

A REVIEW OF GOD'S CLIENT NATIONS AND THE PREPARATION AND BLESSING OF AMERICA AS THE LATEST CLIENT NATION

Today the United States is God's client nation to the world for the promulgating and protecting His truth as read in the Bible. The core of this truth focuses on Jesus Christ, His glorification & His redemption of mankind from sin. Jesus Christ as the son of God and the second person of the trinity, achieved man's redemption by His death, burial and resurrection. Therefore, the role of client nation of God is historically, eternally, and spiritually important. Other nations having had this role in the past have been the Roman Empire, the Kingdom of the Franks, various German states like Saxony and Prussia, the Dutch Netherlands, and Great Britain (England and Scotland). Believing and hoping that we are in the "end times" of the "last days" since the time of Jesus Christ's death and crucifixion, one could say that the United States is in a time honored position. Historically, it appears that a few generations of evangelism and consistent Biblical instruction have been necessary to establish a large enough body of Christian believers within a nation for those believers to take on the role of evangelism and preservation of the Word to become a client nation. Reviewing history, it appears that when the number of believers within a client nation dwindles or become spiritually apathetic, God in His omniscients already has begun preparing volitionally positive people elsewhere to take on the role of evangelism and Bible preservation.

Without going into detail it would be good to say just a few words about some of the client nations mentioned above as precursors to the United States becoming the most recent client nation in order to see the blessings upon each nation as a mature pivot grew and how those blessings lessened with the shrinking of the pivot and the increasing apathy of the general Christian population as exemplified by social-cultural immorality, decreasing church attendance and inadequate teaching of the word of God.

1. Roman Empire--(509 B.C.-A.D. 476)--Even though lasting 1000 yrs. the zenith of its power was the 150 yrs. following the crucifixion of Christ in A.D. 30. Christianity spread throughout the entire Mediterranean World during this 150 yr. period even though severely persecuted under such emperors as Nero and Domitian and even Marcus Aurelius. Even though the church continued to spread to new populations of pagan people to the end of the empire era---by the end of the third century a number of dangerous heresies had begun to impact the church in its doctrine and leadership and as this weakened the church, the western part of the empire was so weakened that barbaric tribes began to tear it asunder. The greatest historian on the Roman Empire, Edward Gibbon, declared that Christianity was a major reason for the decline of the empire but it instead was a major reason it lasted as long as it did. Even the great Emperor Constantine had made it the national religion of the empire because he saw it as one of its main strengthening forces.

2. Kingdom of the Franks--(486-840)--Originally established by Clovis Merovingian (converted to Christ at time of his final victory), it reached the apex of its power under the Carolingian rulers, Charlemagne (considered the most important person of the Middle Ages) and his son Louis the Pious. Also noteworthy was that Charles Martel, the grandfather of Charlemagne, defeated the invasion of the Spanish Moors (Moslems). Each of these considered be the protector of the church and the pope and had the pope crown him as emperor of a restored Roman Empire of the West. The core of the empire was what are today France and the Netherlands (Dutch and Flemish) but Germany, Bohemia and northern Italy were added by conquest. Even though this was the Catholic form of Christianity established throughout the empire, it was the beginning of its being embedded within the culture and society of lands and people formerly considered to be heathen. _____Interregnum----In 840 the

Frankish Empire was divided into 3 areas by the sons of Louis the Pious and in time there were additional divisions thus weakening the power of the secular rulers and creating a situation enabling the Popes to significantly increase their power. There does not appear to have been a clear definitive client nation for much of the remainder of the Middle Ages. Not only did the papacy and the Catholic Church become increasingly corrupt during this long period but there were increasing heresies and distortions of scripture. It was a long dark period of decentralization of secular authority and increasing poverty, ignorance, chaos, war and invasions. Toward the end of the Middle Ages in the 14th century, Europe was hit with the Black Death by which as much as a third of the European population died. It was "cosmos diabolicus". ---Out of this muck, by the Grace of God, there began to be a reawakening in Europe-- the Renaissance. Then from this a way will be made for a truer grace Christianity-- the Protestant Reformation.

3. The northern German states---Generally speaking Germany is not given much consideration as possibly holding the role of client state status but it was there that Martin Luther led Catholic Europe out of its religious quagmire beginning in the 1520's.

God in His own good time at the right place, at the right time and under the necessary conditions provided a volitionally positive people an understanding of the correct grace plan of salvation through belief in the doctrine of "justification by faith" in Christ's death and resurrection and not based upon the control of the Catholic Church and a system of works. Also, again, as in the early church, an emphasis was placed upon the doctrine of "priesthood of the believer".

Luther translated the Bible into the German language and the real truths of the gospel and God's will and plan spread quickly throughout Germany, Bohemia, and Switzerland and into the Scandavian lands. A strong grace oriented Lutheranism maintained control in the north German states like Saxony, Hanover, Pomerania, Hamburg, and Brandenburg-Prussia and they served as safe havens for persecuted Protestants for generations and as seed-beds for evangelism and missionary activities into the 18th and 19th centuries to the English colonies in America and eventually Africa. (Lutheran northern German states were the most prosperous and successful part of Germany and it was under the dominant leadership of the Prussians that the German states were unified into one nation.)

4. Geneva, Switzerland also served for a few generations as a dynamic and aggressive evangelism force under the original leadership of John Calvin. From their theology school well-trained missionary-evangelist were sent throughout Europe where they established strong churches especially having long lasting impact in the Netherlands and Scotland and for a few generations in France.

Christian believers up into the 21st century have been blessed by the initial evangelism of men and women out of small German states and Switzerland in more ways than is generally understood or appreciated.

(Yes, there was a dark side to Calvinism in Geneva but in time with God's touching grace the goodgreatly overshadowed the bad.)

5. Dutch Netherlands--(1572-1800)-Many of its people were converted early in the Protestant Reformation to Lutheranism only to be overwhelmed by Calvinism. The Netherlands originally included what is today Holland (the Dutch part), Belgium (the Flemish part) and small Luxembourg and in the 16th century was owned by Catholic Spain, the #1 power of the age. With their new Protestant Christian beliefs the northern Dutch part rebelled against Spain and declared its independence in 1572 and immediately prospered. It carried out worldwide explorations and colonization and established their Dutch Reform Calvinist faith wherever they settled---New Netherlands-(New York-Henry Hudson), a few Caribbean Islands, South Africa (Cape Town--the Boers) and the East Indies (Indonesia). God greatly blessed and prospered this small nation and it was able to maintain its independence against two powerful enemies, Spain and France, through many wars. For a few generations it had a significant pivot and was productive in the Lord's work. In time, prosperity and spiritual apathy took its toll and Christianity has been greatly diminished there.

X-X-X. Spain-Portugal-France: Important nations not serving as client nations in the plan of God. The Catholic Church dominated in these 3 nations before, during and after the Protestant Reformation. The Inquisition, execution of "so-called" Protestant heretics, and the absolutist authority of its monarchs in cooperation with the Catholic Church hierarchy enabled them to stamp out any form of Protestantism. For over a 100+ years in France there were a significant number of Calvinist Protestants called Huguenots who were a true blessing to France and even for a few decades had a limited freedom of religion.

However, the power of King Louis XIV was so great that he revoked this freedom in the 1680's and severely persecuted the Huguenots. Over 400,000 fled France for the Dutch Netherlands, England, and its colonies, and some of the German states, notably Prussia, where they were a considerable blessing. Spiritually speaking, it seems as though there was a correct correlation between this treatment of the Huguenots and the French being either stalemated or losing every war between 1680's and the French Revolution of 1789. They had established a large colonial and trade empire in North America and elsewhere but as a result lost it all except for a few crumbs.

Meanwhile, Spain and Portugal, which had led off in exploration and colonization in the 15th century and then had established extensive empires making them very wealthy and powerful for a few generations, became second rate powers by the 17th century. They were replaced in their prior pre-eminent positions by England and the Dutch Netherlands, respectively.

6. Great Britain (England and Scotland)--The United States as the latest and possibly last client nation is deeply indebted to all the aforementioned client states of God but in the grace of God it is most directly indebted to the people of the island of Britain.

In England, the Anglican Church became the established state religion under the Tudors. In the American colonies it eventually will be referred to as the Episcopal Church. Anglicanism, more so than the other new Protestant denominations, kept some significant characteristics of Catholicism but due to men like Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, the key doctrines of "justification by faith" and "priesthood of the believer" were adopted. There was a Calvinist minority known as the Puritans who did not have full religious freedoms and were persecuted. Meanwhile, in its northern neighbor Scotland, a Calvinist evangelist, John Knox, led in the establishing of Presbyterianism as the state church in about 1660, at the same time Anglicanism was being established in England. Shortly thereafter, the Scots overthrew their Catholic Queen Mary Stuart and put her infant son James on the Scottish throne to be raised as a Protestant Christian. Later it was this James who authorized the greatly significant English translation of the Bible. Important to be noted is at the time of the translation, the English were finally beginning to successfully establish their first colonies. It was of incalculable aid in establishing and expanding new Christian denominations in the English colonies.

In 1603 Queen Elizabeth I, the last Tudor ruler, died and the English throne went to the above mentioned king of Scotland, James VI, who becomes James I of England. He and his Stuart dynasty successors ruled until 1714 with the exception of the Puritan interlude under Oliver Cromwell in the 1640's and 1650's. During the Stuart era, 12 of the 13 original colonies were established under English control, although not all were originally founded by England. During this time there developed significant conflict between the monarchs and the Parliament and the Puritans. This constant friction for domination in England by these powerful forces will actually result in the evolving of greater freedoms for English colonies. As a result of this long lasting political-religious conflict, Parliament became dominant in the making of law and the imposing of taxes. Also the Puritans and other Christian minorities gained permanent religious freedom in England with Anglicanism remaining the state church. In addition England and Scotland became one nation, Great Britain, with Presbyterianism remaining the state church in Scotland. This English Parliament had brokered this union for fear that with the death of the last of the Stuart monarchs (Queen Anne--dies 1714), Scotland would again become a separate independent nation and a danger to England's security on the northern border. In Great Britain the old belief in divine right monarchy was dead. The interest of the nation and the rights of the individual took precedence. ----Through this long conflict not only did the

people in England gain greater freedoms but the colonists saw many of these same freedoms implemented. Representative assemblies were established in every colony and, in practice, there was actually greater freedom of religion. England had laws of regulation and control in regard to the colonies but due to the tug-of-war for power in England, they were not enforced. Historians call this the policy of "salutary neglect". This generally was the situation from 1607 to 1763.

England was the most powerful nation to break away from the Catholic Church. With this change, England gradually began its ascendancy beginning under the Tudors, continuing under the Stuarts and then under the Hanovers (German princes who succeeded the Stuarts because they were Protestants, not Catholics) to the position of most powerful and influential nation in Europe and eventually the world. It began its industrial revolution in 1750 and in a series of wars had already begun defeating its major rivals, France and Spain. Although losing its 13 original colonies in North America, it continued to establish its colonies throughout the world with its attendant Christian faith, language, laws, and culture--in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India and even outpost in China. None of these other colonies become the force for Christianity that the United States was to become. By 1800 Great Britain had become the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland until 1921--Northern Ireland or Ulster still part of it, the Scotch-Irish origin) and the leading Protestant missionary and evangelistic nation until the late 19th century. Unfortunately, with its growing prosperity for all classes of people the pivot was shrinking and by 1870, a majority of the English no longer attended church. British power was so great throughout the world that the 19th century is called the Victorian Age but the next century becomes the American century. The United States with its strong Christian traditions becomes the leading client nation in the world---establishing many schools of theology and sending trained ministers, missionaries, and evangelists throughout the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

NEXT: GOD'S GRACE EVOLVING OF AMERICA INTO THE CLIENT NATION

- 1) Grace beginnings in the timing and conditions in regard to
The founding of the 13 origin colonies
- 2) The key factors of religious freedom, free enterprise,
representative government and opportunity for land ownership
in the success of the colonies
- 3) The first "Great Awakening": Key people, events,
denominations, schools, doctrines, controversies,
and its spiritual and political impact
- 4) The second "Awakening" and its impact in the U.S