

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Reading of the *Declaration of Independence*

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/index.htm>

An objective examination of our nation's history reveals that God has providentially acted in her foundation and preservation.

- The freedom required to flourish as *one nation under God* is maintained by God.

Questions regarding our nation's future must be examined:

What happens when *one nation under God* turns her back on the Lord who maintains her freedom?

What happens when that nation decides through a liberal legislative, judicial, and a biblically illiterate executive system to act independently of God?

- o Will God continue to bless that nation with freedom through military victory, or will He withdraw His hand and allow the nation to be scourged?

Questions such as these can only be answered from the infallible word of God in light of this nation's relationship with God.

Leviticus 26:1-46

(1) 'You (y'all – Israel, God's chosen nation) shall not make for yourselves **idols**, nor shall you set up for yourselves an **image** or a **sacred pillar**, nor shall you place a **figured stone** in your land to bow down to it...

Worship of a god other than the Lord your God is prohibited (Exodus 20:4, 5, 23).

...for (כִּי - KIY or "because" this introduces the reason why :) **I am the LORD your God.**

POD – When God declares a nation as His that nation is to worship God, the Lord Jesus Christ¹, alone.

The nation must obey the protocol that God has established for it -

(2) 'You shall keep **My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the LORD.**

Prerequisite for national blessing -

(3) '**If you walk** in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out,

Results - -

(4) **then I will give...**

נָתַן – NATHAN – "to give"

➤ God is the one Who gives/provides blessing/prosperity.

➤ **POD:** The integrity of God will bless His declared nation when that nation follows His protocol.

¹ See, Borland, James A., *Christ in the Old Testament*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1978.

Three Cycles of Blessing:

Cycle One – Agricultural or economic blessing (vv. 4-5).

- Includes: enjoying the fruits of production.

...you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit.

(5) 'Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land.

- They may be doing the planting but God is doing the watering.
- Who controls the elements of nature? God!
- Note the book of Job where God relinquishes limited control of the elements of nature to Satan.
 - Relinquished for the purpose of testing or discipline on a nation or an individual.

Cycle Two – Peace through military victory and internal stability (vs. 6).

(6) 'I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may **lie down** (relaxed) with no one making you tremble...

Includes internal protection through law enforcement and a properly executed judicial system.

...I shall also eliminate harmful beasts from the land, and no **sword** (an army) will pass through your land.

- Military victory is a blessing from God (vs. 7).

(7) 'But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword;

Ratios – the number of enemy that one man can defend against. US military teaches a ratio of 5 to 1 - -
A defending soldier should be able to hold off five times his number.

(8) five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.

- Notice how God enhances the ratios – 5 will chase 100 and 100 will chase 10,000.
- This is impossible unless your confidence and trust is in the Lord.
- The Lord increases your ability to wage war in this cycle of blessing.
- The Lord secures the victory.
- **In our Nation's current history, we are 10,000 chasing 100.**

Cycle Three – Spiritual prosperity (vv. 9-12).

(9) 'So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you.

(10) 'You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new.

(11) 'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. As a result of their obedience to God's protocol, He lives among them.

(12) 'I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people [friendship status].

(13) 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt [speaking specifically to Israel] so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk **erect** [with confidence].

**Freedom comes from the hand of God.
When the nation follows divine protocol the nation is blessed by God.
He will grant the nation freedom through military victory.**

Repercussions to the nation that acts independently of God.

A nation who trusts in themselves
A nation who trusts in their military
A nation who trusts in their leaders
A nation who does not trust in the Lord

(14) 'But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments,

(15) if, instead, you reject My statutes [you are not going to do what I want you to do], and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant,

Five Cycles of Cursing or Discipline:

Cycle One – Disease / physical illness (vv. 14-17)

(16) **I, in turn, will do this to you:** I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away [to dissipate – *physical and psychological illness*]; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up [*agricultural or economic distress*].

(17) 'I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies [*military defeat*]; and those who hate you will rule over you [foreigners who do not respect the nation's founding principles will occupy positions of authority *within the government*], and you will flee when no one is pursuing you [fear of non-existing enemies].

Cycle Two – Agricultural / economic recession (vv. 18-21)

(18) 'If also after these things you do not obey Me...

- Discipline is designed to motivate the nation to return to the Lord.
 - To return to following divine national protocol.
- Should the nation not return after the first cycle of cursing...

...then I will punish you **seven times more** for your sins. An intensification of national discipline.

POD – All national discipline is designed by God to correct the erring nation (Lev 26:18).

- Discipline is designed to encourage the nation to return to the Lord.

Divine discipline for the born again believer is designed with the same purpose in mind – if things aren't going right; if your plans are being frustrated – it may be that God is trying to get your attention.

To get you to go in another direction!

Only you can determine that in the privacy of your soul

- And what happens if the nation does what the Lord wants them to do? The discipline stops!
- They return to fellowship with God.
- God does not discipline someone in fellowship, doing what He wants them to do!
- Discipline is designed to halt an erring life or erring nation.



(18) 'If also after these things you do not obey Me then I will punish you **seven times more** for your sins.

(19) 'I will also break down your pride of power [destruction of national symbols]; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze [intensified drought – economic repercussions].

(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 [a further reduction in output – to zero- over the first cycle of discipline].

(21) 'If then, **you act with hostility against Me...**

- Now the people are shaking their fists at God and blaming Him for what is happening – failing to realize the entire time that they are a product of their own decisions because they have not been following divine protocol for the nation.

POD – Intensification of discipline for an erring nation consumed with arrogance results in hostility toward God by the people (Lev 26:21).

...and are unwilling to obey Me [obstinate], I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins.

God in grace always provides an opportunity to take corrective action but if the opportunity is not seized He increases the discipline as per Lev 26:21.

Cycle Three – (vv. 21-22)

(21) 'If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins. An intensification of discipline.

(22) 'I will let loose among you the beasts of the field, which will bereave you of your children and destroy your cattle and reduce your number so that your roads lie deserted.

- Loss of children
- Desolation of the land

Cycle Four – (vv. 23-26)

(23) 'And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me,

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

(25) 'I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance **for the covenant...**

“**Covenant**” - ברית

BERITH – “*Covenant*”

- A legal binding contract between two parties who voluntarily enter into that agreement or contract.

“...which will execute vengeance because you have broken a legally binding agreement that you made with Me...”

...and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands. Military defeat

(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. National rationing of food and logistical supplies

Notice that God in grace still supplies bread.

God’s discipline is always done in love – In a similar fashion, parents are commanded to discipline their children in love.

Cycle Five – Complete destruction and deportation (vv. 27-39)

(27) 'Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me,

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

(29) 'Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.

(30) 'I then will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols, for My soul shall abhor you.

(31) 'I will lay waste your cities as well and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your soothing aromas.

(32) 'I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it.

(33) 'You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

(34) 'Then the land will enjoy its Sabbaths all the days of the desolation, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land will rest and enjoy its Sabbaths.

(35) 'All the days of its desolation it will observe the rest which it did not observe on your Sabbaths, while you were living on it.

(36) 'As for those of you who may be left, I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a driven leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall.

(37) 'They will therefore stumble over each other as if running from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have no strength to stand up before your enemies.

(38) 'But you will perish among the nations, and your enemies' land will consume you.

(39) 'So those of you who may be left will rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies; and also because of the iniquities of their forefathers they will rot away with them.

Divine Solution - -

(40) **'If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers...**

- An example of intercessory work – they are doing something on behalf of their forefathers because their forefathers did not.
- Confession of iniquity or sin is God's solution.
- God through discipline is merely trying to get the attention of His nation and all they have to do is recognize that they have acted contrary to His character by not following protocol that He established for them and confess it. Then discipline will cease.

...in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me--

(41) I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies--or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,

→ (42) then **I will remember My covenant** (Abrahamic Covenant – a covenant of grace) with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land. God has bound Himself to fulfill the covenant He has made with Abraham regardless of Abraham's obedience - GRACE.

(43) 'For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its Sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes.

→ (44) 'Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, **I will not reject them** (because of that covenant of grace – Gen 12:3), nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God. If God destroys them He breaks His covenant.

God has the responsibility to preserve the physical progeny of Abraham in order to fulfill the promise that he made to Abraham.

(45) 'But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.'

→ (46) These are the statutes and ordinances and laws which the LORD established between Himself and the sons of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai.

The country in reference to cycles of blessing and discipline is Israel.

Is the USA subject to these same cycles of blessing and discipline?

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.