

The Inscrutable Question: God as Patron Protects & Prospers His Clients; Historical Downtrends Begin in the Pulpits, Jer 23:1-2; Ezek 13:10-12

- 8- Additional illustrations on the idea are found in these Greek definitions. The patron is one who assumes protection of a resident alien. When a person believes in Christ he immediately becomes a citizen of the heavenly community and, in effect, suddenly becomes an alien in the devil's world.
- 9- Therefore, as far as the Invisible War is concerned, he is a resident alien in the country in which he lives. In our context that nation is a client nation and God as Patron protects him by means of the laws of divine establishment and knowledge of Bible doctrine.
- 10- However, God is fair and expects those under His aegis to submit to certain habits of thought and behavior that serve Him yet do not challenge the establishment system that maintains order in the cosmos.
- 11- As a result, God as Patron assumes responsibility to maintain order among his clients. This is accomplished by the revelation of divine mandates identified by the imperative moods of Scripture.
- 12- Compliance under the filling of the Holy Spirit results in divine good and is rewardable.
- 13- Noncompliance because of sin results in status quo carnality and without rebound is followed by the performance of human good and evil. This also results in loss of reward although not salvation.
- 14- Therefore, a client nation is a national entity under the patronage of God and under His divine protection because it has a large Pivot of mature believers.
- 15- The Pivot is composed of believers living in a client nation who have attained spiritual maturity and those believers who maintain their momentum in the adult spiritual life.
- 16- Israel is the first client nation to God:

Exodus 19:5 - "Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

v. 6 - and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Deuteronomy 26:18 - "And the Lord has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments;

v. 19 - and that He shall set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the Lord your God, as He has spoken."

- 17- In the Church Age Gentile nations became clients to God beginning with *Senatus Populusque Romanus* and continuing down to the present-day United States. The consecration of Gentile client nations is found in:

1 Peter 2:9 - But you [**believers**] are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation [**Pivot in the client nation**], a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- 18- When the Pivot shrinks, the client nation experiences an historical downtrend and if prolonged will enter into the five cycles of discipline. The downtrend begins with the pastors who do not teach the mechanics of the Christian way of life to their assigned sheep.

Jeremiah 23:1 - "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the Lord.

v. 2 - Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the Lord.

- 19- When pastors fail to teach doctrine the people remain ignorant of divine viewpoint. Into the void rushes the cosmic lie which lures the believer into sin followed by the execution of human good and evil.
- 20- When believers are ignorant of divine viewpoint they can no longer influence their fellow citizens and thus when confronted with the problems of life they join with unbelievers in demanding human good and evil from government.

Ezekiel 13:10 - "It is definitely because they [false prophets] have misled My people by saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash;

v. 11 - so tell those who plaster it over with whitewash, that it will fall. A flooding rain will come, and you, O hailstones, will fall; and a violent wind will break out.

v. 12 - "Behold, when the wall has fallen, will you not be asked, 'Where is the plaster with which you plastered it?'"

- 21- In Ezekiel's context, false prophets had convinced the people there was no military threat from Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean Army. This led to a weakened national defense policy influenced by the mistaken notion that peace today means peace forever.
- 22- The mere proclamation that there was peace in Judah did not provide enough of a defense against the ominous approaching storm from Chaldea, metaphorically presented as a "flooding rain, hailstones, and violent wind."
- 23- The client nation fell in 586 B.C. to Nebuchadnezzar and the fallacious wall of lies that was built by the prophets was washed away with the torrent. The prophets said "Peace!" But there was no peace.
- 24- The fifth cycle saw the remnant, the surviving members of the Pivot, transported to Babylon. The book of Daniel is this great prophet's personal history of what is known as the Babylonian Captivity.