

# Proverbs 28:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof:  
but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state  
thereof shall be prolonged.

## Analysis

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A land's transgression multiplies its princes, but understanding and knowledge bring prolonged rule. The Hebrew 'pesha' (transgression/rebellion) creates political instability—frequent coups and regime changes. Meanwhile, wisdom in ruler and people establishes stable governance. Reformed theology connects national sin to national judgment. Righteous societies enjoy stable, long-lasting leadership; wicked societies suffer chaos and tyranny. This applies to all institutions: righteousness brings stability; sin brings disorder. God governs history, blessing righteousness and judging wickedness.

## Historical Context

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Israel's northern kingdom exemplified this—19 kings from 9 dynasties in 200 years, many through violent coups, reflecting the nation's covenant unfaithfulness. Judah, more faithful, had greater stability under David's dynasty.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

### Study Questions

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1. How do you see the relationship between a nation's righteousness and political stability?
2. What is your responsibility to promote wisdom and knowledge in governance?
3. How should this truth shape your prayers for your nation's leaders and direction?

### Interlinear Text

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בְּפֶשַׁע	אֶרֶץ	רַב־יִם	שָׂרֵי יָהּ	וּבְאִדָּם
For the transgression	of a land	many	are the princes	thereof but by a man
H6588	H776	H7227	H8269	H120
יָמֵי יוֹן	וְיִדְעַ	יְהוָה	יִאָּרְכּוּ:	
of understanding	and knowledge	the state	thereof shall be prolonged	
H995	H3045	H3651	H748	

### Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 15:28** (Parallel theme): Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.