

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#170) The Proverbs of Solomon 24:21-22- Can this be saved?

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 24:21-22:

My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring?

“Fear” here is used in the sense of “respect,” and since “there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” (**Romans 13:1**), then those who respect God’s authority will never set about to overthrow or disrespect “the authorities that exist.” This is clearly expressed in other passages, such as **Titus 3:1**; **1 Peter 2:13-17**. God, however, commanded “The king” who was to govern over God’s people:

When he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.
(**Deuteronomy 17:18-20**)

“The king” (representing the highest authority in government) should:

- (1) Read the God-given Scriptures;
- (2) Respect their authority by yielding to their commandments;
- (3) Not consider himself above the law!

In other words, if a “king” wants the respect of those who respect God, he must show respect to God!

Those “given to change,” are the restless souls who feel the establishment cannot be right, any “new” way has to be better, and they, therefore, seek to

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“fundamentally change” whatever constitutional regulations that exist! Countries where this spark has been fanned into flames have burned their flags, ignored their constitutional laws, and been ruled by those who think themselves above the law! This is of the Devil, for this was the appeal: he made to Eve that caused the first sin ([Genesis 3:1-19](#)); in one of the temptations he made to Jesus Christ ([Luke 4:1-13](#)); behind the “cultural revolution” in the United States in the 1960’s and political upheavals since.

Those who do not “fear the LORD” nor “fear the king” are both destroyers whose disrespect for God and His authority always produce disorder, destruction, and damnation! This is change without hope!

- **King David** said: Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. ([Psalm 40:4](#))
- **Asaph** wrote: Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty. ([Psalm 74:20](#))
- **Jesus** illustrated the disrespect the Jews had for God by the parable of “the owner of the vineyard” (God), and the “vinedressers” (Jews) in [Mark 12:1-12](#).

God prophesied that Israelites would become so unfaithful in their Promised Land that God would let an outside people conquer them ([Deuteronomy 28](#)). That foreign nation was described very much like the “generation” that has arisen within the United States:

A nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you. ([Deuteronomy 28:49-51](#))

Change the meanings of the words in language; make them intensely resentful of “the elderly” who have paved the way to a successful nation with sacrifices and blood; make them complete consumers with no ambition to work for profit to have to give to others; and who are so short-sighted and selfish they care not about the future “until they have destroyed you;” and you have an understanding of how a country can collapse! Though Deuteronomy was not a direct prophecy of our day and time, it surely paints a portrait of how any country can be destroyed!

“Who knows the ruin those two can bring?” This is a question some of us may be able to answer.

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