

# Honour The King

What are we to do, as true Believers, as the secular government becomes more and more corrupt? Should we question the authority around us? Should we go out of our way to be advocates of issues that are not specifically Bible oriented? Even as the Apostle Paul wrote the Epistles during the reign of Emperor Nero, he taught us to submit to authority. All of these questions seem to be relevant in the way we should live our lives. We hope this booklet will give you some insight on what Yahweh tells us through His Word. Some of the messages conveyed may provoke you to reconsider your ideals. In any case, may Yahweh's Truth be known, and may you be blessed with knowledge. *Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear Yahweh. Honour the king,* 1 Peter 2:17 KJV.

Many Bible students are familiar with the book of Daniel because of the challenges found in its prophecies in the Old Testament. Together with the book of Revelation, one is given the scenario of the last days of man's rebellion on this earth. Between the two books we view the panorama from earth and the heavens.

It is in studying the situations swirling around Daniel and his reaction to events that we are given deeper understanding. Through Daniel's dream interpretations we comprehend in a measure Yahweh's expectations of us as we study the unfolding of prophecy and note the dedication and example of Daniel and his three friends.

The prophet Daniel is upheld by Yahweh as an example for us because he maintained his character and integrity in difficult situations. He was taken as a young man to pagan Babylon along with three other Israelites. These four fellow eunuchs became noteworthy through their faithfulness and wisdom and are examples in how to survive in a pagan land where heathen customs are celebrated by the general public. The question arises whether we as citizens should serve our government that is not at all in harmony with Yahweh's Word.

Where Babylon had set up statues and idols for their worship, churchianity today brings pagan customs and days of worship into the midst of their congregation. The days rooted in paganism are observed while those keeping the Sabbath days commanded in Holy Writ are looked upon as the oddballs of society. What was true in Daniel's time is also true in our day. Society and its leaders ignore the Bible and march to a different drummer, even to the point of observing days that originated in Babylon.

Daniel and his three Jewish friends were placed in a position of leadership by the very ones who had taken them captive and removed them to Babylon. Yet, these young men continued in their belief and worship of Yahweh. When Daniel had interpreted the king's dream through Yahweh's providence, they were all elevated to positions in the governmental affairs of Babylon. They were obligated to carry out the laws and decrees of a pagan society, under a pagan king. These four young Jews are a prime example of being obedient to Yahweh, yet having earned a place of honor and responsibility in a pagan government. There are those who contend one must be wary about cooperating with the governments of this world. In fact, some go so far as trying to thwart the government from carrying out its functions.

## **What is Required of Us?**

The letter to the Romans discusses what a believer is to do under either a good or bad government such as was Rome in the days of Yahshua and in Paul's day:

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of Yahweh: the powers that be are ordained of Yahweh. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of Yahweh: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 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: For he is the minister of Yahweh 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 Yahweh, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are Yahweh's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour, Romans 13:1-7. The **Authorized Version** (AV) 1769 edition, translated from the 1611 version, is used throughout, unless otherwise noted.*

Paul here discusses the obligation or duty which every believer in Yahweh owes his civil government. Paul has just finished giving instructions how we are to conduct ourselves in the assembly (*ekklesia*) of fellow believers in chapter 12, now he goes on to discuss our behavior and duty in the world we live in, even a society of worldly unbelievers.

This important duty requires constant alertness and can at times be exceedingly difficult. While Paul obviously has the believers at Rome in mind, the subject is important to all believers. Rome was basically a heathen society, and many in authority were pagan worshipers and knew nothing of Yahweh or Yahshua.

## **Living in the World Apart**

The Apostles and those who followed were expected to proclaim their religion throughout the world. They were to foretell of a coming Kingdom to be set up by Yahshua amid other human kingdoms. The believers were to profess supreme allegiance to Yahshua Messiah as their complete Sovereign, Lawgiver and Judge. The question arose—exactly what is required of us in dealing with earthly officials and magistrates who pay no attention to the Bible.

The various kingdoms of the world were then heathen kingdoms, operating within a pagan world. These kingdoms usually were established by conquest, war and oppression. Rulers were often blood-stained warriors, lacking both character and principle. The question was whether a believer should acknowledge and obey the laws of a pagan society ruled by carnal men. Should one obey such laws made by pagans who knew nothing of the laws of Yahweh and were ignorant of the Savior?

Under the teachings of Moses, an Israelite was to have none but a brother Israelite rule over them (Deut. 17:15). Now they were captives and under pagan Rome authority, and the feeling of rebellion was a frequent topic of conversation and was strong in the hearts of the Jews.

Jewish converts to the Messiah made up the core of early believers who had long been under Roman oppression. They regarded the Roman yoke as founded on idolatry and of demonic influence as opposed to Yahweh and the Torah. They felt the Romans were an abomination in the

land of Israel. They looked for an earthly kingdom and yearned for the day Rome would be driven out of the Holy Land.

### **To Submit or Not to Submit**

With mixed feelings the true believers (referred to as “Christians”) wondered how far they should submit, if at all, to heathen magistrates. It was a question of deepest concern.

Furthermore, there was danger that the Jewish converts might prove to be disorderly and rebellious citizens of the empire. The Galileans especially detested paying taxes and the term “Galilean” was one of contempt and became attached to both the Savior and His followers.

The situation with the assemblies’ gentile converts differed little. They were abhorred by the blatant idolatry they had just forsaken. They would condemn the pagan religion and the involvement of pagan religion which was interwoven with government institutions. There was the ever-present danger they might denounce the government altogether and be looked upon as opposing the laws of the land.

Occasions arose where it was right and proper to resist the civil laws. This was openly taught and a stand for Yahweh’s truth was then required. When the laws interfered with clear obedience to Yahweh such as the command to worship idols, or some infringement of Yahweh’s Word, the followers of the Savior were not to submit. Just what action should be taken whether to submit or to refuse submission, was an issue that was not easily settled. This is what prompted the Apostle Paul’s comments in this 13th chapter of Romans. The lesson is to submit, to yield to the authority of those over us and to obey in all things that are not contrary to Yahweh’s laws. The Old Testament consistently points out that no one is a ruler in this world except by His assent.

### **Yahweh Sets Up and Deposes Kings**

Wise King Solomon agrees kings’ rule by the providence of Yahweh and civil government is for the people’s good, for Yahweh says, *By Me kings reign, and princes decree justice*, Proverbs 8:15.

Paul makes the point those in authority were placed there by Yahweh. We show honor to Yahweh by honoring His arrangement of government of mankind, for Yahweh places in authority those He wishes. Some may have obtained their office by guile and deceit, but Yahweh allowed such to prevail. We are not to attempt to overturn rulers. This truth is found in Old as well as New Testaments. Note the lessons from Psalm and Daniel:

*But Yahweh is the Judge: He puts down one, and sets up another, Psalm 75:7. And He changes the times and the seasons: He removes kings, and sets up kings: He gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding, Daniel 2:21. 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 rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will, and sets up over it the basest of men, Daniel 4:17. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule, Daniel 4:26.*

There is no power given except that of Yahweh’s permission or arrangement. No matter how the rulers obtained their office, it is under the guidance and providence of Yahweh. This does not mean that He approves of their behavior or actions, nor that they will always do the right thing.

But it is our duty to submit to them except where they oppose the laws of Yahweh. We are consistently cautioned to obey Yahweh and not follow the ways of the heathen: *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey Yahweh rather than men,"* Acts 5:29.

Yahweh sets up rulers and deposes rulers. He uses them to do His will. It was never a question whether one should obey a magistrate who commands an action which is plainly contrary to Yahweh's law. (Such we cannot follow.) The question was whether they should obey a heathen magistrate at all. When Paul wrote his epistle, the Roman Empire was in disarray, for one emperor was supplanted by another. Often the throne was seized by crime and claimants arose disputing who should be ruler.

### **Serve the Tyrants**

Paul strove to prevent the followers of Messiah in taking an active part in these disputes and getting involved in any political controversy. Claudius had been put to death by poison; Caligula died in a violent manner; Nero was a tyrant; and, amidst these agitations, and crimes, and revolutions, the apostle wished to guard followers of Yahshua from taking an active part in political affairs. Neither are we to curse the government nor provoke or condemn their every action: *Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter,* Ecclesiastes 10:20.

The Bible teaches that human government is in Yahweh's providence, and is there because of His appointment. Obedience in things of a civil nature is actually obeying Yahweh. To resist civil authorities is to resist Yahweh; which resistance brings damnation to themselves (Rom. 13:2). Magistrates cause terror by penal laws, also bring punishment on delinquents and are Yahweh's agents of wrath and vengeance (Rom. 13:3-4).

### **Rulers Are Ministers for Good**

Paul encourages obedience to the laws of the land because one then has the good will and respect of the rulers and we are commended by them, and both property and person are protected by the rulers:

*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: For he is the minister of Yahweh 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 Yahweh, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil,* Romans 13:3-4.

Paul says obedience is an answer to a good conscience, and we are to treat them with honor and respect. He goes on to point out the basis of our behavior to all is to show love and compassion for all and live with a watchful, clean and positive attitude. We should be thankful for all the privileges we enjoy which allow us to lay up treasure in the heavens as we look forward to the day of salvation which is drawing ever nearer.

We are encouraged to have faith in the Messiah and be good imitators of Him as we look forward to the coming Kingdom and strive to be worthy of the high calling we have to join with Him and the saints on that day. We are to be dedicated followers of the Savior and spend our time in preparing for the Kingdom and not spend our time striving with the governments which

Yahweh says He has allowed to be over us. Yahweh even allowed Pilate the authority to impale His Son Yahshua. We also are to obey the laws of the land: *Yahshua answered, "Thou could have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he (Caiaphas, 18:12-13) that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin,"* John 19:11.

Peter says those who resist authority and speak evil of government follow the corrupt desire of sinful nature and are bold and arrogant: *But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities (authority),* 2 Peter 2:10.

Dignities here means all that is honorable, right and good (such as governments). There are those who despise the same government that Yahweh allows for our own good. Paul goes a step further and urges us to offer up prayers and petitions for rulers and those in authority.

Yahweh has set authorities in place and our subjection must be free and voluntary, sincere and hearty. This includes inward honor and outward reverence and respect, both in speaking to them and in speaking of them—obedience to their commands in things lawful and honest, and in other things a patient subjection without resistance.

### **Prepare for the Kingdom**

Should we spend wasted time resisting regulations in rebellion against the governments of this world? Should we let the world do its thing while we redeem the time in preparing for the coming Kingdom of Yahshua? Instead of taking a belligerent stand against governments, Paul urges us to give honor and respect to those in authority so that we can lead a quiet and peaceable life and take up the things that will bring us into the Kingdom through Yahshua:

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all piety and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of Yahweh our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth,* 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

That this world is under control of Satan (2 Cor. 4:4), we fully agree. Yahshua did not argue with the Adversary when he offered to turn over this world to the Savior if He would bow down and worship. Yahshua refused Satan's short cut to take over rulership of this world. (Mat. 4:8-9) At times this means we may have to bite our tongue and grit our teeth to placate those in authority. We fully admit the world's magistrates are not always honorable and worthy, but we are to spend our time learning of Yahweh's ways and not fighting the kings:

*Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men,* Titus 3:1-2 NIV.

### **Lessons from the Past**

Israel was told they were a chosen people and would be a kingdom of priests ruling over the earth someday. Through their continued taking up heathen worship, adopting pagan days of worship, and forgetting Yahweh's Name for Baal, Israel lost the close contact they had with Yahweh. Because the Jews had not adhered to Yahweh's laws, (2 Chron. 36:20-21), they were taken to Babylon. Seventy years were the Jews in Babylon where a constant murmur ran through

the crowd that they should not obey the pagan king of a heathen country like Babylon. Gedaliah, left behind and appointed governor of Judah, was not popular upon telling the people to obey the king of Babylon:

*And Gedaliah sware to them, and to their men, and said unto them, "Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you,"* 2 Kings 25:24.

Jeremiah warned those in Babylon not to follow or listen to anyone who encouraged willful disobedience, rebellion, insurrection and defiance against Babylon:

*Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, "Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish. But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land,"* saith Yahweh; *and they shall till it, and dwell therein. I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as Yahweh hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?"* Jeremiah 27:9-13 KJV.

Do we find certain people today given to the same line of disobedience to the civil servants Yahweh allows to rule? What about those who teach we should reject or resist as many government regulations as possible? Are they like the teachers Jeremiah warns us of, not to heed their words?

### **Listen Not to Lying Prophets**

Jeremiah clearly warns Judah not to listen to those who teach against obeying the king of Babylon. Yahweh wanted His people to get on with their lives, to raise their families and till the land, plant and reap, and He would prosper them. There would be others who would teach insurrection and disobedience. Judah was to obey Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who Yahweh referred to as His servant, Jeremiah 27:6. If they did not obey the king of Babylon, they and Jerusalem would perish from the face of the earth:

*"Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, 'Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.' For I have not sent them,"* saith Yahweh, *yet they prophesy a lie in My Name; that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you. Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying, "Thus saith Yahweh; hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, 'Behold, the vessels of Yahweh's house shall now shortly be brought again from Babylon:' for they prophesy a lie unto you. Hearken not unto them; serve the king of Babylon, and live: wherefore should this city be laid waste?"* Jeremiah 27:14-17.

Yahweh allows magistrates to bear the sword. To oppose them is to jeopardize all that is dear to us in this world; for it is not for us to contend with him that bears the sword. The true believer is already recognized as different by shunning the first day of the week and keeping Bible Sabbaths instead. Ignoring heathen celebrations marks us as being different. We need not become more obnoxious by our consistently resisting all authority.

## **A Terror to the Rebellious**

Those that resist shall receive to themselves damnation says Paul. They will have to answer to the magistrates for their resistance, and Yahweh will demand an accounting for that contention, for that reflects upon Him. The authorities will have a penalty to be paid, for the rulers are a terror to them who resist.

Not only are we to be subject due to the wrath or punishment meted out by magistrates, but also because we are disobeying Yahweh's command, for He has set those in authority as has pleased Him. He has said any resistance to civil authorities on our part is disobedience and rebellion against Him, for all authority on earth is in His hand and by His permission:

*By Me kings reign, and princes decree justice, Proverbs 8:15. But Elohim [Is] the Judge: He puts down one, and sets up another, Psalms 75:7.*

We are to include kings and those in authority in our prayers, for this will give us peace and opportunities to serve Yahweh as we grow in grace and knowledge. We redeem the time as we strive to learn more of Him and walk in His ways:

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all piety and honesty. For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of Yahweh our Saviour, 1 Timothy 2:1-3.*

Magistrates are here again called Yahweh's ministers, as in Romans 13:4, 6. Such are actually Yahweh's servants. They have a task to accomplish. Though they be authorities to us, they are Yahweh's servants as He has placed them there. As such, we should treat them with respect and dignity. Magistrates have a responsible position in Yahweh's eyes. As some have said, they administer public justice, settle quarrels, protect the innocent, right the wronged, punish the offenders and preserve peace and order. Resisting a public servant who is discharging his duty is resisting an ordinance of Yahweh and is therefore ultimately being disobedient to Him.

King David wrote: "The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted" (Psa. 12:8a). Every generation has men such as these, and it is our duty in that case rather to submit to persecution for well-doing, and to take it patiently, rather than seek redress or revenge. Never did a ruler pervert the ends of government as Nero did, and yet, to him Paul appealed, and under him had the protection of the law and the inferior magistrates more than once. Better a bad government than none at all.

Protection draws allegiance from those who benefit. If we have protection from the government, it follows we owe and accept subjection to it. By cooperating with the government, we maintain the hedge Yahweh has placed around us. By paying taxes we contribute our share to the support of the power. If we pay taxes, we support the government. However, Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua (YAIY) is non-profit and tax exempt, but we are required to withhold and pay taxes for the office employees as is any business.

As one commentator wrote, "You pay [taxes] as a just debt, or lend it to be repaid in all the blessings and advantages of public government, of which you reap the benefit. This is the lesson the apostle teaches, and it becomes all Believers to learn and practice it, that the [pious] in the land may be found."

## **Vengeance is Yahweh's**

Believers must not avenge themselves for wrongs, but defer all to Yahweh, who says in Hebrews 10:30, vengeance is His, and He will repay. Some might infer from this, that it was not lawful for magistrates to right the wronged, and avenge them of their adversaries; or for Believers to seek redress when wronged.

This subjection must be limited only to lawful things. "Be subject," Paul says, but he does not say, "be obedient," but "be subject;" which we understand refers to duties and actions which are in line with Yahweh's will. Even mighty King Nebuchadnezzar who is referred to as Yahweh's servant (Jer. 27:6) was humbled until he acknowledged Yahweh rules in the kingdom of men:

*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, Daniel 4:32.*

*Yahweh maketh poor, and maketh rich: He bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, [and] lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set [them] among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth [are] Yahweh's, and He hath set the world upon them, 1 Samuel 2:7-8.*

Yahweh is in charge of this earth, and at times allows His enemies to perform certain things which in His wisdom He utilizes and turns to fulfill His will. For example, Babylon was used to fulfill His will; but He then will take vengeance on Babylon:

*And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan sware unto them and to their men, saying, "Fear not to serve the Chaldeans: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull [you] down, and I will plant you, and not pluck [you] up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you. Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him," saith Yahweh: "for I [am] with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand," Jeremiah 42:10-11.*

Yahweh actually told His people Judah not to fear being servants of the Babylonians, for He would bless them in their servitude and they could get on with their lives:

*And Gedaliah sware to them, and to their men, and said unto them, "Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you," 2 Kings 25:24.*

The New Testament cautions us to observe the laws of the land so that we can live a productive and full life, serving Yahweh and being respectful of magistrates, and to be an example for those in the world. *Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, Titus 3:1.*

## **Prayer, Thanks, for Kings**

We are expected to pray for those in authority so that we can have a quiet and tranquil life, having time to study and learn spiritual lessons and to do good works, laying up treasure in the heavens. Spending time confronting and opposing the government is not gaining sought-after spiritual knowledge nor do such actions bring us closer to Yahshua's kingdom. Such resisting

consumes our time and diverts our goals, when we should be redeeming the time for the days are evil (Eph. 5:16).

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all [piety] and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of Elohim our Saviour, 1 Timothy 2:1-3.*

Acts 23:11 reveals that Paul's missionary work was not yet done, that he was to go on to Rome, doing the same work as he had done in Jerusalem. Yahweh worked out a plan where Paul went to Rome as a guest of the Roman military:

*And the night following Yahweh stood by him, and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome," Acts 23:11.*

Because his own Jewish people were seeking his life, apparently Paul was moved by Yahweh to demand he be sent to Rome for he appealed to Caesar. Paul was taken to Rome as a prisoner in chains in order that he might fulfill the presentation of the Evangel to those in Rome:

*For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar, Acts 25:11.*

*But when the Jews spake against [it], I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of, Acts 28:19.*

Because of Paul's appeal to the emperor of Rome, we have his book of Romans in our New Testament. The brethren welcomed Paul who carried on his work for two whole years in his own rented house. Even though a visitor in Rome, Paul preached boldly and without hindrance the Kingdom of Yahweh and taught about the Master Yahshua Messiah (Acts 28:31).

## **Our Present Status**

The Apostle Peter is of the same mind that we should not oppose the government as long as they do not in any way restrict or interfere in our worship of Yahweh: We should spend our time preparing for the coming government of Yahshua, and not get caught up in trying to straighten out Satan's present corrupt governments here on earth.

There are those who allege religious groups that are allowed non-profit status by the IRS and can legally give tax receipts for donations are somehow wards of the state. Claims have been made that we are unable to preach and proclaim the evangel because we are in some way muzzled by the "501-c3" non-profit tax status allowed us by the U.S. Government.

Never in some 30 years in the ministry have we ever been restricted in our activities in any way by any branch of the government. We continue to proclaim boldly the truth of the Bible, calling attention to the error of churchianity. Such unbiblical practices as making Sunday the day of worship, observing pagan days such as Easter, Xmas, New Years, Halloween, the trinity, immortal soul, etc. It is our constant theme; that is, a call to repentance. Such erroneous teachings we boldly proclaim constantly. We have never had interference in what we teach, when we teach or where. It is most difficult to know how these allegations that we are in some way hampered or restricted by any government body because we are "501-c3" can be explained. The present government has NOT interfered in our presenting Yahweh's truth to the world. Neither are we aware of any group which has been restricted in preaching a Bible message.

## **Redeeming the Time**

As a matter of fact, there are benefits allowed us as a non-profit group such as bulk mailings at a cheaper rate, both in this country and overseas. Purchases are made in Missouri without paying any sales tax. Our buildings and equipment are not taxed.

We are able in this country to utilize the world's best postal system to mail literature worldwide. Certain countries accept the discount "flat mail" which is a much cheaper priority mail. We are also aware the time may come when we may have to disband when the Man of Sin comes to power. Many things will be changed then. Until then we will continue to strive to reach out to as many around the world as funds permit in the time we have left.

It is our feeling that as soon as the Elect of Yahweh are all called and the body completed, then Yahshua can return. Yahweh is calling out now a people to be in that first resurrection. When these are sealed through baptism, Yahshua will then return and set up His Kingdom.

As long as our nation along with England and Canada continue to be busy leaders in disseminating Bible truth worldwide and be a help to the nation of Israel, we will be blessed.

Like Paul we should take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the "Caesar" of our day. It is to our advantage to remain under the umbrella of the "501-c3" category as long as we can peacefully serve and obey Yahweh. If that changes, we will have to meet the challenge.

Accounts of Yahweh's people who performed in top echelons of pagan governments are examples given us to emulate. These include men like Daniel and his associates who ruled in Babylon, serving Yahweh in difficult surroundings. We also are told of Joseph who was the second in ruling over the pagan land of Egypt. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court, became a highly respected and valiant general of Egyptian armies, and was Yahweh's choice to lead Israel to freedom. Nehemiah, the cup-bearer to king Artaxerxes, was instrumental in bringing back the remnant of Jews to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, Nehemiah chapter two. All of these served in worldly governments, yet maintained their integrity and were faithful to Yahweh. If Paul appealed to Caesar, we should be able to take advantage of the opportunities available today, and not become involved in worldly goals and ambitions.

With the evidence we have found in Yahweh's Word, let us seek to follow the advice Yahweh gives us through His prophets such as the Apostle Peter:

*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for Yahweh's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of Yahweh, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of Yahweh. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear Yahweh. Honour the king, 1 Peter 2:13-17.*

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