upset. He was angry. He was mad. What was the first thing that Samuel's righteous anger drove him to do? The Bible said, "and he cried unto the Lord all night."

The word cried means to shriek or to cry out because of danger or distress. To shriek? Listen, tell me you want to pray and they will say, "Now I lay me down to sleep." He was shrieking. He realized that not only he was in danger, but the people of the land were in danger because of Saul. Saul had turned from God. That meant the judgment of God was not only going to be upon Saul, but He would put up with it upon them as well. So he cried to the only One who could really help. The very first thing his anger did was lead him to cry to the Lord.

Note the second thing his anger led him to do in verse 12: "And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning." Samuel rose early to meet Saul. He confronted him. He did not stay away from him or shirk from facing this ungodly man who had turned from God and disobeyed God. He had a face-to-face confrontation with him. The third thing is that he rebuked Saul. Look in verse 17.

"And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel? And the Lord sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord?"

When you were little in your own sight, God made you king. Why do you think you are somewhat important, and why do you not use that position to obey God? Samuel cried to the Lord, confronted Saul, and rebuked him. That was not all; he rejected Saul. Look at verse 25. Saul says to Samuel, "Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."

Samuel was not interested in having prayer with Saul. Do you think Samuel, the man of God, would have prayed at the inaugural of Bill Clinton?

Or any of our modern-day presidents? Samuel would not have had anything to do with it. Because you rejected God, I am rejecting you. I do not have anything to do with you. You are a reprobate. Samuel's anger led him to cry to the Lord, confront Saul, rebuke Saul, reject Saul, and replace Saul. Look in chapter 16, verse 1: "And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons." Go get Me another one, Samuel. I have one after My own heart.

What does that mean? It means that God's people in America have slacked back with unbiblical attitudes. They have put up with, tolerated, and sometimes even chosen ungodly rulers. When will we, as God's people, cry to the Lord, confront our ungodly rulers, rebuke them, reject them, and replace them? Only when we have developed a biblical attitude of righteous anger and righteous indignation.

The Danger of Tolerating Ungodly Rulers

We have not realized the danger we are in with ungodly rulers. Look in your Bibles at Hosea 5, verses 10 and 11. This is a passage with which you should be exceedingly familiar. God said, “The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound.” The bound was the boundary God had placed around them. The same God who ordained civil rulers also ordained their ministries and their boundaries. But the princes did not want to remain within the limited boundaries God had given them. They removed the boundaries, did their own thing, and rebelled against God, as King Saul did. God said, “The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.” He would freely judge them because of their rebellion.

But look at the next verse: “Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment.” Why were the people, the tribe of Ephraim, oppressed and broken in judgment? God says, “because he willingly walked after the commandment.” That is, he willingly obeyed an apostate, ungodly civil ruler. Now turn to Micah. Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah. Look at Micah 6, verse 16. Here is why God sent Israel away into captivity.

"For the statutes of Omri are kept." Remember, Omri was the father of Ahab. "For the laws, for the regulations, for the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people." God said, You want to walk in the laws and regulations of these ungodly civil rulers? He said, I will judge you along with them. They do not understand the danger that we are in.

I do not believe that we have one consistent Christian ruler in any office of this land, whether state, county, city, or federal. On the federal level, we do not have one civil ruler who upholds his constitutional oath. Article 6 says that this Constitution shall be the supreme law of the land. Our senators and representatives are to examine every law to make sure it is constitutional, or they simply pass it. If they are going to uphold their oath, how can they sit there when they know that there are myriads of laws in the books that are

unconstitutional on their face? You do not have to study them; they are just unconstitutional. And what is happening?

Call to Righteous Anger and Action

We have not kept a biblical attitude of righteous anger and righteous indignation; we have fallen into apathy and indifference. We have become tolerant, and we have become persecuted, oppressed, and tyrannized because of our unbiblical attitudes. It is time to get ticked off. It is time to get angry in the biblical sense of the word.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bow to thee this day. We thank thee for Jesus Christ, for his love, and for his mercy. Lord, knowing from thy Word, and even from history, we see how far we have fallen in this country. Bring us back to thy sense. Give us once again a Christian nation upholding Christian principles and values. We pray, Father, Thou wilt overthrow the wicked and establish Thy people and Thy law and Thy righteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

I do not believe that we have one consistent Christian ruler in any office of this land, whether it be state, county, city, or federal. Let me go further. I know this: on the federal level, we do not have one civil ruler who upholds his constitutional oath. How do I know that? Because Article 6 says that this Constitution shall be the supreme law of the land. Our senators and representatives are to examine every law to make sure it is constitutional, or they simply pass it. If they are going to uphold their oath, how can they sit there when they know that there are myriads of laws in the books that are unconstitutional on their face? You do not have to study them; they are just unconstitutional. And what is happening?

We have not kept a biblical attitude of righteous anger and righteous indignation; we have gotten into apathy and indifference. We have become tolerant, and we have become persecuted, oppressed, and tyrannized because of our unbiblical attitudes. It is time to get ticked off. It is time to get angry in the biblical sense of the word.

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