

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Shaped by the  
Sovereign

### Speaker:

Peter Privitera

### Date:

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Scriptures:

Proverbs 16:1–33

**Theme:** Worship the Sovereign One because God's authority shapes all.

**Introduction:** The phrase "the shape of reality" refers to how God has designed the world and humanity. The shape of reality can be seen everywhere, and in Proverbs 16 it shows itself in living a life that acknowledges God's sovereignty. Because he is sovereign, the proper response is to submit to him. To rightly worship him, we must fall in line with the shape of the reality of God's sovereignty.

In Proverbs 16, God's authority shapes reality in four ways:

#### 1. He is completely sovereign over human life (1–9)

- Yahweh sayings—Proverbs that reference the Lord—are very common in Proverbs 16.
- God is supremely interested, involved, and engaged in his creation.
- We make plans, but their progress is entirely reliant on God's will (v. 9).
- The right response to God's sovereignty is not to turn away from the Lord, but to submit to him.

#### 2. Earthly authority is accountable to him (10–15)

- Human government is important, and God is the one who gives it authority.
- Verses 10–12 deal with what kings are called to, and verses 13–15 deal with how we are to relate to and interact with rulers.
- The proverbs about kings apply to any human expression of authority.
- A throne is established by righteousness, and is therefore torn down by wickedness.
- Our starting point with any earthly authority is respect for their office.

#### 3. God's authority informs our lives (16–24)

- Proverbs 16 moves from God's sovereignty (vv. 1–9) to kings (vv. 10–15) to all of us.
- Verses 16–20 are about the inner self, while verses 21–24 are about speech.
- Humility shows itself in wise words that have a good effect (v. 24).
- The one who gives thought to his speech shows trust in the Lord (v. 20).

#### 4. Rejection of his authority is rebellion (25–33)

- When our only lens through which we see the world is feelings of love, then we do not have love, and our interpretation of things is not truly loving.
- Rejection of God's way is never neutral; it is always a sign of rebellion.
- This rebellion is self-destructive since it leads to judgment from God (v. 25).

#### Questions:

1. Are you submitting your plans to the Sovereign Lord? If not, why not?
2. How do the intentions of your heart show themselves in your speech?
3. In what ways are you rejecting God's way in favor of your own?