

In a time of national crisis leaders call their engineers to build using the best knowledge available. Imagine needing to build infrastructure with bridges and air or space travel with machines. They'd need high levels of physics and math. Now imagine before these engineers could begin solving the problem they had to quickly learn higher level math – algebra, calculus, trigonometry – but, also basic physics and other sciences had been neglected. There would be no time for learning, because this was a time for decision and action.

In a similar case involving both individual life crisis and group crisis we need knowledge before the crisis. When did Noah build the ark? Before the rain.

Seven Institutions established by God for the well-being of mankind:

1. Individual responsibility
2. Marriage
3. Family
4. Government
5. Nations
6. Israel
7. Church

Establishment of Human Government

Genesis 9:5 – “And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.”

Establishment of Nations:

Genesis 10 – Table of Nations

Establishment of God's Nation to preserve his truth and bless the nations, and all mankind

Genesis 12 – Call of Abraham: “I will make you into a great nation...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”

- This was a temporal nation, with a temporal government that functioned like a worldly nation
- But, it had a greater purpose...it represented and preserved the knowledge of God and the kingdom of God

These kingdoms or nations would have territory, people groups and cultures.

There would be strife between nations and only the strong and productive would survive.

God would oversee these nations causing them to rise and fall depending on how they managed their responsibility on his green earth.

- Job 12:23 (oldest book in the Bible) – “He makes nations rise and then fall, builds up some and abandons others.”

The Church was the seventh institution God established, but it was not a temporal kingdom.

The Church was to preserve and represent God's call to all nations (Israel included) and all people to the enter God's Kingdom through the work of the Savior and King of this kingdom, Jesus Christ.

- 1 Timothy 3:15 – “the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”
- Mark 16:15-16 – “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”
- Matthew 28:19 – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations”

But, the church's work was not done by force or sword. It cannot be.

- John 18:36 – “Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”
- Ephesians 6:12 – “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- 2 Timothy 1-3 – “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction. For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.”

The Church functions in history within a nation:

1. Jesus before Pilate
2. Paul before Felix, Festus, Herod Agrippa, and Nero (54-68 AD):
 - a. Romans 13:1-7 – “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
 - b. 1 Timothy 2:1-7 – “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
3. Peter 2:13-15 – “Be willing to serve the people who have authority[a] in this world. Do this for the Lord. Obey the king, the highest authority. And obey the leaders who are sent by the king. They are sent to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do good. **When you do good, you stop ignorant people from saying foolish things about you.** This is what God wants.

The fall of nations occurs through the 4 cycles of judgment.”

God brings about the fall of a society or a culture.

Two things are upset with the fall of a nation:

1. The physical institution of the nation
2. The spiritual institution of the church

When God overthrew the people of God knew that their nation had rebelled against God’s reality and was coming under judgment by another nation. The people of God were actually called traitors by the collapsing rebellious government for warning other the disaster. The people of God sided with and cooperated with the new government:

1. Israel –
2. Judah 605, 597, 586 BC–
 - a. Jeremiah 26:7-24 – “The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the Temple of the LORD. When Jeremiah finished speaking everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, prophets and all the people grabbed Jeremiah. They said, 'You must die! How dare you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this Temple will be destroyed like the one at Shiloh! How dare you say that Jerusalem will become a desert without anyone to live in it!'”...The priests and the prophets demand Jeremiah’s death....
...”Jeremiah offers his defense, and concludes: "Do to me what you think is good and right. But be sure of one thing. If you kill me, you will be guilty of killing an innocent person. You will make this city and anyone who lives in it guilty too! The LORD truly sent me to you to give you this message."
"Then the officers and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, 'Jeremiah must not be killed. What he told us comes from the LORD our God.'"
 - b. Daniel 3:9 – serving Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, may you live forever.”
 - c. Daniel 6:21 – serving Darius and Cyrus of the Persians, “O king, live forever
3. Jerusalem –
 - a. Josephus
 - b. Paul
 - c. Simeon, son of Clopas (brother of Jesus father, Joseph), bishop of Jerusalem in 70 AD led the Jewish believers out before Roman Wars broke out. Then, came back to establish the church in a fallen Jerusalem after the war.

Nations are established by power and force. If you are going to rebel against the government to establish a new government or to change the form of government, there will be the use of force and power.

The church is established by the Truth. The Word of God saving and renewing the heart and soul of an individual. The born again believers form the church.

Believers have dual citizenship in a temporal nation and an eternal kingdom.

Do not confuse the ways and purpose of the temporal nation with the role of the church during history.