

Instructions for Rulers (NET unless specified)

- *Proverbs 25:4-5*. Remove the dross from the silver,/ and material for the silversmith will emerge;/ remove the wicked from before the king,/ and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- *Proverbs 29:4*. A king brings stability to a land by justice,/ but one who exacts tribute tears it down.
- *Psalm 2, 72*.
- *Proverbs 16:12-13*. Kings detest wrongdoing,/ for a throne is established through righteousness./ Kings take pleasure in honest lips;/ they value a man who speaks the truth. (NIV)
- *Proverbs 31: 4-5*. It is not for kings to drink wine,/ or for rulers to crave strong drink,/ lest they drink and forget what is decreed,/ and remove from all the poor their rights.
- *Proverbs 8:15-16*. Kings reign by means of me [wisdom],/ and potentates decree righteousness;/ by me [wisdom] princes rule,/ as well as nobles and all righteous judges.
- *Psalm 138:4-5*. Let all the kings of the earth give thanks to you, O Lord,/ when they hear the words you speak./ Let them sing about the Lord's deeds,/ for the Lord's splendor is magnificent.
- *Psalm 148:11*. [Praise the Lord...] you kings of the earth and all you nations,/ you princes and all you leaders on the earth.
- Rules for the king of Israel, *Deuteronomy 17:14-20*.
- *Romans 13:3-4*. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (NIV)
- *2 Thessalonians 3:10-12*. For even when we were with you, we used to give you this command: "If anyone is not willing to work, neither should he eat." For we hear that some among you are living an undisciplined life, not doing their own work but meddling in the work of others. Now such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and so provide their own food to eat. [To the church, not the government].
- *Exodus 23:8*. And you must not receive a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and subverts the words of the righteous.
- *Leviticus 19:15*. "You must not deal unjustly in judgment: you must neither show partiality to the poor nor honor the rich. You must judge your fellow citizen fairly."
- *Exodus 23:6-7*. You must not turn away justice for your poor in their lawsuits. Keep your distance from a false charge—do not kill the innocent and the righteous, for I do not justify the wicked.
- *Deuteronomy 24:16*. Fathers must not be put to death for what their children do, nor children for what their fathers do; each must be put to death for his own sin.
- *Leviticus 24:17-20*. "If a man beats any person to death, he must be put to death. One who beats an animal to death must make restitution for it, life for life. If a man inflicts an injury on his fellow citizen, just as he has done it must be done to him—fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth—just as he inflicts an injury on a person that same injury must be inflicted on him.
- *Deuteronomy 19:18-21*. The judges will thoroughly investigate the matter, and if the witness should prove to be false and to have given false testimony against the accused, you must do to him what he had intended to do to the accused. In this way you will purge evil from among you. The rest of the people will hear and become afraid to keep doing such evil among you. You must not show pity; the principle will be a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, and a foot for a foot.
- *Matthew 5:38-42*. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the evildoer. But whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well. And if someone wants to sue you and to take your tunic, give him your coat also. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and do not reject the one who wants to borrow from you.
- *Deuteronomy 16:18-20*. You must appoint judges and civil servants for each tribe in all your villages that the Lord your God is giving you, and they must judge the people fairly. You must not pervert justice or show favor. Do not take a bribe, for bribes blind the eyes of the wise and distort the words of the righteous. You must pursue justice alone so that you may live and inherit the land the Lord your God is giving you.

How do these Scriptures apply to Rulers?

- Should the government enforce behaviour that God desires? Is the government given that mandate? How might enforcing such laws modify behaviour? How could a law enforcing God's principles work against that in someone's life?
- Can law be made concerning thoughts and ideas, or just behaviour?

Instructions for Individuals

- The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21.
- *Exodus 22:22*. You must not afflict any widow or orphan.
- *Exodus 22:25*. If you lend money to any of my people who are needy among you, do not be like a money-lender to him; do not charge him interest.
- *Exodus 23:1*. You must not give a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be a malicious witness.
- *Exodus 23:2-3*. You must not go after a crowd into evil things; in a lawsuit you must not offer testimony that agrees with a crowd so as to pervert justice, and you must not show favor to a poor man in his lawsuit.
- *Leviticus 19:11*. “You must not steal, you must not tell lies, and you must not deal falsely with your fellow citizen.”
- *Leviticus 19:17-18*. “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” (NIV)
- *Leviticus 25:35-37*. “If your brother becomes impoverished and is indebted to you, you must support him; he must live with you like a foreign resident. Do not take interest or profit from him, but you must fear your God and your brother must live with you. You must not lend him your money at interest and you must not sell him food for profit.
- Being generous to the poor, Deuteronomy 15:7-11.
- *Numbers 5:6-7*. When a man or a woman commits any sin that people commit, thereby breaking faith with the Lord, and that person is found guilty, then he must confess his sin that he has committed; and he must make full reparation, add one fifth to it, and give it to whomever he wronged.
- *Deuteronomy 8:11*. Be sure you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments, ordinances, and statutes that I am giving you today.
- *Deuteronomy 10:17-19*. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who is unbiased and takes no bribe, who justly treats the orphan and widow, and who loves resident foreigners, giving them food and clothing. So you must love the resident foreigner because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.
- *Deuteronomy 22:1,4*. When you see your neighbor’s ox or sheep going astray, do not ignore it; you must return it without fail to your neighbor. ...When you see your neighbor’s donkey or ox fallen along the road, do not ignore them; instead, you must be sure to help him get them up.
- *Deuteronomy 22:8*. If you build a new house, you must construct a guard rail around your roof to avoid being culpable in the event someone should fall from it.
- *Deuteronomy 23:21*. When you make a vow to the LORD your God you must not delay in fulfilling it, for otherwise the LORD your God will surely hold you accountable as a sinner.
- *Matthew 5:21-22*. “You have heard that it was said to the ancient ones, ‘Do not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders will be subjected to judgment.’ But I say to you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subjected to judgment.”
- *Matthew 5:27-28*. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- *Matthew 5:43-45*. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor’ and ‘hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

How should Christians respond to their Rulers?

- *Luke 20:25*. So he [Jesus] said to them, “Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
- *Romans 13:1-2*. 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. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (NIV)
- *Romans 13:5-7*. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (NIV)