

The Client Nation

A “client nation to God” is a created term used to describe a national entity under the patronage of God that is assigned the responsibility for the formation, preservation, communication, and fulfillment of the canon of Scripture. Before Israel became a nation, custodianship of the Word of God involved divine revelation apart from Scripture. But since Israel has become a nation, it is involved in the authorship, custodianship and dissemination of the written Word. Additional custodianship was assigned to Israel in the formation of the New Testament, since all except two writers were Jews.

In the following passages, we have references to the client nation concept as spoken to the original client nation, Israel.

Ex 19:4-6 "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if hearing, you will obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine; then you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation to Me. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Deut 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."

Deut 26:18-19 "And the Lord has today declared you to be His people, a people for His own [a treasured] possession, as He promised you; therefore, you are to keep all His commandments; and that He will set you high above all nations which He made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a holy people to the Lord your God, as He has spoken."

There are two categories of client nations to God in human history: the five Jewish client nations of the Old Testament with a specialized priesthood and the Gentile client nations during the dispensation of the Church with a universal priesthood. No Gentile nation of the Old Testament was a client nation to God. The NT Gentile client nation category follows exactly the

same pattern as Israel with some significant differences related to the uniqueness of the Church Age, both in grace provision and in spiritual life.

A client nation is a synonym for a priest nation. The term "priest nation" is used for Israel because it had a specialized priesthood. The term "client nation" is used for any Gentile nation that performs the same functions during the Church Age. In Roman history, a client was someone dependent on another family. Instead of calling a Gentile nation a priest nation as such, the believers in the Church Age are a holy priesthood and a royal family of God.

1 Pet 2:4-5 "And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but elect and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house as a result of a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through the agency of Jesus Christ."

Heb 3:6 ... but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Israel was always called a holy nation. The Church is called a holy priesthood because, in the Church Age, every believer is a priest.

1 Pet 2:9 "But you are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out from darkness into His marvelous light."

The idea of an elect race comes from the Greek phrase in 2 Cor 5:17 KAINÉ KTISIS, which means, "a new spiritual species."

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new spiritual species; old things have lost their power, behold, new things have come to pass.

The royal priesthood is related to positional sanctification; for our Lord is a king-priest from the line of David in the order of Melchizedek. Believers in Christ are royal family of God by virtue of the new birth.

A client nation to God is a nation under divine protection because it has a large pivot of mature believers. These mature believers are a blessing by association to those around them and historical blessing to their nation. A client nation is destroyed by the reversionistic believers who "spin-off" from the pivot of mature believers by their rejection of Bible doctrine or apostasy. As the pivot, that core of mature believers, shrinks, the nation loses its client nation status with God and undergoes the five cycles of discipline, which we will examine in more detail later in this class.

What do I mean by "reversionistic" and "spin-off"? Reversionism is the act of reverting to a former state, habit, belief, or practice of post-salvation sinning. Reversionism is a reversal of your priorities, your attitudes, your affections, and the change of your modus operandi and personality. They are believers thinking with human viewpoint and, thus, are failures in the spiritual life. Paul spoke of this in 1 Corinthians 3.

1 Cor 3:1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh.

These believers have not grown spiritually or have even regressed, and he describes them as "of the flesh". They are not living a true spiritual life in the leading and power of the Holy Spirit, but are living in their fleshly natures led and controlled by their sin natures. A believer in reversionism may not outwardly appear fleshly and may exhibit piety and practice "religion," but in their hearts, they are no different from the unsaved.

Two good examples of revisionism in the Bible are David during the Bathsheba affair and later his son Solomon when he was lured into idolatry late in his life.

Reversionism today is mainly because a church does not teach "sound" doctrine, and the members do not grow spiritually. That word "sound" in the

Greek means healthy. The failure of churches to disciple their flocks results in believers who revert to their pre-saved lifestyle or become very legalistic. They may be “white washed tombs on the outside but inside are dead man’s bones”. They are not productive members of the body of Christ. As such, they are said to be a “spin-off” from the pivot. Unfortunately, today fewer and fewer churches really disciple their congregations to grow them into spiritually mature believers.

The most important client nation and the key to all client nations is found in the history of Israel as a priest nation. A client nation is responsible to do five things.

1. It must evangelize its own population at home. That doesn’t mean that 100% of the population or even a majority are saved. It means that evangelization is uninhibited, and those who are saved are large enough in number that they are a stabilizing factor in the culture.
2. It must communicate Bible doctrine to the believers in the nation. This means real teaching not the often insipid and shallow preaching found in many churches today.
3. It is responsible for the custodianship of the canon of scripture, the Bible.
4. It provides a safe haven for the Jews during their diaspora.
5. It is responsible to send out missionaries to evangelize other nations.

There were five Jewish client nations in the Old Testament.

1. The theocratic kingdom, B.C. 1441-1020, from the Exodus until the prophet Samuel. The theocratic kingdom ended when the Jews said, "We want to be like other nations," meaning they wanted to abandon the theocracy they were under and have a king like other nations.
2. The United Kingdom from Saul to Rehoboam, B.C. 1020-926.
3. The Northern Kingdom from Jeroboam to Hoshea, B.C. 926-721. In 721 B.C. discipline was administered by the Assyrians under Sargon II for their failure.
4. The Southern Kingdom from Rehoboam to Zedekiah, B.C. 926-586. Discipline for their failure was administered by the Chaldeans under Nebuchadnezzar, and Israel ceased to exist as a nation.

5. After the Northern and Southern Kingdoms were destroyed, while no Jewish client nation was operational, as such, Jews outside of the client nation filled in the gap to Gentile nations as they had been responsible before to do and had not done so. No Gentile client nation exists in the Old Testament, only Jewish client nations, thus, Chaldea and the Persian Empire were not considered to be client nations between B.C. 586-516. Judah became a client nation again from B.C. 516 until 70 A.D.
 - In 458 B.C., after the fifth Jewish client nation was operational, we have the return of Ezra. The entire Old Testament canon was discovered, and Ezra led a great revival back to Bible doctrine.
 - In 445 B.C., Nehemiah returned with a group of people to rebuild the walls and to organize the military to defend this client nation.

People become self-righteous, arrogant legalistic, and reversionistic, (Hos 4:1-7; 8:7), and are destroyed for lack of Bible doctrine.

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land...

Rejection of Bible doctrine leads to destruction of the client nation. The rejection of Biblical truth, disobedience to God's moral standards, and failure to meet the requirements of a client nation will result in national discipline, even termination as a nation.

The fifth cycle of discipline was administered to various Jewish nations, which discontinued functioning as a priest nation. The Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria in 721 B.C. The Southern Kingdom fell to the Chaldean Empire in 586 B.C. Judea was conquered by Rome in 70 A.D. Israel will not be a priest nation again until the Second Advent.

When Israel was being disciplined as a client nation from 586-516 B.C., there was no Gentile client nation. The remnant according to the election of grace went to Gentile nations as representatives of a non-operational client nation. The same thing happens during the Tribulation; there is no client nation then. Individual Jews are used by God to evangelize the Gentiles from 586-516 B.C. and will do so again during the Tribulation.

When the Roman Empire fell in 476 A.D., God had already used the Goths as His client nation during the fourth century. Scotland and Ireland were client nations during the fifth and sixth centuries. The Franks were a client nation during the eighth and ninth centuries; the Vikings were during the tenth century. Germany under Luther, and Switzerland under Calvin were client nations during the sixteenth century. Sweden under Gustavus Adolphus, and the Huguenots during the seventeenth century were client nations. Brandenburg-Prussia under the Hohenzollerns were a client nation during the eighteenth century. England was the same during the reign of Victoria in the nineteenth century. And the United States of America has been a client nation from 1776 until the present. These are just a few examples.

Jesus Christ knows where positive volition will be in each generation. And He makes sure that the current client nation goes to that area of the world with missionary activity. This insures that Gentile nations will continue as client nations until the Rapture.

The restoration of Israel as a priest nation will occur at the Second Advent and continue throughout the Millennium, (Isa 49:5-8). Israel today and during the tribulation is not a client nation. There is a testimony from 144,000 Jews during the Tribulation exactly like the seventy years of the Babylonian captivity, but there is no client nation during these two periods.

The Pivot and the Client Nation.

The pivot is the remnant of mature believers who have reached spiritual maturity through their positive attitude toward Bible doctrine. If there is a large pivot, the nation is delivered from historical disaster. If there is a small pivot, then only the pivot is delivered, while the nation may be destroyed.

The size of the pivot in historical disaster determines the outcome of that disaster. The spinoff are the reversionistic believers. The larger the spinoff, the greater the disaster and destruction of the nation. When judgment falls

on a nation, the pivot is still secure. If a mature believer dies during historical disaster, it was just his time to go home, not a matter of discipline.

The principle of deliverance depending upon the size of the pivot is derived from the fact that mature believers are a blessing by association and have historical impact on a nation. While the pivot remains secure, the spinoff is destroyed in the disaster. Therefore, historical disaster separates those adjusted to the justice of God from those who are maladjusted. Since the spinoff is always composed of those who are maladjusted, they are disciplined and destroyed by the historical disaster.

Israel will be restored as the client nation to God at the Second Advent. Then it will function as His representative nation on the earth for the entire Millennium.

The USA as a Client Nation in the Church Age.

In every generation of U.S. history, there has been the ingredients of the client nation: evangelism, Bible teaching, missionaries, and pro-semitism. The USA as a client nation is reflected in our Constitution's purpose, which limits the federal government's authority. We still have all the ingredients, but things are not looking good. We have a pivot of mature believers, but the pivot is small and the spinoff is large and getting larger. Bible doctrine is rarely taught properly or accurately or in any depth. The amount of spiritual ignorance is astounding today even among professing Christians, many of whom claim salvation by grace through faith and yet turn right around and claim some form of works are necessary to maintain one's salvation. The only thing we are doing right at the present time is providing a safe haven for the Jews. When we abandon Israel we will be done.

Definition of the Five Cycles of Discipline.

There are five cycles of discipline administered to a client nation, Jewish or Gentile. The Five Cycles of Discipline are spelled out in Leviticus 26:14-38 with some amplification in Deuteronomy 28:49-67. We briefly mentioned

these in a previous class. Now we will dig just a bit deeper while attempting to remain brief.

The cycles of discipline are based on the principle that Jesus Christ controls history directly, indirectly, and permissively, directly through the function of His own divine essence, indirectly through the function of the laws of divine establishment, and permissively through permitting nations to use their own volition to destroy themselves. No nation is ever destroyed by an outside power before it is first destroyed from within by its own individual and collective bad decisions. These cycles of discipline are punitive measures against apostasy, reversionism, and evil.

Ps 118:8-9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

The First Cycle of Discipline, Lev 26:14-17.

Lev 26:14 But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all of these commandments...

Obedience in Israel meant the execution of God's plan for their dispensation. It meant the execution of the three categories of the Mosaic Law. It meant perception of doctrine as it was revealed at that time, first through the Torah and then through the prophets. The commandments refer to the three parts of the Mosaic Law. They are explained further in verse 15.

Lev 26:15 if instead you reject My statutes [the freedom code] and your soul despises My ordinances [the spiritual code of worship], and you fail to carry out all my commands so breaking My covenant

The Mosaic Law is divided into three parts. The first part is "The Decalogue," the freedom code made up of ten commandments. These commandments define freedom in terms of morality, privacy, property, and authority.

The second part is called "the ordinances." This is the spiritual code of worship. It graphically presents soteriology and christology through the various articles of furniture in the Tabernacle and temples, through the modus operandi of the Levitical priesthood, through the function of the holy days, and through the Levitical sacrifices.

The third part is called "The Judgments." It is an establishment code. It includes explanations related to freedom, privacy, marriage, criminal law, taxation (tithing), military policy and freedom through military victory, diet, health, sanitation, quarantine, free enterprise, and profit motivation. It outlaws violence, terrorism, civil disobedience, and revolution.

Lev 26:16 ...then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, epidemic diseases, and fever will destroy your sight and drain your life; also, you will plant your seed in vain because your enemies will devour it.

"Sudden terror" is terrorism as it existed in the ancient world. It is also a reference to violence, unrestrained criminality, and hostility from other nations. The last phrase refers to economic disaster and depression. The illustration used refers to an agricultural economy. In our industrial economy, this would be an inability to compete with foreign markets.

Lev 26:17 I will set My face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; consequently, those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you.

In the first cycle, such defeat by enemies refers to only preliminary wars. The Hebrew word for hate here means hate based on envy. "You will flee when no one is pursuing you" is an idiom saying that the general population becomes cowardly, afraid of war. They have no motivation from patriotism or the spiritual life.

The Second Cycle of Discipline, Lev 26:18-20.

Lev 26:18 If after these things you will not listen to Me, then I will punish you on an intensified basis seven more times for your sins.

The first phrase implies that here is no wake-up as a result of the first cycle of discipline. Everything in the first cycle is intensified in the second cycle by seven.

Lev 26:19 Then I will also destroy the arrogance of your power; I will make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze.

Notice that once the first cycle of discipline is administered and it does not turn around the nation, arrogance sets in. Arrogance is a whole complex of sins and evil. The sky like iron and the earth like bronze refers to a drought, which means economic disaster, resulting in economic depression.

Lev 26:20 Then your strength will be spent uselessly; for your land will not yield its produce, nor will the trees of the land bear their fruit.

No matter how hard you work, you cannot produce enough food. This was written during an agricultural economy so the second cycle of discipline is a depression, diminished social life, no national pride, and people work hard for nothing (inflation).

Third Cycle of Discipline, Lev 26:21-22.

Lev 26:21 If therefore you remain hostile to Me [negative volition toward Bible doctrine], and you are not willing to hear Me, I will multiply your epidemics seven times more as your sins deserve.

In the third cycle, there is the intensification of epidemics and illnesses in the land. Various forms of pandemics?

Lev 26:22 I will send wild animals [criminals] against you and they will rob you of your children; they will destroy your cattle and so reduce your population that your roads will be deserted.

With the end of civilization, violence overflows from both animals and people. In the third cycle, the population is thinned by violence. Crime gets out of control; commerce is stopped and there are natural disasters.

The Fourth Cycle of Discipline, Lev 26:23-26.

So far nothing but grace warnings have been given. Now God will really judge the nation. There will be great uncontrollable crime, military invasion and partial defeat, disease from overcrowding, a shortage of food causing starvation, and even greater natural disasters.

Lev 26:23 And if by these things you will not be corrected by Me, but will continue to be hostile toward Me...

Lev 26:24 Then I will go into opposition toward you [literally: act with hostility toward you], and I will strike you seven times more for your sins.

Again, there is the intensification of the characteristics of all the cycles, with something more added, as stated in verse 25.

Lev 26:25 I will bring the sword upon you to avenge the breaking of the covenant, and when you retreat into your cities I will send an epidemic among you, so that you will be delivered into the hands of your enemies.

One of the great signs of loss of freedom and replacing it with degeneracy is when you see the breakdown of the military establishment. Military disaster is a result. Why did the Jews have to retreat into their cities? Because their cities were fortified, and their armies could not win in the field. Once there are overcrowded cities, disease becomes rampant.

Lev 26:26 When I cut off your food supply, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out your bread by weight, so that you will eat and never be satisfied.

When an army begins to lose a war on its own soil, the first thing to go is food supply. People starve, as the south did in the last year of the War between the States. Ten women baking bread in one oven means there is food rationing. Therefore, after eating a small piece of bread, you are just as hungry as you were before, and even more so.

The Fifth Cycle of Discipline, Lev 26:27-38.

Now there is nothing to eat. Enemies have taken over the country. People are put into slavery. People are afraid of everything. Everyone has become a coward.

Lev 26:27 If, in spite of this, you do not listen to Me but continue to be hostile toward Me...

The only hope for the nation is found in believers and that nation returning to divine principles.

Lev 26:28 ...then in My anger I will be hostile toward you, and I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev 26:29 ...then you will eat the flesh of your sons, and you will eat the flesh of your daughters.

No longer do you eat bread and rationed food, as in the fourth cycle; now you eat people! Cannibalism is the total malfunction of all establishment principles. This type of cannibalism actually occurred between 66 and 70 A.D. among Jews under the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman army.

Lev 26:30 Then I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars, and stack your corpses on the dumb corpses of your idols; for My soul will despise you.

The high places are the meeting places of false doctrine and cults.

Lev 26:31 I will turn your cities into ruins, and lay waste to your sanctuaries; I will take no delight in the fact that you suddenly start offering sacrifices.

Lev 26:32-33 I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled by its condition. You, however, I will scatter among the nations, and I will draw out My sword and pursue you, and your cities will lie in ruins.

Being scattered among nations means you go into slavery. This happened three times to the Jewish people.

Lev 26:36 And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues. ³⁷ They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have no power to stand before your enemies. ³⁸ And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

Deut 28:49-67 is another horrible description of the fifth cycle of discipline.

Deut 28:66 So your life will be in constant suspense, filled with fear, both night and day, never sure of your life.

In the fifth cycle of discipline, you either are killed or become enslaved. And thus is the fate of a client nation to God that fails in its responsibilities.