

## ***Kings Actions Condemned by Prophets***

Some have challenged the General Board of Church and Society for critiquing some of the administration's or congress's policies and positions. At times some have even suggested that GBCS should support our political leaders because we are their "subjects" and they are "God's chosen authority" over us (Romans 13). While this supportive, unquestioning position might be appropriate for citizens living under a just regime, what should Christians do when the government clearly is in the wrong. Furthermore, we might also ask, what government is totally pure, never doing anything wrong? It is important, especially in a democracy, that citizens assume the role of holding the government to account, regularly evaluating its worthiness, and speaking up when it fails to live up to God's high expectations.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that the church is not to dominate the state nor be controlled by the state but is to be the "conscience" of the state.

Consistently, in the Bible, kings are critiqued by the religious authorities and determined by the prophets to "have done evil in the sight of God"<sup>1</sup>. If so many of the Hebrew kings committed "evil" actions, why would we believe our United States' presidents would be that much better?

All of the following (over 20 kings), according to the Hebrew Scripture, were determined to have "done evil in the sight of God." In every case, the prophets spoke bold words against their reigns and condemned them for failing to be faithful to the high calling God had entrusted to them. Many prophets risk their lives criticizing the actions of kings. The prophetic role of challenging the "principalities and powers" is a biblical calling that must not be ignored.

See the following Biblical references:

**1 Kings** 11:6 Solomon "did evil in the sight of God"  
15:26 Nadab "did evil in the sight of God"  
15:34 Baasha and Jeroboam "did evil in the sight of God"  
16:25 Omri "did evil in the sight of God"  
22:52 Ahaziah "did evil in the sight of God"  
**2Kings** 8:18 Jehoram "did evil in the sight of God"  
3:2 Joram "did evil in the sight of God"  
8:27 Ahaziah and Ahaz "did evil in the sight of God"  
13:2 Jehoahaz "did evil in the sight of God"  
13:11 Jehoash "did evil in the sight of God"  
14:24 Amaziah "did evil in the sight of God"  
15:9 Zechariah "did evil in the sight of God"  
15:18 Menahem "did evil in the sight of God"  
15:24 Pekahiah "did evil in the sight of God"  
15:28 Pekah "did evil in the sight of God"  
17:2 Hoshea "did evil in the sight of God"  
21:2 Manasseh "did evil in the sight of God"  
21:20 Amon "did evil in the sight of God"  
23:32 Jehoahaz "did evil in the sight of God"  
23:37 Jehoiakim "did evil in the sight of God"  
24:9 Jehoichin "did evil in the sight of God"  
24:19 Zedekiah "did evil in the sight of God"  
**Jeremiah** 52:2

Also see judgment on kings repeated in **2 Chronicles** 12:14, 21:6, 22:4, 33:2, 33:22, 36:5, 36:9, 36:12

Judgment on entire nations of Israel and Judah are recorded in Judges 2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1, **2 Chronicles** 29:6, **Isaiah** 65:12, 66:4 and **1 Kings** 14:22

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<sup>1</sup> There are only a few exceptions, such as King Josiah, where a king is judged to have done well in the sight of God, but in the Bible these positive statements are extremely rare.