

In the Hands of God

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord” — Prov. 21:1

Sovereignty

Scripture makes it clear that God is completely in control. The Bible declare, the heart of kings are in the hands of the Lord, as the river of waters: He turns their hearts wherever He wills.



This lesson will explore the sovereign control of God over the hearts of men and

nations. By it we will learn how God steers the course of history. The trouble is, our actions do not always demonstrate our faith in these truths. Instead of petitioning the Lord and trust in His word, we worry. We then scramble to make changes without consulting the One who is really in control. It is true, our nation faces serious issues: from border control, immigration, race relations, economics and much more. Furthermore, these issues are politically charge with radical ideas about governing to ultra-conservative ideology. So how do we deal with this? Do we protest as some do? Do we hide and say and do nothing? As Christian what should be our course of action. Remember, turbulent politics and hostile governments are not new to the Jew or to the Christian. This lesson will hopefully shed fresh light on an old path God’s children of all ages have faced.

1. **Read Proverbs 21:1. Discuss the meaning of the passage in the context of American politics. Is it just the kings heart or is it any heart that God is Sovereign over?**
2. **Look up the following verses and discuss how God moved the hearts of leaders in the past.**
 - a. **In Exodus 9:12 we find Pharaoh’s heart in the hands of the Lord,**

“And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.

- b. **In Deuteronomy 2:30 we find the heart of Sidon the king of Heshbon** being moved in the hands of the Lord,

“But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him (Israel): for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.”

- c. **In the Book of Daniel (4:34), the Lord softened the heart of Nebuchadnezzar**

“And at the end of the days **I Nebuchadnezzar** lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and **I** blessed the most High, and **I** praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation” – Daniel 4:34

- d. **God moved in the heart of Darius, the king over Babylon — Daniel 6:25-27**

“Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”

- e. **God moved the heart of Cyrus the king of the Media-Persian Empire to allow Israel to return the Promised Land. — Isaiah 44:28**

“That saith of **Cyrus**, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” – Isaiah 44:28

- f. **God moved in the heart of Ahasuerus, the King of Persia** by giving him a sleepless night and prepared his heart to deliver Israel from Haman. — Esther 6:1

Esth. 6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king’s chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.

In Scripture we find the hand of God moving the hearts of kings. God directs the nations from above.

3. **Discuss Isaiah 40:15, 17, 22-24. How does this passage relate to the last 30 years of American politics: George H. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump?**
4. **Discuss the 1892 Supreme Court Decision (*Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States*) in light of today’s politics.**

“Our laws in our institutes must necessarily be based upon and embodied the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian. . . . This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation . . . we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.”

Supreme Court Decision, 1892 Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States.

5. **How did God move Pharaoh’s heart in Genesis 41:1-7? Was the timing of the butler’s remembrance and bravery to bring up his past failures to Pharaoh a coincidence? (Genesis 41:9-23).**

6. **Compare Joseph’s first recorded interpretation of dreams (Genesis 37:5-11) with his encounter with Pharaoh (Genesis 41:15-16, 25, 28).** *(Examine his attitude, his mention or lack of mentioning God, etc.)*

7. **Notice how God moves His chosen into place.**
 - a. Genesis 41:41-44 — Joseph (from prison to the palace)
 - b. Exodus 2:5-10, 24-25 — (from the bulrushes to leadership)
 - c. Daniel 6:1-2 — (from captivity to co-regency of Babylon)
 - d. Esther 4:14 — (from beauty queen to the Queen of Media and Persia)
 - e. Nehemiah 2:1-8 — (from king’s cup-bearer to governor)

8. **Since God is in control, discuss the instructions given to us to follow — (1 Timothy 2:1-6; Romans 13:1-14).**