

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

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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

וְבָאֵד מִ	שְׁרֵךְ יְבָשָׁה	רַבְּ יָמִים	אַרְצָה	בְּגַם שָׁעָה	וְבָאֵד מִ
For the transgression	of a land	many	are the princes	thereof but by a man	
H6588	H776	H7227	H8269		H120
מִבְּרָאֵת	וְבָאֵד	רַבְּ יָמִים	אַרְצָה	שְׁרֵךְ יְבָשָׁה	וְבָאֵד מִ
of understanding	and knowledge	the state	thereof shall be prolonged		
H995	H3045	H3651	H748		

Additional Cross-References

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.