

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS (#8)

During the months of May and June we will be studying a special series entitled the “Antiquity of Nations”.

Lesson #1	Origin of Nations	Gen.10:32
Lesson #2	Table of Nations	Acts 17:26
Lesson #3	Babel Internationalism	Gen.11:1-9
Lesson #4	Priest – Nation of Israel	Ex. 19:1-6
Lesson #5	Client Nations (#1)	Rom.13:1-7
Lesson #6	Client Nations (#2)	1 Pet.2:13-16
Lesson #7	Evangelism of Nations	Matt.28:18-20
Lesson #8	DI #5 Nationalism	Rom.13:1-7

There were at least four NT passages from which to select our lesson text: (Rom.13:1-7; 1 Tim.2:1-4; Titus 3:1-2; and 1 Pet.2:13-17). We chose Rom.13:1-7 because it addresses our lesson subject the best.

When Paul wrote Romans 13, he was under the Roman governing authority of Emperor Nero. If you read all four passages, you will not find Paul teaching Christians to rebel against tyranny or to seek political legislation to enforce Christian morality upon unbelievers.

In fact, all of Paul’s hardships of ministry were from preaching the Good News of the gospel of grace salvation and not from social or political Christian activism (1 Tim.2:1-7).

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

- Authority (Rom.13:1-2) Christians are to submit and not rebel.
- Authority (Rom.13:3-4) Christians are to do right (word of God) and be free from fear.
- Authority (Rom.13:5) Christians are to submit because of conscience (word of God).
- Authority (Rom.13:6- 7a) Christian are to pay taxes and revenues.
- Authority (Rom.13:7b) Christians are to respect and honor the position of authority.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Divine Institution of Nation.

1. There are five divine institutions with laws of divine establishment (basic principles of operation) and the divinely established authorities which serve for the preservation, orderly function and survival of the human race.

We will study them briefly in their order in the Book of Genesis.

- Freedom (Gen.1:26-27) The authority is volition (AOS / Gen.2:17; 3:11)
- Employment (Gen.1:28; 2:15) The authority is management (AOS / Gen.3:17-19)
- Marriage (Gen.2:18-25) The authority is husband (AOS / Gen.3:15-16)
- Family (Gen.1:28; 4:1-5) The authority are Parents (AOS / Gen.3:16)
- Nation (Gen.10-11) The authority is Government (Gen.11:8-9; Rev.20:8)

You will notice that the first four were directly affected by Adam’s Original Sin (AOS), but all five fell through the craftiness of Satan (cosmos diabolicus). (Gen.3:1; Rev.20:8) “And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” (Rev.20:2) “And will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth.” (Rev.20:8a)

2. These five divine institutions (DIs) are to be distinguished from the Christian institution (CI) of the Church, an important principle for the church to understand.

Separation of the Institution of the church (CI) and that of the nation (DI) is important. Over the centuries of its existence the church has struggled with this doctrinal principle known as the Dark Ages coined by Petrarch in 1330. We are presently in a similar struggle by calling our nation, the USA a Christian nation. It would be proper to say that the USA was founded on Judeo-Christian principles or influenced by biblical teachings.

We are presently in a struggle to legislate Christian morality upon unbelievers.

The Institution of the Church (CI) is composed of **only** believers in the gospel of grace salvation. The CI operates based upon the directive will of God as it relates to its dispensation. If the church (a Believer) finds itself in conflict with the DI of the Nation, the Christian should surrender to the dispensational teaching and take the consequences from the government (Acts 4:18-21; 5:27-29) “But Peter and the apostles answered and said, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” (Acts 5:29)

DI #5 (Nationalism) is composed of both unbelievers and believers. The policies and laws that are legislated by the government (authority) must be for **both** the unbeliever and believer alike.

When the nation forces evil policies upon believers and calls for the believer to compromise the directive will of the dispensational teachings clearly stated within the Word of God, the believer has lost his national freedom. NOTE: It is important at this point he not lose his spiritual freedom as well. (Dan.1:5-15) [food; (Dan.3:8-18) [worship of image] “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge.” (Acts 5:19)

3. Christians must understand that the eternal plan of God directs the rise and fall of all nations and governments (Deut.32:8; Job 12:18-25; Ps.75:7; Isa.24:21-23; Acts 17:26-27)

“He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.” (Luke 1:52)

“Therefore thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, just as I punished the king of Assyria.’” (Jer.50:18)

“By Me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles, all who judge rightly.” (Prov.8:15-16)

It is important that a client nation protect all of the divine institutions, including the Church institution. The nation is the guardian of common law (justice and enforcement); fair taxation, equitable legislation, free enterprise, charity, military, and foreign policy) (1 Cor.6:2; Matt.24:6-7; Luke 21:9). For the USA, it is to be the guardian of our constitutional republic.

4. Divine institutions have laws of divine establishment or basic principles of operation. We will mention four that are important to client nations (reference to study on Client Nation).

- **The nation is to restrain** social and civil evil and to reward the good. “For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.” (Rom.13:3)
- **The nation is to bear** the sword against evil and not against good (Rom.13:4; 1 Pet.2:14).
- **The nation is to collect** taxes and revenues (Rom.13:6) “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” (Mark 12:17).
- **The nation is to allow** the church to teach the nation about God, evil, sin, and good. “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornication, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All of these things proceed from within and defile the man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

“For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.” (1Pet.2:15)