

~GOVERNOR (475)

- Governor's in Bible times generally had military and judicial powers and were responsible to see that the tribute, tax, or revenue to the king or superior ruler was paid by the jurisdictional districts or provinces that the governor's ruled.
- Now in those days a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus for all the inhabited earth to be registered. ([Luke 2:1](#))
- This first registration took place when Quirinius was **governor** of Syria. ([Luke 2:2](#))
- Many of them put a heavy load on the people to supply food for themselves and their large body of attendants.
- As for the former **governor's** that were prior to me, they had made it heavy upon the people, and they kept taking from them for bread and wine daily forty silver shekels. Also, their attendants themselves domineered over the people. As for me, I did not do that way on account of the fear of God. ([Nehemiah 5:15](#))
- And, what is more, in the work of this wall I took a hand, and not a field did we acquire, and all my attendants were collected together there for the work. ([Nehemiah 5:16](#))
- And the Jews and the **deputy rulers**, a hundred and fifty men, and those coming in to us from the nations that were around us were at my table. ([Nehemiah 5:17](#))
- As for that which happened to be made ready daily, one bull, six select sheep and birds were made ready for me, and once every ten days every sort of wine in abundance. And along with this the bread due the **governor** I did not demand, because the service upon this people was heavy. ([Nehemiah 5:18](#))
- King Solomon appointed **governor's** over the districts of Israel. They are mentioned at
- Apart from the men of travel and the profit from the traders and all the kings of the Arabs and the **governor's** of the land. ([1 Kings](#)

10:15)

- **And may be the same as the 12 deputies of;**
- **And Solomon had twelve deputies over all Israel, and they provided the king and his household with food. It would devolve upon each one to provide the food one month in the year. (1 Kings 4:7)**
- **And these were their names, the son of Hur, in the mountainous region of Ephraim. (1 Kings 4:8)**
- **The son of Deker, in Makaz and in Shaalbim and Beth-shemesh and Elon-beth-hanan. (1 Kings 4:9)**
- **The son of Hesed, in Arubboth , he had Socoh and all the land of Hepher. (1 Kings 4:10)**
- **The son of Abinadab, all the mountain ridge of Dor Taphath, Solomon's daughter, herself became his wife. (1 Kings 4:11)**
- **Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (1 Kings 4:12)**
- **The son of Geber, in Ramoth-gilead, he had the tent villages of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty large cities with wall and copper bar. (1 Kings 4:13)**
- **Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim. (1 Kings 4:14)**
- **Ahimaaz, in Naphtali, he, too, took Basemath, Solomon's daughter, as a wife. (1 Kings 4:15)**
- **Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth. (1 Kings 4:16)**
- **Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar. (1 Kings 4:17)**
- **Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin. (1 Kings 4:18)**
- **Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, and of Og the king of Bashan, and there was one deputy over all the other deputies that were in the land.**

(1 Kings 4:19)

- Whose duty it was to provide food for the king and his household, each for one month in the year.
- Practically all the major powers of Bible times are spoken of as having rulers of the order of **governors**, either as local native rulers or as **governor's** controlling occupied territories.
- **Syrian**
- And do this thing. Remove the kings each one from his place and put in **governor's** instead of them. (**1 Kings 20:24**)
- **Assyrian**
- And Oholah began to prostitute herself, while subject to me, and kept lusting after those passionately loving her, after the Assyrians, who were near. (**Ezekiel 23:5**)
- **Governor's** clothed with blue material, and deputy rulers, desirable young men all of them, cavalymen riding horses. (**Ezekiel 23:6**)
- For the sons of Assyria she lusted, **governor's** and deputy rulers who were near, clothed with perfect taste, cavalymen riding horses, desirable young men all of them. (**Ezekiel 23:12**)
- The sons of Babylon and all the Chaldeans, Pekod and Shoa and Koa, all the sons of Assyria with them, desirable young men, **governor's** and deputy rulers all of them, warriors and summoned ones, riding on horses, all of them. (**Ezekiel 23:23**)
- **Babylonian**
- And I will make her princes and her wise ones, her **governor's** and her deputy rulers and her mighty men drunk, and they must sleep an indefinitely lasting sleep, from which they will not wake up, is the utterance of the King, whose name is Yehowah of armies. (**Jeremiah 51:57**)
- **Persian**
- Then we gave the laws of the king to the satraps of the king and

- the **governor's** beyond the River, and they assisted the people and the house of the true God. (**Ezra 8:36**)
- And I went on to say to the king; If to the king it does seem good, let letters be given me to the **governor's** beyond the River, that they may let me pass until I come to Judah. (**Nehemiah 2:7**)
 - Eventually I came to the **governor's** beyond the River and gave them the letters of the king. Moreover, the king sent with me chiefs of the military force and horsemen. (**Nehemiah 2:9**)
 - **Arabian**
 - In Damascus the **governor** under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes to seize me. (**2 Corinthians 11:32**)
 - **Roman**
 - In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was **governor** of Judea, and Herod was district ruler of Galilee, but Philip his brother was district ruler of the country of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was district ruler of Abilene. (**Luke 3:1**)
 - Joseph was a **governor** in a large sense, over all Egypt, subject only to the king.
 - You will personally be over my house, and all my people will obey you implicitly. Only as to the throne shall I be greater than you. (**Genesis 41:40**)
 - And Pharaoh added to Joseph; See, I do place you over all the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 41:41**)
 - And the family heads became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. But God was with him. (**Acts of Apostles 7:9**)
 - And he delivered him out of all his tribulations and gave him graciousness and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And he appointed him to govern Egypt and his whole house. (**Acts of Apostles 7:10**)
 - Rabshakeh, an officer of King Sennacherib of Assyria, taunted Hezekiah about Jerusalem's weakness, saying that it would be unable

to turn back even one of Sennacherib's lesser **governor's**. But Rabshakeh failed to take into account the overwhelming force of Yehowah on Hezekiah's side.

- Accordingly Rabshakeh said to them; Please, say to Hezekiah, This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, has said; What is this confidence in which you have trusted? (**Isaiah 36:4**)
- How, then, could you turn back the face of one **governor** of the smallest servants of my lord, while you, for your part, put your trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? (**Isaiah 36:9**)
- And the angel of Yehowah proceeded to go forth and strike down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When people rose up early in the morning, why, there all of them were dead carcasses. (**Isaiah 37:36**)
- Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah as **governor** of the remaining Israelites left in the land of Judah after carrying many of the people into exile in **607 B.C.E.** Gedaliah was assassinated about two months later.
- And in the fifth month on the seventh day of the month, that is to say; the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 25:8**)
- And he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and the house of every great man he burned with fire. (**2 Kings 25:9**)
- And the walls of Jerusalem, all around, the entire military force of Chaldeans that were with the chief of the bodyguard pulled down. (**2 Kings 25:10**)
- And the rest of the people that were left behind in the city and the deserters that had gone over to the king of Babylon and the rest of the crowd Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard took into exile. (**2 Kings 25:11**)
- And some of the lowly people of the land the chief of the bodyguard let remain as vinedressers and compulsory laborers. (**2 Kings 25:12**)

- As for the people left behind in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had left behind, he now appointed over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. (2 Kings 25:22)
- And it came about in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama of the royal offspring came, and also ten men with him, and they got to strike down Gedaliah, so that he died, and also the Jews and the Chaldeans that happened to be with him in Mizpah. (2 Kings 25:25)
- As the 70-year period of exile neared its end, King Cyrus of Persia appointed Sheshbazzar, likely Zerubbabel as **governor** of the Jews who returned to Jerusalem in 537 B.C.E.
- And also the gold and silver vessels of the house of God that Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple, which was in Jerusalem, and brought to the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were given to Sheshbazzar, the name of the one whom he made **governor**. (Ezra 5:14)
- In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Yehowah occurred by means of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the **governor** of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, saying; (Haggai 1:1)
- And Yehowah proceeded to rouse up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the **governor** of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and the spirit of all the remaining ones of the people, and they began to enter in and to do the work in the house of Yehowah of armies their God. (Haggai 1:14)
- Say, please, to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, the **governor** of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak the High Priest, and to the remaining ones of the people, saying; (Haggai 2:2)
- Say to Zerubbabel the **governor** of Judah, I am rocking the heavens and the earth. (Haggai 2:21)
- Under King Artaxerxes of Persia, Nehemiah was made **governor** when he went back to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, in 455 B.C.E.

- Another thing. From the day that he commissioned me to become their **governor** in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, I myself and my brothers did not eat the bread due the governor. (**Nehemiah 5:14**)

See Also TIRSHATHA

- Under Roman rule, Judea was an imperial province, the **governor's** there were directly responsible to the emperor for their actions. Pilate was the fifth of the line of governor's of Judea.
- And, after binding him, they led him off and handed him over to Pilate the **governor**. (**Matthew 27:2**)
- In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was **governor** of Judea, and Herod was district ruler of Galilee, but Philip his brother was district ruler of the country of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was district ruler of Abilene. (**Luke 3:1**)
- Felix and Festus were Judea's 11th and 12th **governor's**, if we do not count Publius Petronius and his successor Marsus, who, appointed as governor's of Syria, at the same time managed the affairs of the Jews.
- Also, provide beasts of burden that they may have Paul ride and convey him safely to Felix the **governor**. (**Acts of Apostles 23:24**)
- And he wrote a letter having this form. (**Acts of Apostles 23:25**)
- Claudius Lysias to his excellency, **Governor** Felix: Greetings! (**Acts of Apostles 23:26**)
- But, when two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and because Felix desired to gain favor with the Jews, he left Paul bound. (**Acts of Apostles 24:27**)
- These Roman **governor's** had the power to order capital punishment, as we see in the case of Jesus, who was judged by Pilate.
- Jesus now stood before the **governor**, and the **governor** put the question to him; Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus replied;

You yourself say it. ([Matthew 27:11](#))

- But, while he was being accused by the chief priests and older men, he made no answer. ([Matthew 27:12](#))
- Then Pilate said to him; Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you? ([Matthew 27:13](#))
- Yet he did not answer him, no, not a word, so that the **governor** wondered very much. ([Matthew 27:14](#))
- Hence Pilate said to him; Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know I have authority to release you and I have authority to impale you? ([John 19:10](#))
- **Governor's** of the nations in general were referred to by Jesus when he told his followers that they would be brought before such men to give a witness.
- Christians should not fear such rulers, though powerful, nor be worried about what to say when giving testimony before them.
- Why, you will be haled before **governor's** and kings for my sake, for a witness to them and the nations. ([Matthew 10:18](#))
- However, when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you are to speak, for what you are to speak will be given you in that hour. ([Matthew 10:19](#))
- For the ones speaking are not just you, but it is the spirit of your Father that speaks by you. ([Matthew 10:20](#))
- Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing covered over that will not become uncovered, and secret that will not become known. ([Matthew 10:26](#))
- All such **governor's** are part of the superior authorities to which Christians owe relative, not total, subjection.
- Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God, the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God. ([Romans 13:1](#))
- Therefore he who opposes the authority has taken a stand

against the arrangement of God, those who have taken a stand against it will receive judgment to themselves. (**Romans 13:2**)

- For those ruling are an object of fear, not to the good deed, but to the bad. Do you, then, want to have no fear of the authority? Keep doing good, and you will have praise from it. (**Romans 13:3**)
- For it is God's minister to you for your good. But if you are doing what is bad, be in fear. For it is not without purpose that it bears the sword. For it is God's minister, an avenger to express wrath upon the one practicing what is bad. (**Romans 13:4**)
- There is therefore compelling reason for you people to be in subjection, not only on account of that wrath but also on account of your conscience. (**Romans 13:5**)
- For that is why you are also paying taxes, for they are God's public servants constantly serving this very purpose. (**Romans 13:6**)
- Render to all their dues, to him who calls for the tax, the tax. To him who calls for the tribute, the tribute. To him who calls for fear, such fear. To him who calls for honor, such honor. (**Romans 13:7**)
- Continue reminding them to be in subjection and be obedient to governments and authorities as rulers, to be ready for every good work. (**Titus 3:1**)
- For the Lords sake subject yourselves to every human creation, whether to a king as being superior (**1 Peter 2:13**)
- Or to **governor's** as being sent by him to inflict punishment on evildoers but to praise doers of good. (**1 Peter 2:14**)
- But in reply Peter and John said to them; Whether it is righteous in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, judge for yourselves. (**Acts of Apostles 4:19**)
- But as for us, we cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard. (**Acts of Apostles 4:20**)
- In answer Peter and the other apostles said; **We must obey God as ruler rather than men.** (**Acts of Apostles 5:29**)

- They said; Caesar's. Then he said to them; **Pay back, therefore, Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God.** (**Matthew 22:21**)
- It was with the respect due the office of **governor** that Paul addressed Festus, before whom he was on trial, saying; Your Excellency Festus.
- But Paul said; I am not going mad, Your Excellency Festus, but I am uttering sayings of truth and of soundness of mind. (**Acts of Apostles 26:25**)
- However, in contrast with the apostles, who rendered respect and honor first to Yehowah, who governs all, the nation of Israel sank to the point where they accorded earthly **governor's** more respect than they gave Yehowah. This circumstance was used by Yehowah in strong reproof to the nation through his prophet Malachi.
- A son, for his part, honors a father, and a servant, his grand master. So if I am a father, where is the honor to me? And if I am a grand master, where is the fear of me? Yehowah of armies has said to you, O priests who are despising my name. And you have said; In what way have we despised your name? (**Malachi 1:6**)
- By presenting upon my altar polluted bread. And you have said; In what way have we polluted you? By your saying; The table of Yehowah is something to be despised. (**Malachi 1:7**)
- And when you present a blind animal for sacrificing. It is nothing bad. And when you present a lame animal or a sick one; It is nothing bad. Bring it near, please, to your **governor**. Will he find pleasure in you, or will he receive you kindly? Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 1:8**)

See Also SUPERIOR AUTHORITIES

- **Matthew, quoting from;**
- And you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, the one too little to get to be among the thousands of Judah, from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel, whose origin is from early times, from the days of time indefinite. (**Micah 5:2**)

- Shows that Bethlehem, though very insignificant as far as governing power in Judah was concerned, would become significant by reason of the fact that the greatest of **governor's** would come from this city to shepherd Yehowah's people Israel. This prophecy finds its fulfillment in Christ Jesus the Great **Governor** under his Father, Yehowah God.
- And you, O Bethlehem of the land of Judah, are by no means the most insignificant city among the **governor's** of Judah, for out of you will come forth a governing one, who will shepherd my people, Israel. ([Matthew 2:6](#))