## A Reckoning: Divine Justice in Light of the Current Crisis

Thirty years ago, precisely, July 3, 1990, I began the study of *The Biblical View of Civil Disobedience*, with the following introduction:

We are aware that the Rapture may occur at any moment of the Church Age thus initiating the seven-year Tribulation.<sup>1</sup> Biblical prophecy clearly delineates the activities of this future dispensation. Daniel and other prophets address this period in the Old Testament while John gives a thorough New-Testament analysis in Revelation 6–19.

Historical trends in the Church Age often seem to take on some of the appearances of Tribulational events. This inspires certain fundamentalists, long on imagination and ultrashort on scholarship, to predict the Rapture will occur on a certain date or to suggest that a certain famous person is the anti-Christ. However, there is no prophecy which warns Church-Age believers that the Tribulation is about to begin and by application the Rapture is about to occur.

Occasionally, charges are leveled at some charismatic, dictatorial type as being the anti-Christ. In recent history Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Henry Kissinger, and Mikhail Gorbachev have been subjects of this assertion. This is idle conjecture based on poor biblical scholarship. The anti-Christ is unknown until after the Tribulation begins.

Often the alleged nuclear threat is characterized as an impending Armageddon. But what is Armageddon? Revelation 16:16 is the only passage where this location is mentioned. It refers to a valley which starts near Mt. Carmel on the Mediterranean Sea and runs between two mountain ranges all the way to the Jordan River Valley.

The term, "Armageddon," comes from the Hebrew, Har-Magedon, which means, "the city of Megíddō." This city can be noted on maps 3, 4, and 6 in your Scofield Reference Bible. The valley this city overlooks is called the "Plain of Megiddo" on Map 6 and the "Great Plain" on Map 7. Gideon's famous night assault against the Midianite armies, described in Judges 6–7, took place in this valley.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The imminency of the Rapture is indicated by Paul's belief that it would occur in his lifetime (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Judges 6:33 calls it the "valley of Jezreel." It is currently called the Plain of Ésdraélon and can be seen on maps of Israel running from the seaport of Haīfa southeastward to the Jordan River Valley. John tells us that at the end of the Tribulation, four major world armies will assemble in this valley for battle. The battle will be for political, economic, and religious control of the world, but it will not threaten "life on this planet as we know it." However, Satan's hidden agenda for Armageddon does include the selective genocide of the Jewish race.

In order to prevent this from occurring, Jesus Christ executes His Second Advent. After defeating these international armies, He will inaugurate His millennial reign on David's throne in Jerusalem. (Revelation 19–20).

The reason all of this must be mentioned is so you will not be confused about the first major passage of Scripture we are going to examine. This passage is Revelation 13:1–10. It takes place in the Tribulation and documents that during this dispensation there will be the development of a global government led by a Satan-possessed dictator who controls the world's economy, politics, and religion (vv. 11–18).

By citing this passage, I am in no wise suggesting, insinuating, or implying that the Rapture is about to occur, that the anti-Christ is currently on the world scene, or that armies are gathering to do battle at Armageddon. All I seek to do is document that Satan's goal as ruler of this world is to gain complete and total control of all governments. His stated objective in his revolution against God in eternity past was, "I shall be like the Most High God" (Isaiah 14:14). Since the fall of man in Eden, Satan has undertaken the objective of bringing all human governments under his dictatorial control.

It is Satan's belief that he can institute a perfect environment through his control of human beings. Thus, in order to gain control of the human species, he must centralize all governments into one entity. Once accomplished, he will then physically possess a certain individual who will emerge as the dictator of this global government secretly promoting Satan's nefarious schemes.

Consequently, we should note a principle of application: All governments which deemphasize nationalism, patriotism, and indigenous cultures are a part of this Satanic conspiracy. Without exception, such groups, organizations, and people who support them play their part, we hope unknowingly, in the promotion of Satan's plan for world domination. Nevertheless, their participation is no less effective. Further, any Christian, group, or organization which justifies the violation of law for the purpose of gaining some high moral objective has been lured into participating in Satan's insidious schemes. All revolutions, coups d'état, and anarchies justify their overthrow of authority from the flimsy motivation of moral indignation.

Many conservatives who observe the rapid drift toward globalist socialism are quick to accuse certain liberal organizations of forming a conspiracy dedicated to the merger of the United States into this international montage. Often mentioned are the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission. I reject this suggestion based on the principles of Scripture. The human mind is incapable of organizing the mechanics of a global empire much less supervising its administration. However, demon-possessed people and those under the control of demon influence can be coordinated on an international scale to bring about the results seen in Revelation 13.

Please understand then that there is a conspiracy, but that conspiracy is satanic and demonic, not human. Admittedly, humans are used and they are manipulated to bring about Satan's desired ends as the ruler of this world. However, man, left to his own devices, is not capable or talented enough to pull off such a prodigious undertaking. World conquest takes genius organization and leadership dynamics on a higher level than human mentality permits.

Satan is described in Ezekiel 28 as *the* genius mentality of the entire angelic creation. There *is* a global conspiracy, but the lightweight mentalities associated with the CFR, the Trilateral Commission, or even the Communist Party simply are not capable of pulling it off. They are simply dupes who, at most, make up only small regiments in a worldwide system called *cosmos diabolicus*. It is Satan, an angel of cherub rank, known as Lucifer, who directs this international conspiracy.

Therefore, we need to understand that there is a conspiracy, but it is not of human design or power. It is satanic and thus invisible and insidious. To isolate your attention on one specific human organization is to ignore the principle of "compartmentalization." This is a procedure used by our military to ensure the security of an operation. Those involved are given only enough information to execute their portion of the project—no more; no less.

If one participant were to leak information the sum total of his knowledge would not be enough to jeopardize the success of the entire operation. When all parties fulfill their portion of the project, the operation runs smoothly. But only one individual knows the overall picture. This person is the one who devises the plan, determines who will execute which portion of the plan, and decides who does what and when they will do it. Such is the procedure used by Satan in his indefatigable march toward global domination.

The linchpins which serve to coordinate all the elements of satanic strategy is duplicity and deceit. Duplicity utilizes contradictory doubleness of thought, speech, or action. The belying of one's true intentions by deceptive words of actions. Deceit is used to cause one to accept as true what is actually false.

Duplicity and deceit are ingenious ways of utilizing Satan's first trick in the book which is lying. In the garden, the Satan-possessed serpent lied to Ishah when he told her in Genesis 3:4, "You shall not surely die."

Ishah ate the fruit and then fell and it has been hell to pay ever since.

Regardless of the strategies Lucifer pursues and those he will ultimately put in play, are all cataloged in the divine decree. God permits some of his tactics to develop and some He does not. Maximum doctrine in the soul defends the believer against satanic assaults:

Ephesians 6:10 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you

It is "knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:25) that enables believers to escape the "snare of the devil":

2 Timothy 2:26 ... that they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Peter gives an alert against demonic influence in:

1 Peter 5:8 ... be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

John advises believers to adopt and facilitate the practice of the Royal Law. In 1 John 3 the apostle writes, "... the one who practices sin is of the devil" (v. 8), but "No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him" (v. 9).

John then incorporates the Royal Law as the manifestation of personal integrity by the Spirit-filled believer in:

1 John 3:10 By this measure [vv. 8 and 9], students of God and disciples of the devil are made obvious: anyone who does not practice integrity [δικαιοσύνη (dikaiosún $\bar{e}$ )] and anyone who does not love his fellow believer [ the Royal Law ] is functioning outside the divine power system. (EXT)

The Church Age has now extended into the twenty-first century and is now on the verge of being two decades deep. At his historic point, the client nation holding the honor is the United States although precariously. The loss of doctrinal thought is glaringly in a dangerously diminished status.

Lucifer has capitalized on this circumstance and his acolytes of various types have ascended to the point of open rebellion with no obvious pushback from spirit-filled believers.

The current international Zeitgeist exposes the apparent absence of doctrinal power to resist the challenge gives motivation to the Dark Side to press the attack.

Absent pushback by believers—a circumstance that has been in ascendency for almost a century—has allowed satanic recruitment of adversaries to carry out open rebellion to the client nation.

What we presently observe on a daily basis is the impact of John 3:10 on the client nation. This brings into view two principles:

In human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree.

The client nation's loss of thought is now exposed by God's sovereignty allowing divine discipline to emerge in three ways: (1) the global pandemic of Covid-19, (2) the public assault on the laws of divine establishment by indigenous terrorist organizations, and (3) the apparent failure of any meaningful doctrinal pushback by believers.

The divine withdrawal of divine protection was precipitated by decades of believers' lack of interest in serious Bible study and resultant loss of personal integrity.

What is now obviously playing out in society is exposure of national loss of thought. We are now victims of a global virus that has shut down the nation's economy and threatened its public health. This divinely permitted virus was rapidly followed by the divinely permitted insurgency of terrorism in the nation's cities and streets. These events are clear and present warnings of divine disapproval of the client nation's status quo.

Divine discipline to a nation is revealed by the doctrine of the Five Cycles of Discipline. We warned about these cycles directed historically to priest nations in the Old Testament and prophetic for client nations in the Church Age.

We will observe in this doctrine the very sobering part the Lord plays in the execution of national discipline. Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot. He does this under three principles:

- 1. Directly through the function of His divine essence.
- 2. Indirectly through the function of the laws of divine establishment.
- 3. Permissively by permitting nations to use their own volition to destroy themselves.

These cycles of discipline may be generally observed in Gentile client nations. That which threatens, alters, endangers, or attacks a client nation is the result of national decline through loss of thought among believers.

To gain clarity regarding our present status as a client nation, we must observe the true source of deliverance or destruction instore for the United States of American. We observe this by a quick review of:

## The Doctrine of the Five Cycles of Discipline

## **Introduction:**

The first client nation was the Roman Empire. It fell and the title systematically moved westward across Europe, ultimately to the British Isles. Presently, believers within the geographic borders of the United States, impute to it client nation status.

Believers within the United States are responsible before the Supreme Court of Heaven to maintain client nation status by means of spiritual growth.

While the original Pivot acquired, established, maintained, and expanded freedoms withing the nation, all its citizens prospered under biblically supported establishment standards while positive believers acquired escrow blessing from application of biblical absolutes.

However, as the client nations of Europe demonstrated, the decline of doctrinal viewpoint in the U.S. has resulted in the nation now engaged in a fight for its survival. The only solution is the divine solution and that is a return to positive volition to the teachings of Scripture. There is no other option available that is qualified to restore order to the commonwealth.

God functions on absolutes. His guidance illuminates how to run one's personal life, and by extension, a family, a county, a state, and a nation. Deviation from this guidance results in national disaster. Human freedom is maintained by (1) the grace of God, (2) the doctrine that Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot, and (3) the principle, "As goes the Church-Age believer, so goes the client nation."

With regard to the latter, believers must have doctrinally based confidence in their souls. Confidence cannot be bought, legislated, or rationalized. Its source must be the inculcation of biblical absolutes into one's doctrinal stream of consciousness.

## **Summary of the Five Cycles of Discipline from Leviticus 26:**

This chapter documents a steadily increasing intensification of divine discipline upon priest and client nations that do not halt their reversionistic policies. The passage begins with a warning:

Leviticus 26:15 'If you reject My statutes, and if you soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant ...

If the response is not heeded then the description of the **First Cycle** is stated. If pertinent to the current crisis, it is underlined.

Leviticus 26:16

I, in turn, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a <u>sudden terror</u>, consumption, and <u>fever</u> that will waste away your eyes and cause your soul to pine away; also you will <u>sow your seed uselessly</u> [agrarian economy but applies to industrial as well], for <u>your enemies will eat it up</u> [destruction of free enterprise].

v. 17 'I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies [assault, murder]; and those who hate you will rule over you [socialist policies suppress capitalism], and you will flee when no none is pursuing you.'

If reorientation to doctrine does not occur, then the **Second Cycle** is deployed: **Leviticus 26:18**, 'I will punish you seven times more for your sins.' The phrase, "seven times" refers to the intensification of those things imposed in the First Cycle.

The reason for this is because the First Cycle did not accomplish its objective. Instead, the believer's reversionistic attitude produces arrogance resulting in the imposition of a drought indicated in **Leviticus 26:19** by the phrase, 'I will break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze.'

Today this refers to an industrial economy as opposed to an agrarian one. Stores are looted of merchandise, arson is committed, personnel are assaulted, and some are murdered.

Leviticus 26:20 'Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.'

Again, Free Enterprise is used to illustrate what is overwhelmed by these assaults. Your labors are rendered useless since the supply chains do not allow restocking the shelves which most could not even afford to purchase due to lost income.

No matter how hard this owner works, he cannot earn a living. His loss contributes to the economic depression accompanied by rising levels of unemployment.

Failure to orient to the Word brings on the **Third Cycle**:

Leviticus 26:21 'If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, <u>I will increase</u> the plague on you seven times according to your sins.'

v. 22 'I will let loose among you the beasts of the field [here the "beasts" refer to an outbreak of criminality] which will bereave [うり (shachol): to dispossess] you of your children [they join the rebellion] and destroy your cattle and reduce your number so that you roads lie deserted.

Remember that the cycles are progressive. They intensify sevenfold on each occasion. What was manageable early in the process are now magnified fourteenfold by the time of the third cycle.

The circumstances have advanced to the point that criminality is becoming unrestrained. Children, who have been propagandized into socialism, are now separated from the establishment concepts held by their parents. Casualties in the midst of economic depression mount, goods and services are limited, interstate commerce slows distribution of goods and services.

Continued failure to orient and adjust to establishment and doctrinal solutions brings on another sevenfold increase of discipline. However, the first three cycles are grace-oriented warnings. The next two cycles include divine judgment of the nation. This results in the sevenfold advance into the **Fourth Cycle**:

Leviticus 26:23 'And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility [ the advanced stages of reversionism ] against Me,

v. 24 then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even, I will strike you seven times for your sins.

Leviticus 26:25 'I will also bring upon you a sword [military conquest by a predator nation] which will execute vengeance for the covenant [The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:1–8) indicates that Abraham will be the father of many client nations]; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands [the Diaspora].'

God's plan for Israel, from the birth of Isaac to the inauguration of the millennial kingdom, required the bloodline to be protected throughout history. When the loss of thought became so pronounced, the imputation of a predator nation was deployed to insure the survival of the seed of Abraham. Conquered Jewish nations allowed the bloodline to survive among the Diaspora down to the reign of David. His sons, Solomon and Nathan initiated the bloodlines which were sustained down to Joseph and Mary. (See Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38)

Leviticus 26:26 'When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied.'

This describes the gruesome circumstances of people who are captured, placed into slavery, and able to survive on minimal logistics.

The final chapter in this horrific national decline occurs in the **Fifth Cycle**.

Leviticus 26:27 'Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me,

v. 28 then I will act with wrathful hostility against you, and I, even I, will punish you seven times for your sins.'

Over the course of human history, the fall of nations has left a remnant of survivors. Their plight includes the ravages of starvation. Often, the adults are so degenerate that in order to survive they decide to satiate their hunger by eating their children.

(End RECK-20.01. See RECK-20.02 for continuation of study at p.11.)