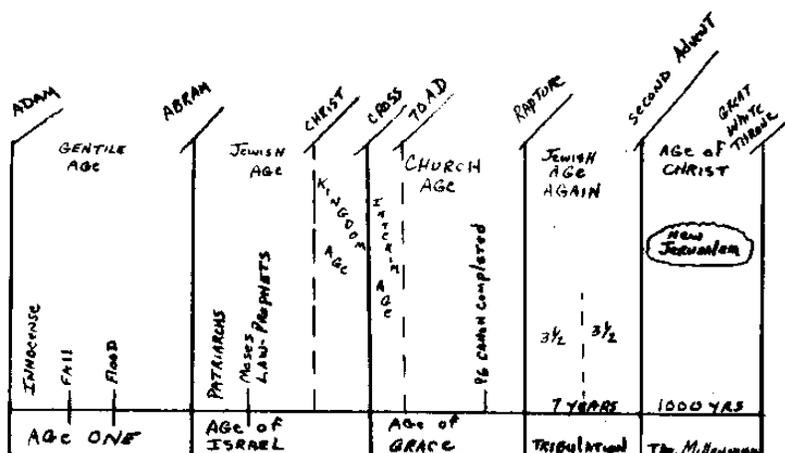


1. I earlier taught Daniel chapter two verses 17 through 23. Last week I reviewed Daniel's dream recorded in chapter eight and when time ran out I was about to review the five national cycles of discipline.

2. In verse twenty-one of chapter two we find two words; "Iddan" which is similar to the Greek **Chronos** and "Zeman" which is similar to the Greek **Kairos**. These are common words used to describe "dispensations."

Dan 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

3. By using these words Daniel reveals his knowledge of dispensations. Dispensations and cycles of discipline were commonly understood by the OT prophets and certainly by Moses. Let's take a look at one of our dispensation charts.



4. In Leviticus chapter 26 we have an extensive dissertation on the cycles of discipline promised for Israel primarily and other reversionistic nations secondarily.

5. Let's look at a few points found in the Old Testament concerning national discipline.

5.1 Negative volition toward God causes national discipline.

5.2 Nations like people receive discipline from God. To better understand this concept, let's review the doctrine of the Fifth Cycle of Discipline.

5.3 As to whether there are exactly five cycles of discipline is certainly problematic, however, we do know there are definitely several warning steps culminating in a final stage characterized by military defeat, dispersion and the total demise of a nation.

5.4 Nations like individuals are disciplined in time when they reject God.

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.

Hos 4:2 There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Hos 4:3 Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.

Hos 4:4 "But let no man bring a charge, let no man accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest.

Hos 4:5 You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother--

Hos 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priest nation; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

5.5 For individuals there is warning discipline and intensive discipline.

5.6 Believers are disciplined for either carnality or negative volition toward the Word or some combination of both.

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

Heb 12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

5.7 If discipline comes for carnality the discipline is canceled by the use of rebound at least to the extent that discipline for punishment is turned into discipline for blessing.

1Co 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

5.8 Discipline for reversionism or evil requires a change in thinking and an associated halt in the aberrant thinking.

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

9 There is then for the individual believer several stages of discipline just as there is for a national entity.

5.9.1 There is a warning stage where God presents a gentle reminder and if there is no positive response then the severity of the discipline is increased.

Rev 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

Rev 3:15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Rev 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Rev 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Rev 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

5.9.2 That there is an ultimate dying stage would seem to be taught by what many call for lack of a better term "the sin unto death." It would seem to be alluded to by John in 1Jo 5:16.

1Jo 5:16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that.

5.9.3 The same concept applies to nations.

Jer 44:7 "Now this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Why bring such great disaster on yourselves by cutting off from Judah the men and women, the children and infants, and so leave yourselves without a remnant?

Jer 44:8 Why provoke me to anger with what your hands have made, burning incense to other gods in Egypt, where you have come to live? You will destroy yourselves and make yourselves an object of cursing and reproach among all the nations on earth.

Jer 44:9 Have you forgotten the wickedness committed by your fathers and by the kings and queens of Judah and the wickedness committed by you and your wives in the land of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?

Jer 44:10 To this day they have not humbled themselves or shown reverence, nor have they followed my law and the decrees I set before you and your fathers.

Jer 44:11 "Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah.

Jer 44:12 I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt to settle there. They will all perish in Egypt; they will fall by the sword or die from famine. From the least to the greatest, they will die by sword or famine. They will become an object of cursing and horror, of condemnation and reproach.

Jer 44:13 I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem.

Eze 20:13 "Yet the people of Israel rebelled against me in the desert. They did not follow my decrees but rejected my laws--although the man who obeys them will live by them--and they utterly desecrated my. So I said I would pour out my wrath on them and destroy them in the desert.

5.10 Client nations today therefore are culpable and are expected to have

- a large pivot of positive believers
- a significant evangelical effort both at home and abroad
- proSemitic policies for ethnic Jews living in their borders
- establishment principles which protect and support the four divine institutions

5.11 When nations fail to develop the assets outlined above; divine discipline in stages would seem to come upon them.

5.12 The root cause of divine discipline for a nation is "a lack of knowledge" of the Word of God and the implementation of its principles.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

5.13 As we look at God's dealing with Israel and His warnings there are cycles resulting finally in a stage called by Col Thieme the "fifth cycle."

5.14 There are many passages outlining the process but the most extensive can be found in Deu 28:58-67 and Lev 26:14-39.

5.15 Keep in mind like as in most prophetic Scriptures, the Scriptures must be interpreted in modern terms.

5.16 Some of the caveats in Scripture translate readily like famine, lack of rain etc. but descriptions of being "eaten by a beast" might better be interpreted in the light of internecine carnage or the ravages of war inflicted by another nation.

5.16.1 Let's first look at Deu 28:58-67 to get the concept of God's promise to deal with a disobedient Israel by means of graduated discipline. Remember by secondary applications the same concept applies to reversionistic Gentile nations.

Deu 28:58 If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name--the LORD your God--

Deu 28:59 the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses.

Deu 28:60 He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

Deu 28:61 The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed.

Deu 28:62 You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God.

Deu 28:63 Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.

Deu 28:64 Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods--gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

Deu 28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart.

Deu 28:66 You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.

Deu 28:67 In the morning you will say, "If only it were evening!" and in the evening, "If only it were morning!"--because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see.

5.17 Col R. B. Thieme has chosen to organize the Scriptures found in Lev 26:14-39 into five cycles of discipline. C. I. Scofield has in his study Bible elected to organize these passages into six cycles.

5.17.1 First Cycle--loss of health, decline of agricultural prosperity, terror, fear and death in combat, loss of personal freedoms due to negative volition toward Bible doctrine (Lev 26:14-17)

Lev 26:14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

Lev 26:15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

Lev 26:16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning fever, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Lev 26:17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

5.17.2 Second Cycle--economic recession and depression, increased personal and individual discipline for a continued negative attitude in spite of the first warning (Lev 26:18-20)

Lev 26:18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev 26:19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

Lev 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

5.17.3 Third Cycle--violence and breakdown of law and order; cities are broken up (Lev 26:21-22)

Lev 26:21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Lev 26:22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.

5.17.4 Fourth Cycle--military conquest and/or foreign occupation, scarcity of food (reduced to one tenth of normal supply), the breaking up of families (Lev 26:23-26)

Lev 26:23 And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

Lev 26:24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

Lev 26:25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

Lev 26:26 And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

5.17.5 Fifth Cycle--destruction of a nation due to maximum rejection of Biblical principles (Lev 26:27-39)

Lev 26:27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;
Lev 26:28 Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

Lev 26:29 And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

Lev 26:30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

Lev 26:31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odors.

Lev 26:32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

Lev 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Lev 26:34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

Lev 26:35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

Lev 26:36 And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

Lev 26:37 And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

Lev 26:38 And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

Lev 26:39 And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

5.18 Israel today finds itself under the fifth cycle and there they will remain until our Lord returns and His Second Advent.

5.18.1 The fifth cycle began in A.D. 70 when Rome destroyed Jerusalem; their discipline will continue in spades during the seven years of the Tribulation.

5.18.2 In the seven years of the Tribulation Israel will receive far greater discipline than anything as yet experienced.

5.19 C. I. Scofield, as earlier mentioned, was the first to classify and organize Lev 26:14-39 into degrees of discipline.

5.19.1 Scofield in his original Bible elected six degrees or cycles of discipline as follows:

1st - Distress Lev. 26:14-17

2nd - Drought Lev. 26:18-20

3rd - Beasts Lev. 26:21-22

4th - Disease Lev. 26:23-26

5th - Famine Lev. 26:27-31

6th - Dispersion Lev. 26:32-39

5.20 Whichever of these great expositors and organizers you choose to follow there is no doubt there is progressive national discipline.

5.21 We must recognize the importance of being part of the pivot and thus sustain our country's client nation status. As we use this Thiemism "pivot," we refer to a group of positive believers eager to take in the Word and grow in His grace.

5.22 The key to avoiding national discipline then is the maintenance of a pivot and thus a minimizing of the spin off from that pivot.

5.23 There certainly is a secondary application of the principles set forth herein for all nations.

6. Daniel had read and been taught how Assyria was used to discipline Israel and he was suffering from Babylon's administration of the fifth cycle of discipline to His beloved Judah.

7. Daniel however also read from Moses, Jeremiah and Isaiah where God promised his unconditional love for Israel and the great promises which would one day be fulfilled when the Messiah came.

8. Thus the term "seasons" to Daniel meant a rebirth of Israel as a promised people returned to a promised land.

9. Daniel more perhaps than the earlier prophets knew first hand how God sets up kings and kingdoms as He chooses.

End Lesson Taught 10-15-2000

