

Developing Trust

1. There are many events that took place during the life of Jesus that show how government officials, acting freely, fulfilled the purposes of God. Fill in the chart below.

Scripture	Ruler's name	Official Action	Prophecy fulfilled
Matt. 2:13-16			Hosea 11:1
Matt. 2:17-18			Jeremiah 31:15
Matt. 2:21-23			Isaiah 9:1
Luke 2:1-4			Micah 5:2
Acts 4:27-28			Isaiah 53:3-6

2. What truths are taught about governments and rulers in the following verses?

KJV Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps. . . . 33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

KJV Proverbs 21:31 The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety *is* of the LORD.

KJV Isaiah 40:22 *It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: 23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. 24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

KJV Daniel 4:17 This matter *is* by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

KJV Daniel 4:31 While the word *was* in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

KJV Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.

3. What responsibilities do we have toward our government?
Romans 13:1-7

1 Timothy 2:1-4

4. a. Describe a time in your life when a governmental decision had an effect on your life (for example, military draft, new tax laws, zoning regulation, etc.).

b. To what extent did you see God's hand in the events at the time?

c. From your present perspective, what do you think God was doing in that situation?

5. a. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-16 and 16:20-17:14. Why did God want Absalom to follow the poor advice of Hushai?

b. What might be God's purpose in allowing rulers to make foolish decisions?

c. Does God protect His people from the consequences of these poor decisions? Why or why not?

6. According to Daniel 9:1-19, what was Daniel's response when he realized that Israel's exile in Babylon was almost over?

7. a. What is promised in the following verses?
Matthew 28:18-20

Revelation 7:9-10

b. How can you respond to these promises?

8. a. What are your general thoughts about the present world situation?

b. Did the truths in this chapter change your perspective on current events? If so, how?

Trust in Action: Choose one to do this week.

1. Spend some time with the Lord doing some soul searching about your role in the political process of your country. Is God prompting you to a deeper involvement?

2. Write to your government representatives letting them know what you think about some issue currently being debated.

3. Choose several world leaders and make a commitment to pray regularly for them. Make an effort to read articles about these leaders and their lives.

4. Choose one group of missionaries and pray regularly for them. Or choose one nation that is currently hostile to the gospel and pray regularly that God will open doors in that country.

5. Memorize Psalm 33:16-17