

stages of human progress it has ever been God's arrangement that in all communities there should be law and order; that some should be exalted to positions of dignity and power for the express purpose of bearing rule and administering the laws, and that to these both homage and obedience is due by the rest of the people.

But the question may arise, How in the case of a bad ruler? Does his power come from God? I reply, his *power* comes from God; the *abuse* of that power does not. God ordained him a "minister for good;" if he becomes a minister for evil, the guilt and responsibility is with himself.

When we come to examine the question in the light of the Holy Scriptures, we shall see still more clearly that civil government is of God. It was evidently so among His chosen people. Thus in Numbers xxvii, 15-20, we read,— "And Moses spake unto the Lord, saying, let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the Lord be not as sheep which have no shepherd. And the Lord said unto Moses, take thee Joshua, the son of Nunn, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; and set him before Eleazer the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honor upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient." "After that," (so we read in Acts xiii, 20,) he gave unto them Judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the Prophet. And afterwards they desired a King: and God gave unto them Saul, the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years." Again (Deut. xvi, 18,) we read, "Judges and Officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment." Still more emphatic is the declaration, (Prov. viii, 15-16) "By me Kings reign, and Princes decree justice.