

Building on a Good Foundation, #6 for a Nation/Society

Review of previous lessons:

- Jesus Christ as *the Chief Cornerstone* and the *Apostles and Prophets* as the *Foundation of God's House(hold)*, Eph.2:20;
- Why Jesus, as the *Precious and Chief Cornerstone*, was *Rejected* and became (to some) a *Stone of Stumbling and Rock of Offense*, 1Pet.2:6-8
- *God's Household/Building-* of what was/is it made, Eph.2:19-22?
- *Authority: Christ Commanded* (what the) *Apostles Taught* (and the) *Disciples Practiced*, Matt.28:18-20; then last time,
- The Bible: it's *Source, Nature, Content, Purpose(s), and Arrangement*

First, think about what constitutes a *nation*? Initially, at least three ingredients are necessary: (cf. Gen.12:2ff)

1. **People**- you can't have a "nation" without *people*, cf. Ex.12:37;
2. **Precept/Law**- a *unifying code of conduct* with both *rights* and *responsibilities* that distinguished them from other peoples, Ex.20:1ff,22-26; 34:10a,27-28,32; 35:1ff; and,
3. **Place/Land/Country**, Ex.23:23-33.

Next, as we soon celebrate the very *foundation* of our nation, think further with me regarding on what *foundation(s)* should a *nation* be built that will allow it to be "good" and last throughout time (cf. Matt.7:24-27)?

Among many other things that might be included in such a list, I would suggest we consider primarily 3 elements:

1. **Acknowledge God as:**
 - a. **Creator** (knows/acknowledges *from whence it came*), Gen.1:26-27; 2:7; Acts 14:15; 17:22-24a;
 - b. **Sustainer** (knows/acknowledges *how it remains*), Gen.1:29; 2:8-9,15-17; 9:3-4; Acts 14:17; 17:24b-25,28; and
 - c. **Judge** (knows/acknowledges its *ultimate accountability*), Gen.2:15-17; 9:5-6; Acts 17:29-31.
2. **Understands the basic building block of any nation or society to be the "family"** as God ordained and prescribed, Gen.1:27; 2:18-24; 9:7; Eph.5:22-31; 6:1-4.
3. **Reveres and reflects God's laws in those we legislate for ourselves/the country** (understands our own "government(s)" in light of *His governing* of us), Rom.13:1-7.

So if *our* "nation" is to not only survive but thrive, it must return to proper *foundations*, and *build again* upon them...

- **Belief in God as our *Creator, Sustainer, and Judge*, Dan.4:34-37;**
- **The understanding of “family” as God ordained as the building block of nations/societies, Eph.5:22-31; 6:1-4; Luke 1:17; and,**
- **The ultimate purpose and accountability of “government” and its laws, 1Pet.2:13-17.**

Remember God’s *encouragement* and *warning* to Solomon upon the completion of the Temple concerning the nation of Israel from 2Chron.7:12-22.