

# ***What Can Wicked Advisors Do?***

## ***International Bible Lessons***

### **Proverbs 25:2-10**

**Sunday, September 25, 2011**

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*“Take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness” (Proverbs 25:5—NRSV).*

*“Take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness” (Proverbs 25:5—ESV).*

*“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness” (Proverbs 25:5—KJV).*

We can apply much of what the Proverbs teach about the rule of kings to all those in positions of authority. When we have the freedom to choose our leaders, whether in business, church, or government, we need to consider the type of people they choose to serve as their closest advisors. Some who aspire to leadership surround themselves with godly and prayerful people, advisors who support benevolent and worthy endeavors. These leaders seek to serve the greater good with justice and righteousness, so they choose people of like mind to help them. On the other hand, some people choose advisors who will say and do whatever it takes to help politicians win elections or stay in power. These people seek political office for selfish reasons and solicit special interests for personal benefit. We can partially evaluate potential leaders by the companions they prefer and trust to give them guidance.

Wicked advisors can more easily manipulate worldly leaders than they can those who lead to promote what is right and best for all concerned. Believers can pray that wicked advisors will have no influence on those in leadership. They can also pray for the removal of the wicked from the presence of their rulers and the rulers of others. Removing wicked advisors can give some leaders the opportunity to come under good and wise influences, to reassess their priorities and change their plans. Perhaps with clearer thinking they will choose to lead in right ways and establish their authority in righteousness. Knowing these facts from the Bible can guide believers as they pray for all those in authority (see 1 Timothy 2:1-4).

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# **Thinking Further**

1. Compare Proverbs 25:2 and Matthew 7:6. How and why does God conceal some truths?
2. What kinds of dross need to be removed from businesses, churches, and governments?
3. What can result when wicked advisors are prohibited from influencing leaders?
4. Compare Proverbs 25:6-7 and Luke 14:7-11. How would you apply these teachings today?
5. What types of secrets should you disclose and what types of secrets should you keep confidential?

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