

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS (#5)

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

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| 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 |

This is the first of a two part series on the subject of Client Nation.

The English word **client** is derived from the Latin word, clientela. It was derived from the Roman Empire.

“In Rome, cliens (plural clintes) referred to the lesser partner in the Ancient Roman social institution of clientela, obligated through a debt of loyalty to repay received favors that he had received from his patronus.”

“By the late Roman Republic, influential Roman senators might have entire foreign city or states as clientes, and occasionally the Roman Senate would refer decisions involving them to the patroni. Some scholars argue that Rome regarded itself as the patronus of the ‘client’ states subject to it, but this remains controversial.” (Wadpedia and Badin)

This Roman word and concept will be used for this study to describe certain Gentile nations chosen by God throughout biblical history.

We will examine our lesson text by the following three principles regarding nations and governments.

Rom.13:1-2 – established (ordained / tasso / perf.p.ptc) by God

Rom.13:3-5 – ministers (diakonos) of God

Rom.13:6-7 – servants (leitourgos) of God

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| We will study seven aspects of the role of the Client Nation in the plan of God over the next two weeks. |
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1. In order to understand the role of the client nation in the plan of God, it is important to study the origin of nations and the role of the priest-nation of Israel.

We have studied the origin of the postdiluvian nations in Gen.10-11 in the Gentile dispensation. We learned that God singled out one Shemite nation from each of the ten generations (Shem to Abraham) as the divine agency and custodian of evangelism and word of God [Shemites] (Gen.11:10-26; Luke 3:34-36).

We have also studied the formation of the priest-nation of Israel after the Exodus under the leadership of Moses (Ex.19:1-6). It was part of the prophecy of the Abrahamic Covenant. (Gen.12:2; 17:4; 22:18; John 8:37-44, 56-58).

2. Gentile client nations became important in the plan of God with the Abrahamic covenant both as a preserver and as a discipliner of the pivot of believers (Prov.8:15-18).

Examples of **preservers** of client nations would be Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Hellenistic period, and Rome.

Examples of **disciplinary** nations of client nations would be Assyria, Babylon, and Rome (5th cycle of divine discipline/ Lev.26:27-33; Luke 21:24) – “Surely the nations are like drops in a bucket.” (Isa.40:15, NIV)

3. Both the birth of Jesus Christ (5 BC) and the Christian church (30 AD) took place under the client nation status of the Roman Empire. It fulfilled the role of both preserver and discipliner of Israel.

The Christian church took the gospel from Jerusalem to the nations of the Roman Empire to the Protestant Reformation of Europe and America (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

This is why Eastern civilization is important. “It was only with Christianization of the Roman Empire in the 4th century that the Mediterranean world lost interest in Eastern culture.” (Author unknown)

The Great Schism separating roman and Eastern Christianity occurred in the 11th century.

Throughout this period (5th - 18st century AD), there has been several nations that served as client nations to the biblical church.

[**Kirk Kniep** gave us a great study of these nations in his studies of the Protestant Reformation.] The study of Western civilization is very important to the history of America as a client nation to the Christian church.

4. America has served client nation status to the Christian church, as the divine agency and custodian of evangelism and word of God, since the Second Great Spiritual Awakening of the Protestant Reformation.

The Christian church always thrived in a client nation with great missionary success.

The role of the biblical Church is vital to the welfare and status of a client nation in the plan of God.

5. Client nation has at least a three-fold role in the plan of God (Job 12:23-25).

First role is to protect the laws of divine establishment of the five divine institutions (Rom.13:1-7; Col.3:25-28; 1 Pet.2:16). **Note the warnings with each DI.**

- DI #1 Freedom (Gen.1:26-27) Depreciate the inalienable rights given by God
- DI #2 Employment (Gen. 2:5, 15) Destroy free enterprise ability to create work of choice.
- DI #3 Marriage (Gen.2:18-25) Divorce and abuse
- DI #4 Family (Gen.4:1-2) Desertion and abuse
- DI #5 Nation (Gen.10-11) Deception and denationalization (Tower of Babel)

Second role is to protect the divine agency, the Church. The church as a divine agency is the custodian of evangelism and the word of God and especially church age doctrines. They should embrace religious freedom and protect against anti-God and anti-Christ sentiment.

Third role is to protect the remnant of Israel (Gen.12:3). It must protect against anti-Semitism.

6. Christians are to obey the government unless it involves disobedience to the dispensational truth of the word of God (Acts 4:12-20; 5:29- 32) (Phil.1:7, 12-24; 2 Tim.1:8-9; 2:9).

The Government of a client nation is to legislate against evil and not sin (1 Pet.2:13-16; Rom.13:1-7).

Each generation of Christians has served the client status of America honorably. DSBC recognizes the importance of each spiritual advancing believer’s role. We will study it next week.