



[Proverbs 21:1](#)

(1) The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD;
he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

[Romans 13:1-2](#)

(1) Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (2) Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

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The *Living Bible* paraphrases [Proverbs 21:1](#) as, "Just as water is turned into irrigation ditches, so the Lord directs the king's thoughts. He turns them wherever He wants to." This helps us to understand [God's sovereignty](#) and history as well. If the thoughts of a king - representing the highest and most influential person in the nation - are in God's hand, and He influences his decisions when it pleases Him, are not all governors of men completely under the Almighty's sovereign control? Clearly, the sovereign Lord of Creation is moving all history in the direction He desires it to go.

It is not hard to comprehend, then, how Paul formulated the concepts he expresses in [Romans 13:1-2](#):

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. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

This explains why [Moses](#) declares that the actions of Korah and his group were a rebellion against God Himself ([Numbers 16:11](#)). Nor is it hard to understand why [Jesus](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Proverbs 21:1 (<http://www.theberean.org>) says in [Luke 10:16](#) that to reject an apostle, one sent by God bearing a message, is to reject Him, and to reject Him is to reject the Father who sent Him.

Government is the overriding issue in the Bible. Ultimately, a son of God need not be concerned if the government of his homeland is legal or illegal, or if it governs appropriately or inappropriately. What matters is that the Christian recognizes God's sovereignty, confident that in His oversight God never sleeps or looks the other way. He is fully aware of whatever happens. Because of the purpose He is working out, this One who knows every sparrow that falls has either passed on what occurs or directly caused it. That is all that matters. With this understanding, we can truly live by [faith](#), knowing God is ruling His creation. That is what we are here to learn and trust.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Sovereignty of God: Part Six](#)

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