

## **Day 1: The Foundation of God-Appointed Authority**

### **Scripture**

"When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother." (Deuteronomy 17:14-15, NKJV)

### **Reflection**

As we have been looking at this detailed section of the law where the Ten Commandments are being applied, we see that these verses are an expansion and application of the moral law of the fifth commandment. The fifth commandment lays the foundation for submission to all God-appointed authority. It bridges our duty to honor God and our duty to love our neighbor. Israel was a republic uniquely governed by the Lord, but the law anticipated a time when the people would demand a king. God gave them divine authorization for this office, but He set strict boundaries. The king had to be chosen by God and he had to be a brother, a member of the covenant community.

In God's order, in God's way, those who are in authority are not a law unto themselves and they are not accountable only to themselves. They are accountable to the people they govern, and ultimately, they are strictly accountable to God. The king was not permitted to invent his own standard of justice. He was placed in his office to minister on behalf of the Lord. When we look at civil magistrates today, we must view them through this biblical lens. They are ministers of God. We are called to submit to the authorities God has placed over us as unto the Lord. Not as unto men, but as unto the God who has given them authority.

### **Application**

Consider your attitude toward the authorities in your life, whether in the civil sphere, the church, or your home. We often complain about the failures of our leaders, but do we pray for them? Repent of any presumptuous spirit that despises God's ordained order, and ask the Lord for a heart that honors the offices He has established.

### **Prayer**

Lord God of Israel, we thank You that You are a God of perfect order and justice. Forgive us for the times we have spoken evil of the authorities You have placed over us. Grant us the grace to submit to lawful authority with a joyful spirit, recognizing that all true power flows directly from Your throne. Amen.

## **Day 2: The Temptation of Earthly Strength**

### **Scripture**

"But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'" (Deuteronomy 17:16, NKJV)

### **Reflection**

God explicitly warned the future kings of Israel against the temptation of militarism. The command was simple and direct: he shall not multiply horses for himself. In the ancient world, the horse and the chariot were the ultimate weapons of war. They represented supreme earthly strength, speed, and military dominance. To build a massive cavalry required going down to Egypt, the very place of bondage from which God had sovereignly delivered His people. God forbade this return. He wanted His king to trust in the sovereign protection of heaven rather than the military technology of the surrounding pagan nations.

What do we mean by this? Well, men seek security in various ways. Do they not? We rely on our bank accounts, our professional skills, our physical health, and our strategic alliances. But when a leader, a father, or a mother begins to multiply their own strength at the expense of trusting God, they inevitably lead their household back into spiritual Egypt. They return to the bondage of the world. The righteous ruler understands that safety is not found in the abundance of horses or chariots. Safety is found exclusively in covenant faithfulness to the Lord who fights our battles for us.

### **Application**

Identify the "horses" you are tempted to multiply in your own life. Where are you trusting in your own tools, wealth, or worldly alliances rather than trusting the Lord to protect and provide for your family? Confess this self-reliance and consciously place your trust back in the hands of your Provider.

### **Prayer**

Father in heaven, we confess our natural tendency to trust in the arm of flesh. We look to the world for security instead of looking to Your promises. Break our reliance on our own strength. Teach us to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, trusting entirely in Your sovereign care for our family. Amen.

### **Day 3: The Danger of a Divided Heart**

#### **Scripture**

"Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself." (Deuteronomy 17:17, NKJV)

#### **Reflection**

The Lord continues to establish strict boundaries to protect the nation from tyranny and idolatry. The king was forbidden from multiplying wives and from greatly multiplying silver and gold. In the surrounding pagan cultures, kings secured political alliances through foreign marriages and secured their power by hoarding massive amounts of wealth. But God knew the devastating spiritual consequences of these practices. A multitude of wives would turn the king's heart away from the Lord. We see the tragic fulfillment of this warning in the life of King Solomon, whose foreign wives led him directly into gross idolatry and the eventual splitting of the kingdom.

The corrupting desire to enrich the state and satisfy the flesh always leads to covenant unfaithfulness. When a leader's heart is divided, the entire nation suffers the consequences. This principle applies directly to the government of our own homes. The love of money and the lusts of the flesh are powerful forces that seek to turn our hearts away from the living God. We cannot serve two masters. We must be vigilant to guard our affections, ensuring that our devotion remains entirely fixed upon the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than the fleeting pleasures and riches of this present evil age.

#### **Application**

Examine your family's priorities regarding wealth and entertainment. Are the pursuits of silver and gold causing your heart to turn away from the worship of God? Discuss with your family one practical way you can simplify your life this week to focus more intently on the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Prayer**

Lord of hosts, guard our hearts from the deceitfulness of riches and the allure of the world. We know that a divided heart leads to destruction. Give us a single-minded devotion to Your name. Help us to be content with Your provision, seeking first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. Amen.

## **Day 4: The King Under the Word**

### **Scripture**

"Also it shall be, 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." (Deuteronomy 17:18-19, NKJV)

### **Reflection**

Instead of multiplying horses, wives, and wealth, the king of Israel was given one primary, positive duty. He was commanded to personally write out a copy of the law of God and keep it with him at all times. Furthermore, he was commanded to read it all the days of his life. This is a profound and beautiful requirement. The highest civil authority in the land was required to be a humble student of the Scriptures. He was not above the law. The king is not the law, but the law of God is king.

The purpose of this daily reading was deeply spiritual. It was designed so that he might learn to fear the Lord his God. True biblical fear and obedience do not happen by accident. They are cultivated through the consistent, disciplined, daily reading of the Word of God. If the king of a nation needed to read the Scriptures every single day to keep his heart right, how much more do we need this daily discipline? The mature believer recognizes that we cannot successfully navigate the trials of life, lead our families, or honor God if our Bibles remain closed. We must become people of the Book.

### **Application**

Evaluate your daily habits regarding the reading of Scripture. Do you prioritize the Word of God above your other daily tasks? Commit today to a specific time and place where you will open the Bible, reading it carefully so that you might learn to fear the Lord and depart from evil.

### **Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank You for the preservation of Your perfect law. Forgive us for the days we have neglected Your Word. Give us a deep hunger for the Scriptures. May we read it all the days of our lives, so that our steps might be ordered by Your truth and our homes might reflect Your holiness. Amen.

## **Day 5: The True and Perfect King**

### **Scripture**

"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 17:20, NKJV)

### **Reflection**

The ultimate goal of the king's submission to the law was to keep him humble. The daily reading of the Word ensured that his heart was not lifted up above his brethren. He was to remember that he was a servant of the covenant community, prone to the same sins and in need of the same grace as the lowest citizen in Israel. Sadly, the historical record of the kings of Israel is largely a record of failure. From Saul to Zedekiah, the kings routinely turned aside from the commandment to the right hand and to the left. They multiplied wealth, they multiplied wives, and their hearts were lifted up in pride.

But a type is something that was divinely intended to be a picture of Christ. The failures of the earthly kings point us directly to our desperate need for a perfect, heavenly King. Jesus Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of Deuteronomy 17. He perfectly obeyed the law of God. He did not turn to the right hand or to the left. Though He was in the form of God, He humbled Himself, making Himself of no reputation, so that He might redeem His brethren. This is the center of the gospel message. Jesus Christ currently rules from the right hand of the Father as the King of kings and Lord of lords, and His kingdom will have no end.

### **Application**

Rejoice in the perfect rule of Jesus Christ over your life. When earthly leaders fail or act corruptly, remind your soul that the true King is currently seated on the throne. Take time today to pray for our civil rulers, asking God to grant them the wisdom to recognize that they are subject to the supreme law of Christ.

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we bow before You as the perfect King. We thank You that You perfectly fulfilled the law on our behalf and secured an everlasting kingdom for Your people. Reign in our hearts today. We pray for our earthly leaders, that they would bow to Your authority. We ask this in Your holy and matchless name. Amen.