



Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

WISE RESPONDES TO GOVERNMENT

1. Respond With _____

I say, "Keep the command of the king because of the oath before God." - Ecclesiastes 8:2

- **It's your _____**

And He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." - Luke 20:25

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. - Romans 13:1-2

- **Exception to obedience**

When government demands that you _____ God

"We must obey God rather than men. - Acts 5:29

2. Respond With _____

"Do not be in a hurry to leave him. Do not join in an evil matter, for he will do whatever he pleases." ⁴ Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?" ⁵ He who keeps a *royal* command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure. ⁶ For there is a proper time and procedure for every delight, though a man's trouble is heavy upon him. - Ecclesiastes 8:3-6

3. Respond With _____

- **No one can predict the _____**

If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen? - Ecclesiastes 8:7

- **No one can control _____**

No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind - Ecclesiastes 8:8

- **No one can prevent the day of his _____**

No man . . . has authority over the day of death - Ecclesiastes 8:8

- **No one can bypass _____**

and there is no discharge in the time of war, and evil will not deliver those who practice it. - Ecclesiastes 8:8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. - Galatians 6:7

“But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out. - Numbers 32:23

WISE RESPONDES TO GOD

1. When God Seems To Allow Evil Doers To Get Away With Their Sin _____ _____ Anyway

So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are *soon* forgotten in the city where they did thus. This too is futility. ¹¹ Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil. ¹² Although a sinner does evil a hundred *times* and may lengthen his *life*, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly. ¹³ But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God. - Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

2. When God Doesn't Seem To Be Fair In His Dealings _____ _____ Anyway

There is futility which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is futility. ¹⁵ So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils *throughout* the days of his life which God has given him under the sun. - Ecclesiastes 8:14-15

3. When You Just Can't Figure God Out _____ Him Anyway

When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should never sleep day or night), ¹⁷ and I saw every work of God, *I concluded* that man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, “I know,” he cannot discover. - Ecclesiastes 8:16-17