

A Nation in Peril (#10)
[The Church as a Divine Agency]

At the close of Wednesday night study on Client Nations, we gave a **cliff note version** of church history. I wanted us to get a panoramic view of the church as a divine agency moving from different client nations as custodians of the Word of God and Evangelism of the Grace Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For example, the fulfillment of (**Acts 1:8**) took the church **from** Jerusalem to Judea, **from** Judea to Samaria, **from** Samaria to the uttermost parts of the Roman Empire. Then, with reference to Client-nations, (**Matt.28:18-20**) took the church **from** the Roman Empire to the Kingdom of Franks, **from** the Franks to the German States, **from** the German States to the Dutch Netherlands, **from** the Dutch Netherlands to Great Britain and **from** Great Britain to America. NOW IT IS OUR TURN!

There never has been anything like the church of Jesus Christ in human history. In fact, the appearance of the church of Jesus Christ is so unique in human history that it is called a biblical “mystery” (musterion) [mystery or secret]. A **biblical mystery** is something not previously revealed by biblical revelation until its appearance in human history

(Col.1:26-27) “That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”

Mystery: “The secret unknown in OT times but known now only by divine revelation of the indwelling of Christ.” (Ryrie NASB, Col.1:26-27)

Today’s lesson will study five aspects of the Church as Divine Agency.

1. The term Divine Agency is used theologically to describe the custodianship of the Word of God and evangelism in every dispensation of biblical history.

DISPENSATION

DIVINE AGENCY

Gentile Age	The Messianic lineage family (Adam, Seth, Shem) Luke 3:23-38).
Jewish Age	The Priest-nation of Israel (Matt.1:1-17).
Church Age	The Body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor.12:12-31; Eph.1:18-23)
Millennium Age	The Lord Jesus Christ (Rev.20:4; Isa.9:1-7)

We have listed some examples below of the custodianship work of **evangelism**.

Gentile Age	(1 John 3:11-13)
Jewish Age	(Gal.3:6-9)
Church Age	(Acts 2:41; 15:1-5 11)
Millennium Age	(Rev.20:4-6)

2. On Mt. Sinai, The Lord described to Moses the following four characteristics of the Divine Agency (Ex.19:3-6).

- House of Jacob
 - **A chosen people** (Deut.14:2)
 - **Redeemed of the Lord** (Rom.9:6-8, 23-26)

- Treasured possession (Deut.26:18-19)
 - **Holy family of God**
- Kingdom of priests
 - **Priest to God** (Levitical / shadow Christology)
- Holy nation
 - **Ambassadors of Christ to world** (Isa.42:6; 49:6)

3. Peter gave the same description to the church as a Divine Agency in (1 Pet.2:9-10).

- Chosen people
 - **Redeemed of Lord** [Born again] (John 3:3-8; 1 Pet.1:23; Titus 3:5-7)
- Royal-holy priests
 - **Priest to God** [Order of Christ and Melchizedek] (Heb.5-7; 1Pet.2:5, 9; Rev.5:10)
- Holy nation
 - **Ambassadors of Christ to world** [dual citizenship] (Eph.2:19-22; Phil.3:18-21; 2 Cor.5:18-21)
- People of God's possession
 - **Holy family of God** [Positional Truth / peripoiesis] (2 Cor.5:17; Eph.1:13-14, Rom.8:15-17; Gal.4:4-7; John 1:11-13)

4. Each local church within a Client nation must take responsibility geographically for the custodianship of the Word of God, Spiritual Growth and for Evangelism of the Gospel of Grace Salvation.

This doctrinal principle is illustrated by the seven churches of Asia Minor under the Client nation of Rome.

(Rev.1-3) “As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands are the seven churches.” (Rev.1:20; Ex.25:31-40; John 8:12; 2 Cor.4:4-6)

(Rev.2:1) “The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven lamp stands” NOTE: Ephesus was the capital of Roman province of Asia reign of Augustus.

The “lamp stand” of a local church, as a Divine Agency can be removed (Rev.2:4-5; **Matt.21:33-43**).

- The local church can be disciplined by the Lord just like individual believers (Rev.2:20-27) [Thyatira].

(Rev.3:19-20) “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” [The church door of Laodicea] **It reminds me of Luther standing at the Vatican door.**

5. The devil is the enemy of both the Client nation and the church as a Divine Agency.

However, the church is greater than the devil!

(Mat.16:18) “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Rev.20:7-10)

(Rev.2:10) “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” / Smyrna)

(Acts 8:2) “And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” (Acts 8:1-4)