

Just **ONE** Great Leader

...can do so much good

“When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan” (Proverbs 29:2).

“Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people” (Proverbs 28:15).

CHARACTERISTICS COMMON IN LEADERS THROUGHOUT TIME:

“**Your rulers are rebels** and **companions of thieves**; everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them” (Isaiah 1:23).

“**Concerning evil, both hands do it well.** The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe, and a great man speaks the desire of his soul; so they weave it together” (Micah 7:3).

“**Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey**, by **shedding blood** and **destroying lives** in order to get **dishonest gain**” (Ezekiel 22:27).

“They make many promises, take **false oaths** and make agreements; therefore, lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field” (Hosea 10:4).

“The merchant uses **dishonest scales**; he loves to defraud” (Hosea 12:7).

“The people of the land **practice extortion and commit robbery**; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice” (Ezekiel 22:29).

“**This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take** your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some, he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. **He will take the best** of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day” (I Samuel 8:11-18).

21ST CENTURY EXAMPLES: Lobbyists who work to obtain lucrative contracts, minimal effort to eliminate child-trafficking and baby farming, quid quo pro foundations, generous retirement

plans for outgoing government officials, protection of corrupt financial institutions, producers of products of mass destruction, failure to prosecute the guilty using the same weights for all people, war mongers, funding mercenaries for political gain, disrupting and destroying whole groups of people for personal gain.

God says:

“The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people, “It is **you** who have devoured the vineyard; the plunder of the poor is in **your** houses” (Isaiah 3:14).

“**Woe to those who enact evil statutes** and to those who constantly record unjust decisions” (Isaiah 10:1).

“Thus I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity; **I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless**” (Isaiah 13:11).

Just ONE great leader can do so much good for his/her subjects as well as people from different nations. They can bring relief to the poor, justice to the accused, establish peace within and outside the family, and bring God’s blessings on all. But, how?

A GREAT LEADER SEEKS GOD’S HELP AND DIRECTION: King David was a man after God’s own heart. He sought God’s direction and help in all of his decisions. His life was filled with pressures. When King Saul learned that God will give the throne to David, he sought to kill him multiple times. Absalom, led a rebellion against him forcing King David to flee for his life. During his hiding in the wilderness, he wrote Psalm 63.

“O God, **you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you,** in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because **your love is better than life,** my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name, I will lift up my hands... **you are my help.** I sing in the shadow of your wings. **I stay close to you;** your right hand upholds me...” (Psalm 63).

A psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom: “O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, ‘God will not deliver him.’ But **you are a shield around me,** O LORD, my Glorious One, who lifts up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because **the LORD sustains me.** I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. Arise, **O LORD! Deliver me,** O my God! For **you have struck all my enemies** on the jaw; you have broken the teeth of the wicked. **From the LORD comes deliverance...**” (Psalm 3).

While hiding from his son, King David sought to know God more and more intimately. He never once looked back desiring his kingdom, rather he looked forward, longing for God’s righteous and eternal kingdom.

King David inquired of God and trusted Him.

“So, David inquired of the LORD, saying, ‘**Shall I go and attack these Philistines?**’ And **THE LORD SAID TO DAVID, ‘GO AND ATTACK THE PHILISTINES AND DELIVER KEILAH’**” (1 Samuel 23:2).

“David said, ‘O LORD, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. **Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard?** O LORD, God of Israel, tell your servant.’ And the LORD said, ‘He will.’ Against David asked, ‘**Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?**’ And the **LORD SAID, ‘THEY WILL.’** So, David and his men left Keilah” (1 Samuel 23:9-13).

“David inquired of the LORD, saying, ‘**Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?**’ And **HE SAID TO HIM, ‘PURSUE, FOR YOU WILL SURELY OVERTAKE THEM, AND YOU WILL SURELY RESCUE ALL’**” (1 Samuel 30:8).

“David inquired of God, saying, ‘**Shall I go up against the Philistines? And will You give them into my hand?**’ Then **THE LORD SAID TO HIM, ‘GO UP, FOR I WILL GIVE THEM INTO YOUR HAND’**” (1 Chronicles 14:10).

What a wonderful blessing it would be if 21st century leaders inquired of God and upheld His directions. There would be no more accusations or fear for God knows the plans and secret thoughts of all nations.

A GREAT LEADER DESIRES THE QUALITIES OF GOD’S RULERSHIP: “Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours?” God said to Solomon, "Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather **you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people.** I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you have possessed nor those who will come after you" (II Chronicles 1:10-12).

Solomon’s life was full of lessons like the sea on a stormy night and at the completion of his journey, he concluded, “The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man**” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). With all the wisdom and knowledge that he acquired, his conclusion was ever so simple and yet for many, so difficult.

A GREAT LEADER IS A PEACEMAKER: King Alfred the Great, a faithful Christian won the critical battle against the invading Vikings. King Alfred did what no other western leader has ever done after a surrender; he offered King Guthrum grace in the form of a peace treaty. King Guthrum expected the torturous death of a prisoner, instead he was offered friendship. Humbled and in awe, King Guthrum gratefully accepted the peace treaty, which culminated in his baptism into

Christianity. This established the peaceful relationship between two groups of people to this day.

“Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called **sons of God**” (Matthew 5:9).

God’s kingdom is a kingdom of beings who are slow to anger and quick to listen, humbly working to resolve disagreements to ensure the preservation of the relationship.

“He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore**” (Isaiah 2:4).

A GREAT LEADER IS HUMBLE, NOT ARROGANT: Moses grew up in the ruling family of the super power of his time, yet “**he chose to be mistreated along with the people of God** rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **He valued disgrace for Christ above the treasures of Egypt**, for he was looking ahead to his reward” (Hebrews 11:25-26).

“Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3). Aaron and Miriam began to talk against Moses because he had married a Cushite. And **they began to see themselves in an elevated light**. “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance of the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam and said,

“When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams, but this is not true of my servant **Moses; he is faithful in all my house, with him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles**; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” (Numbers 12:5-8)

The LORD was angry and struck Miriam with leprosy. Aaron begged forgiveness and Moses cried out, “O God, please heal her!”

While Moses held the highest position of any mortal on earth, he remained a humble servant to his people and God. He was willing to suffer with his people when he could have enjoyed the riches of royalty. He understood the insignificance of man compared to the invincibility greatness of God. Like David who said, “Who are we mere mortals that you are mindful of us?” (Psalms 8:4) Moses said, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11)

A GREAT LEADER WALKS FIRMLY IN FAITH: Abraham is called “the father of the faithful” (Galatians 3:16-29; Romans 4:11) and “the friend of God” (James 2:23). In faith, Abraham left his country and countrymen following God into a new land looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:8-16). He believed the promise of a son through Sarah (Genesis 17:19). Despite the great distress that he felt, he listened to Sarah

when she urged him to send Hagar and Ishmael away. He trusted in God that He would protect them (Genesis 21:9-14). He was willing to offer Isaac, the son of promise, believing that God would fulfill His promise that his descendants would become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him (Genesis 18:18). Because of his great faith, he lived in peace **believing that all that God had promised would be fulfilled.**

A GREAT LEADER IS THE SERVANT OF THE MOST HIGH GOD:

The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered **My servant Job**? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil" (Job 1:8).

Paul said, "Now **Moses** was faithful in all His house **as a servant**, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later" (Hebrews 3:5).

Moses said, "Remember **Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants** to whom you swore by yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever'" (Exodus 32:18).

David said, "O LORD, surely **I am your servant, the son of your handmaid**, you have loosed my bonds" (Psalms 116:16).

The LORD Almighty said, "Then it will come about in that day, that I will summon **my servant Eliakim** the son of Hilkiah" (Isaiah 22:20).

The LORD of hosts said, "On that day, I will take you, **Zerubbabel**, son of Shealtiel, **my servant** and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you" (Haggai 2:23).

Mary said, "**Behold, the bond-slave of the Lord**; may it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Paul said, "**As servants of God** we commend ourselves in every way; in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; **having nothing, and yet possessing everything**" (II Corinthians 6:4-10).

A great leader has nothing, yet possesses everything because 'everything' is having the word of God, knowing God's ways and living daily under God's law. They serve the Almighty God and the people under their care. Their leadership is not self-driven, self-reliant, self-determined, self-glorifying—selfish, but God-directed, God-reliant, and in service to God with deep humility for the Creator who is all powerful, full of righteousness, and loves His creation to the point of

sacrificing His only Son for their salvation. He took the stab wound to His heart, watching His Son die, so that we, one day, would awaken from our horrid sinful state to recognize and humbly accept the great sacrifice and walk towards **knowing** our Father in heaven. Great leaders put aside their will and search out the will of God for the benefit of the people and in doing so, they will not be shamed on Judgement Day.



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