

THE FIFTH CYCLE OF DIVINE DISCIPLINE

In the 18th year of his reign, King Josiah began repairing the temple (2 Chron.34:1-8). During this repairing, the lost book of the law was found and brought to Josiah. Last week we discovered that it was probably the Book of Deuteronomy (Deut.31:24-26).

When Josiah read it, he tore the kingly robe and wept (2 Kings 22:19). He tore it when he read the five curses of divine discipline upon the priest-nation – “great is the wrath of the Lord that burns against us.” (2 Kings 22:13) (Deut.28:15-68) five curses. (Lev.26:14-46) five cycles.

After reading the Book of Deuteronomy, Josiah sent a special task force to the local prophetess Huldah.

She reaffirmed to Josiah that Judah was under the last of the five curses (2 Kings 22:14-20) read.

“I am going to bring disaster (raa / kal pf) on this place and its people according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read.” (2 Kings 22:14)

She confirmed to Josiah that Judah was under the 5th curse without hope of recovery from it – “my anger will burn against (yatsath / niphah pf) this place and will not be quenched (kabah / kal impf).”

(2 Kings 22:14) She also told Josiah that he would not go through the 5th curse (2 Kings 22:20).

<p>This lesson will study SIX aspects of the FIFTH CYCLE OF DIVINE DISCIPLINE upon the priest-nation of Judah (Lev.26:14-46; Deut.28:15-68).</p>

- 1. The last curse or the 5th curse/cycle of divine discipline is known as the Desolation (shammah) Curse (qelalah) (2 Kings 22:19; Lev.26:34; Deut.28:37,45).**

Jesus taught this to His generation during the last week of His life – “Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!” (Matt.23:37-39; Jer.22:5)

In Tribulation, there will be the Abomination of Desolation (Matt.24:15; Dan.9:25-27; 11:31).

- 2. God appointed Israel to be the priest-nation among nations. As the priest-nation, they were the custodians of God’s redemptive history of Christ (Gen.11-12; Ex.19:5-6; Jonah; Gal.3:8; Acts 7 & 13; Rom.9-11).**

“You have today declared the Lord to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. 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; 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.” (Deut.26:17-19)

- 3. With the establishment of the priest-nation of Israel, the rest of the nations became known as client gentile nations (Rom.9-11; Gen.12:2-3/ anti-Semitism clause).**

Client nations are used by God to house (Egypt;), discipline (Assyria, Babylon and Rome), and protect (interbiblical and church age periods) the remnant of Israel and the divine agency of the church until the coming of Christ (First and Second Coming).

4. Five curses/cycles of divine discipline were directed towards the priest-nation of Israel because they were the divine agency of the Jewish Age.

The five curses were based on the violation of the God side of the 10 commandments (Ex.20:1-11).

- Don't worship other gods.
- No idols.
- Don't take name of Lord in vain.
- Honor the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28) fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Lev.26:34-46)

Violation of these laws brought the 5th curse upon the priest-nation of Israel (Deut.28:15,36,45-47,58-68).

“And do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. But it shall come about, if you will not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut.28:14-15; 28:1-14)

The five curses are identified as cycles of 7 *more* in Lev.26:14-46.

1st. Cycle	(26:14-17)	health problems
2nd. Cycle	(26:18-20)	economics problems
3rd. Cycle	(26:21-22)	crime problems
4th. Cycle	(26:23-26)	military, pestilence, and necessity of life problems
5th. Cycle	(26:27-46)	DESOLATION

“These are the statutes and ordinances and laws which the Lord established between Himself and the sons of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai.” (26:46)

5. The four cycles of divine discipline may occur over years but the 5th occurs to one generation.

Three times the priest-nation of Israel suffered under it.

722 BC – To Assyria
586BC – To Babylon
70AD – To Rome

Jesus pronounced a special woe upon His generation for rejecting Him as the messianic savior and bringing on the 5th cycle (Luke 10:13-16; 11:29-32) (17:25; 18:31-34) (19:41-44; 20:9-20; 21:5-6, 20-24).

6. During the church age, the priest-nation is still under the 5th curse until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Tribulation).

Client gentile nations are the protector of divine institutions and the divine agency of the church and the remnant of Israel (Rom.13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-17; 1 Tim.2:1-3).

The church of Jesus Christ protects the spiritual integrity of divine institutions and does divine agency work (custodianship of God's word and evangelism of world). The client gentile nations that protect these things are blessed by association. *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are a light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt.5:13-16) (Phil.2:15-16)*