

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

(#108) The Proverbs of Solomon 16:12-13- Governing the Government (#3)

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 16:12-13:

It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness. 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right.

Verse 12: An "abomination" with God is as bad as anything can be: in **Proverbs** alone, it is used in some 19 verses. For "kings to commit wickedness" is the same with God as:

- A perverse person (**3:32**),
- The Big Seven (pride, lies, killing the innocent, wicked planning, eager participation in evil, bearing false witness with lies, sowing discord among brethren, **6:16-19**),
- Dishonesty in business (**11:1**),
- Justifying the wicked and condemning the just (**17:15**),
- Prayer from one refusing to listen to God (**28:9**),
- In short, "whatever is highly esteemed among men" (**Luke 16:15**).

What can government leaders do that is "wickedness?"

- (1) They are pleased that their people act wickedly, like Ephraimites who "make a king glad with their wickedness, and princes with their lies" (**Hosea 7:3**). Samuel had shown where this will end when he said, "if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king" (**1 Samuel 12:25**);
- (2) Manasseh encouraged: foreign religions, idolatry, child sacrifice, superstition, immorality, shedding innocent blood (**2 Chronicles 33:1-10**; **2 Kings 21:16**). Not all "laws of the land" are "righteous."

To establish a throne (or seat of power) requires "righteousness," or respect for God and His Principles, throughout the nation (top to bottom), for:



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Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. The king's favor is toward a wise servant, but his wrath is against him who causes shame. ([Proverbs 14:34-35](#))

Verse 13: "Righteous lips" on government leaders are but a faint, distant memory for most people, but should remain a goal with every vote! Even wicked Israelite King Ahab, put pressure upon the prophet, Micaiah, by saying:

"How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?" ([1 Kings 22:16](#))

Speaking what is right is the only solid foundation of any nation or kingdom! The King of Kings has established His spiritual kingdom entirely upon truth, for He told the Roman, Pilate:

"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." ([John 18:37](#))

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