

A CLIENT NATION IN THE CHURCH AGE

Request: “With economical disaster and warfare on two fronts and disease like the swine flu, can we assume that these are signs of divine discipline upon America? Are there cycles of divine discipline on client nations like on the priest-nation of Israel? And how does a client nation recover from divine discipline?”

We will attempt to answer these questions regarding the role of America as a client nation in the church age (CA).

This lesson will study five aspects of the role of America as a Client Nation in the Church Age.

1. If these are signs of divine discipline, it isn't the first in America's history.

We have had these signs in every century of America's history (18th to 21st century).

In each of these centuries, the church has struggled to understand these same signs and the role of America in the plan of God.

As a rule, the church has seen these signs as divine discipline and/or signs of the Second Coming of Christ (Matt.24:3-14).

2. Our lesson text explains the general conditions of the world and church during the church age (Matt.24:3-14).

World (Matt.24:3-8) – “Watch out that no man deceives you.” (Matt.24:4)

False Christ and wars and rumors of war – “See to it that you are not alarmed.” “Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” (Matt.24:5-6)

Conflict between nations and kingdoms and famine and earthquakes in various places – “All these things are the beginning of birth pangs.” (Matt.24:7-8)

Church (24:9-14) – Tribulation, persecution, and martyrdom – “And you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.” (Matt.24:9)

Desertion, betrayal, and division will increase among believers (Matt.24:10).

Many false prophets will mislead many and lawlessness will increase and people's love will grow cold (Matt.24:11-12) – “But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.” (Matt.24:13)

Gospel will be preached in the whole world – “For a witness to all the **nations**, and then the end will come.” (Matt.24:14)

3. The priest-nation of Israel is not the divine agency during the Church Age.

Israel is under the 5th cycle of divine discipline until the Second Coming of Christ (Ex.19:6; Lev.26 and Deut.28).

“So they will know that I am the Lord when I scatter them among the nations, and spread them among the countries. But I shall spare a few of them from **the sword, the famine, and the pestilence** that they may tell all their abominations among the nations where they go, and may know that I am the lord.” (Exek.12:15-16; Jer.5:15-19)

I do not believe the Gentile client nation operates under the exact same divine discipline standard as the priest-nation of Israel. Look at God's dealing with Egypt for the divine agency of patriarch family.

"He has not dealt **thus with any nation**; and as for His ordinances, they have not known them. Praise the Lord!" (Ps.147:20)

4. The rise and fall of nations in the plan of God is the sovereign decision of God (Gen.10).

"But God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another." (Ps.75:7) "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." (Prov.14:34)

Rise - "He makes the nations great, and then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, and then leads them away." (Job 12:23)

"For the kingdom is the Lord's, and he rules over the nations." (Ps.22:28)

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance." (Ps.33:12; Matt.5:13-14; Phil.2:14-16)

Fall – "The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God." (Ps.9:17)

"Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust." (Isa.40:15)

Recovery - "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; **if** that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, **I will relent** concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up to plant it; **if** it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, than I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it." (Jer.18:7-10)

5. The church is the divine agency during the church age.

"But you are a chosen 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 of darkness into His marvelous light." (1Pet.2:9)

As the divine agency, the church is the custodian of the word of God and evangelism (Book of Acts). The goal of the church is to occupy every nation of the world and not just one (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 10:34-35; 2 Cor.5:18-21; Rev.5:9-10).

The Christian church is not national or social or political (Gal.3:26-28; Phil.3:20; Rev.2:26-29).

As the divine agency, the church is subject to divine discipline and removal, if it doesn't repent.

Rev.2:5	(Ephesus)	repent (metanoeo)
Rev.2:16	(Pergamum)	repent
Rev.2:22	(Thyatira)	repent
Rev.3:3	(Sardis)	repent
Rev.3:16, 19	(Laodicea)	repent