

PORTRAIT
OF THE
King



ADMINISTRATION

“A Political Question About Taxes”

MATTHEW 22:15-22



- Pharaoh - *“But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”* (Exodus 9:16)

**God Puts Wicked Kings Into
Power for His Purposes**



- Pharaoh (Exodus 9:16)
- Isaiah – “²⁸ ... ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’...

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:”

(Isaiah 44:28-45:1)

**God Puts Wicked Kings Into
Power for His Purposes**



- Pharaoh (Exodus 9:16)
- Isaiah (Isaiah 44:28-45:1)
- God removed kings and sets up kings in (Daniel 2:2) and will give each kingdom whom He wants to give them as a governing authority (Daniel 4:25)

**God Puts Wicked Kings Into
Power for His Purposes**



Jesus' Final Week (Passion Week)

SUNDAY	Triumphal Entry
MONDAY	Request from Greeks to see Jesus, cleansing the Temple
Tuesday	Cursing of the fig tree, challenge to Christ's authority , Olivet Discourse
WEDNESDAY	Arrangements for betrayal
THURSDAY	Last Supper, Upper Room Discourse
FRIDAY	Betrayal, arrest, trials, crucifixion, burial
SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	Post-resurrection appearances

1. They asked him a **political** question about paying taxes (Matthew 22:15-22).
2. They asked Him a **theological** question about the resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33).
3. They asked Him to give the most important of their 613 laws (Matthew 22:34-40).

Challenges to Jesus' Authority



Should We Pay Taxes?

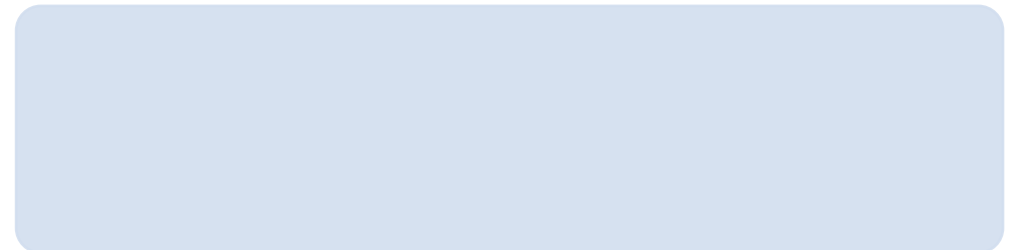
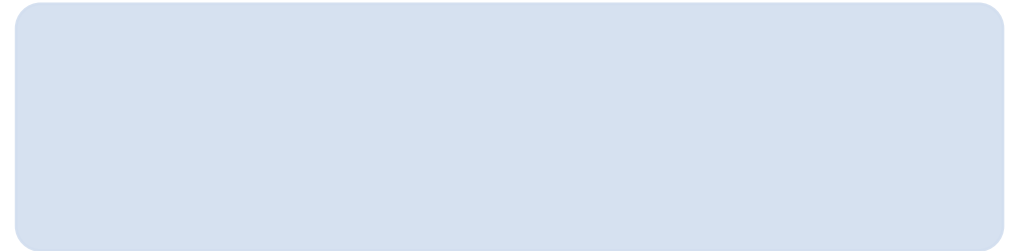
If Jesus said,
"Yes"



Jews angered



Herodians pleased



Should We Pay Taxes?

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If Jesus said,
"No"



Romans angered



Pharisees pleased

KEY POINT:

Obeying our earthly rulers is a way we obey our heavenly Creator.



I. A question about taxes is ASKED (vs. 15-17).

Outline of Matthew 22:15-22



- From the Hasidim who led revolts against Antiochus Epiphanes
- The word “Pharisee” means “separated one”
- They knew God’s Law almost word-perfect
- They were the “religious” of the religious leaders



Pharisees



Herodians

- Strict supporters of Herod the Great that often conspired against Jesus (Matthew 21:15; Mark 3:6; 12:13)
- Not a religious group like the Pharisees, but more political like the Sadducees
- Supported the Roman Empire

For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Ecclesiastes 9:12



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“Thus if Christ had legitimized the payment of taxes, He would have seemed to abandon Israel’s hope; but if He had denied Rome the right to collect taxes, He would have been guilty of treason.”



J. Dwight Pentecost

The Words and Works of Jesus Christ



- This was a poll tax. Sometimes called the head tax.
- A tax based on a yearly census that was taken in the land. It would usually go up every year and the Romans claimed their taxes for infrastructure, roads, military protection, use of aqueducts, etc.
- Example - issued right after Jesus was born that led Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt (Luke 2:1-5)

Paying Taxes





**Rebellion led by
Judas of Galilee in
A.D. 6**

- I. A question about taxes is **ASKED** (vs. 15-17).
- II. Jesus **ACCUSES** the religious leaders of evil intent (vs. 18).

Outline of Matthew 22:15-22



- I. A question about taxes is **ASKED** (vs. 15-17).
- II. Jesus **ACCUSES** the religious leaders of evil intent (vs. 18).
- III. Jesus **ANSWERS** their question (vs. 19-21).

Outline of Matthew 22:15-22



*But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey
God rather than men.”*

Acts 5:29



*¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,
¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.*

I Peter 2:13-14



- Yes
- God gave them that right
- Proof: Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-7

**Does the Government Have
the Right to Collect Taxes?**



- Jesus never raised that issue.
- Taxes were used to fund the Roman military (e.g., the crucifixion, persecution in the Colosseum).

**What About Our Tax Dollars
Being Used for Immoral
Purposes?**



KEY POINT:

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- I. A question about taxes is ASKED (vs. 15-17).
- II. Jesus ACCUSES the religious leaders of evil intent (vs. 18).
- III. Jesus ANSWERS their question (vs. 19-21).
- IV. The religious leaders are AMAZED (vs. 22).

Outline of Matthew 22:15-22



KEY POINT:

Obeying our earthly rulers is a way we obey our heavenly Creator.



1. God rules over every branch of the U.S. government.

3 Concluding Points



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1. God rules over every branch of the U.S. government.
2. God will ALWAYS accomplish good purposes on earth, and He will use any and every government to do that.
3. God will use holy and moral government leaders AND evil and immoral government leaders to accomplish His purposes.

3 Concluding Points

