

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... in the days when the judges ruled ...”**  
*Ruth 1:1b.*

“In the days when the judges ruled” is a specific period of time in Jewish history. It was the time period that followed the leadership of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the prophet and priest of the exodus, Moses and Aaron, respectively, and Moses’ successor, Joshua; and this period also preceded the kings of Israel, Saul, David and Solomon. It was a special period of transition for God’s children. As a matter of fact many scholars say that it was a roller coaster ride of rebellion. The children of Israel would sin before God, suffer at the hand of God, supplicate in prayer to God, and then be saved from further discipline by the mercy of God. It was during this period of time that the story of Ruth was lived.

Every generation has had those who ruled over them. Whether kings or presidents, judges or tyrants, there will always be some form of government to organize and oversee the people. But what kind of government for or of the people ultimately depends on God and in relationship to the obedience of His people. History proves that God allowed, arranged, appointed, or assigned leaders of governments over nations in direct proportion to the faithfulness of the nation to the will of God. It’s been said, “As the leadership goes, so goes the nation, but first, as the nation is, so becomes its leadership.”

Though God is the believer’s ultimate King, His Word says that we are to submit to the governing authorities (Romans 13), and what’s more, we should pray for them. Our focus is not to be on other nations or their leadership, but on God and His leadership. Human political agendas have a way of disrupting the purpose of God for mankind. The believer should take great care not to allow themselves to be divided by party-line loyalties, ideals or sectarian polity. The only answer to economic, social, medical, educational and religious reform(s) is Jesus Christ. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords!

It has been said that every nation that has fallen has fallen from within. That statement underscores the self-destruction that awaits man left to his own devices, ways and means. Aren’t you glad that we have a Savior who knows our needs? Our responsibility is to pray and to live out Micah 6:8. We are not to lean on our own understanding, but that of God’s. Is that your witness? Do your lifestyle choices reflect your allegiance to God? Are you praying as much for our governing bodies as you talk about them? Prayerfully the generation to follow will not look back on us with the same historical sentiment with which we look back on Israel in the days when the judges ruled.