

# The Five Stages of National Discipline

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These studies are designed for believers in Jesus Christ only. If you have exercised faith in Christ, then you are in the right place. If you have not, then you need to heed the words of our Lord, Who said, “**For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son, so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be have eternal life! For God did not send His Son into the world so that He should judge the world, but so that the world shall be saved through Him. The one believing [or, trusting] in Him is not judged, but the one not believing has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son of God.”** (John 3:16–18). “**I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through [or, by means of] Me!**” (John 14:6).

Every study of the Word of God ought to be preceded by a naming of your sins to God. This restores you to fellowship with God (1John 1:8–10). **If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness** (1John 1:9). If there are people around, you would name these sins silently. If there is no one around, then it does not matter if you name them silently or whether you speak aloud.

Topics		
Background and Introduction	Definition of the Five Stages of National Discipline	The First Stage of National Discipline
The Second Stage of National Discipline	The Third Stage of National Discipline	The Fourth Stage of National Discipline
The Fifth Stage of National Discipline	Historical Examples of the Administration of the Fifth Stage of National Discipline to Jewish Client Nation	The Fifth Stage of National Discipline to the Northern Kingdom
The Fifth Stage of National Discipline to the Southern Kingdom	Why do Client Nations Face these Stages of National Discipline	
Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines		
Definition of Terms	A Complete Translation of Genesis 14	The Stages of National Discipline Genesis 14 insert
The Five Cycles of Discipline (Chart)	The Abbreviated Doctrine of the Five Stages of National Discipline	Links to the 5 Cycles (Stages) of [National] Discipline

**Preface:** Early on, in the nascent beginnings of nation Israel, God warned Israel of future discipline. R. B. Thieme, Jr. entitles this the 5 cycles of discipline; and I have slightly renamed this same

concept, the 5 stages of national discipline. The concept is the same—God warns Israel well in advance of things that they might do which would result in national discipline. As their sins against God increase, so would the severity of their discipline.

No doubt, some would ask, *why do we bother to study this?* There are two reasons: (1) This is in the Bible, and all that is in the Bible is worthy of study; (2) these stages of discipline become historical trends that we can watch and be forewarned about. This doctrine has direct application to **client nation** United States today.

Definition of Terms	
<b>Angelic Conflict</b>	The Angelic Conflict is an invisible war which is taking place which involves God, the elect angels and the fallen angels. Man was created to resolve the Angelic Conflict. See the <b>Angelic Conflict</b> ( <a href="#">HTML</a> ) ( <a href="#">PDF</a> ) ( <a href="#">WPD</a> ).
<b>Christology</b>	The study of the Lord Jesus Christ. ( <a href="#">Basic Christology</a> from the Spokane Bible Church)
<b>Church Age</b>	The period of time in history where God works through the body of believers, also known as the church. This age began on the Day of Pentecost, following our Lord's resurrection and ascension, and continues today. See the <b>Three Dispensations: The Age of Israel, the Age of the Hypostatic Union and the Church Age</b> ( <a href="#">HTML</a> ) ( <a href="#">PDF</a> ) ( <a href="#">WPD</a> ).
<b>Client nation</b>	The client nation is a nation where there are a lot of believers and a lot of mature and growing believers. This nation is known for its evangelization, for its Bible teaching, its Bible scholarship, and missionary activity. The government and leaders may or may not be supportive of such activity. However, generally speaking, such activity is allowed within the national entity. It is this activity which preserves such a national entity. Doctrine of the <b>Client Nation</b> ( <a href="#">HTML</a> ) ( <a href="#">PDF</a> ) ( <a href="#">WPD</a> ).
<b>Dispensation</b>	A period of time wherein God's plan for that period of time is very specific and different from other periods of time. That is, the rules for the <b>Church Age</b> are different than rules for the <b>Age of Israel</b> . See the doctrine of <b>Dispensations</b> ( <a href="#">HTML</a> ) ( <a href="#">PDF</a> ) ( <a href="#">WPD</a> ).
<b>The Dispensation of the Hypostatic Union</b>	This was a very short dispensation when the God-man, Jesus Christ, was on this earth. There were aspects of the Jewish Age and the Church Age which were true at this time. Jesus Christ test drove the spiritual life for us in the Church Age; His power was based upon the power of the Holy Spirit, just as ours is. Even though many of the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were still occurring, they were in the background. What Jesus said and did took precedence over all Old Testament ritual.
<b>The Dispensation of Israel</b>	Also known as the Age of Israel, the Jewish Dispensation, the Age of the Jews, etc. This was the time period between Abraham and Christ. During this time, nearly all of the Old Testament was composed (Job and the first dozen or so chapters of Genesis may have been written prior to the Age of Israel). God worked through individual Jews and corporately through the nation Israel.

Definition of Terms	
<b>Era (or, times) of the Gentiles</b>	The time during which nation Israel is not a client nation to God. During this time, God does not work through nation Israel. This does not mean that God has completely rejected the Jews or that all of the Jewish covenants are now transferred to those in the church. It simply means that Israel is set aside for a time. The Jewish people are still God's people and they have a glorious future.
<b>Establishment Code (also known as, the Laws of Divine Establishment)</b>	These are natural laws (meaning that, they come from God) which apply to people and nations, which cause a nation to be preserved and a people to be perpetuated. These laws are designed for believers and unbelievers alike. See the <b>Laws of Divine Establishment</b> ( <a href="#">HTML</a> ) ( <a href="#">PDF</a> ) ( <a href="#">WPD</a> ).
<b>Gnosis versus epignosis</b>	Gnosis is divine knowledge which has been taken in by the mind (the left lobe) and is considered. Epignosis is divine knowledge which has been believed, and is then transferred over into the right lobe of the soul (the heart). For further study, see <a href="#">gnosis</a> and <a href="#">epignosis</a> .
<b>Hypostatic Union</b>	<p>In the person of Jesus Christ since His physical birth [incarnation], there are two natures, undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever. These two natures—human and divine—remain distinct and are inseparably united without mixture or loss of identity, without loss or transfer of attributes. This means that the Lord Jesus Christ is just as much God as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit and at the same time He is also just as much human as you and I. He is undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever. This union is known as the hypostatic union.</p> <p>The two natures of Christ maintain their complete identity while being joined in personal union forever. The characteristics of His human nature belong to the human part of Him; the characteristics of His divine nature belong to the God part of Him. Each nature has its own attributes that adhere to that nature. In other words, there is no mixture of the two natures. He is never half-God and half-man or half-man and half-God..</p>
<b>Pivot</b>	Those people in a national entity who are growing spiritually or who have entered into spiritual maturity.
<b>Priest nation</b>	A priest nation is a nation through whom God works. The Word of God will be preserved in a priest nation (and even written in a priest nation); and evangelization will occur both within that priest nation, and men will be sent out to evangelize (like Jonah).
<b>Reversionism</b>	A state of being or a set of actions where a believer reverts back to a former state, habit, belief, or practice of sinning. Reversionism is the status of the believer who fails to execute the plan of God for the Church Age. He returns to his pre-salvation modus operandi and modus vivendi. Reversionism can also refer to the unbeliever who once embraced the <b>laws of divine establishment</b> and now rejects it. This doctrine is covered at the Grace Bible Church <a href="#">website</a> ; at <a href="#">Angel Fire.com</a> ; at He-Ekklesia under the <b>8 Stages of Reversionism</b> ; and at the Lake Erie Bible Church <a href="#">website</a> .

Definition of Terms	
<b>Sabbath Year; Sabbatical Year</b>	<i>The sabbath year (shmita Hebrew: הַשְּׁמִיטָה , literally "release") also called the sabbatical year or shevi'it (שְׁעִיבִית , literally "seventh") is the seventh year of the seven-year agricultural cycle mandated by the Torah for the Land of Israel, and still observed in contemporary Judaism.<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Satan's Policy of Good and Evil</b>	<i>The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represented Satan's plan. The Tree of Life (literal Tree of Lives) represented God's plan. Satan wanted to be seen as good as God. Prior to the fall of man, Satan was not the ruler of this world system, but Adam was the ruler. Of course, it was Satan's ambition to be the ruler. He got his wish as a result of Adam and Eve's sin. He was then free to perpetuate his policy of good and evil upon the human race. The concept of evil seems obvious, but includes much more subtle forms of evil than most of us think. Satan's policy of good is human good designed to counterfeit the divine good of God.<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>Soteriology</b>	The proper theological term for the study of salvation.
<b>Tribulation, The</b>	When the Church Age comes to its completion, and the body of believers is raptures from this earth, there is remain a shortened 7 years which time is known as the Tribulation. This is actually the end of the Jewish Age and has many names in the Bible (like <i>the time of Jacob's trouble</i> ). ( <b>Doctrine of the Tribulation</b> —Pastor L.G. Merritt) ( <b>The Great Tribulation</b> —Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries) ( <b>Tribulation Time line</b> [Chart]—Grace Bible Church of Baytown)

I have made some minor changes to this doctrine, which includes changing the term *cycles of discipline* to *stages of national discipline*, which I believe describes the situation better. Also, I changed the outline slightly and edited and appended this doctrine. However, the bulk of this is R. B. Thieme, Jr.'s work, which was posted already (one with attribution; the other without).

#### The Doctrine of the 5 Stages of National Discipline:

##### I. Background and Introduction.

- A. The **dispensation of Israel** began with the Exodus in B.C. 1441 and concluded with the birth of our Lord in 4 B.C.
- B. Therefore, most of the Old Testament Canon is devoted to the study of Jewish client nations. There were five Jewish client nations in the dispensation of Israel.
  1. The Theocratic Kingdom from the Exodus to the time of Samuel, B.C. 1441 – 1020.
  2. The United Kingdom from Saul to Rehoboam. B.C. 1020-926.
  3. The Northern Kingdom from Jeroboam to Hoshea, B.C. 926-721. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to the Northern Kingdom by Assyria, commanded by Sargon II.
  4. The Southern Kingdom from Rehoboam to Zedekiah, B.C. 926 – 586. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to the Southern Kingdom in 586 by the Chaldeans, commanded by Nebuchadnezzar. Seventy years of captivity or slavery extended from B.C. 586 – 516.

<sup>1</sup> From [wikipedia](#); accessed November 11, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> From [Katy Community Church.org](#); accessed November 11, 2017.

5. The restored nation of Judea from Zerubbabel in B.C. 536 – A.D. 70. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to Judea by the Romans, first under the command of Vespasian and then by his son, Titus.
- C. With the fall of Jerusalem in August of 70 A.D., there are no more Jewish client nations until the Second Advent.
- D. At this time, we live in the **era** (or, *times*) **of the Gentiles**. That means only a Gentile client nation can so function before God today.
- E. At the present time, we the people of the United States are a Gentile client nation to God.
- F. There are great differences between client nation Israel in the Old Testament and any gentile client nation in the present era.
  1. Whereas, prophets from God spoke to kings of Israel, from Saul forward; national leaders today will not have a prophet coming to them and telling them a special message from God.
  2. A national leader can avail himself of the spiritual wisdom of pastors and others related to the church; but there is no substitute for the spiritual growth of the leader in question (be he a city council member or the President of the United States).
  3. Most presidents have accepted some spiritual guidance of Billy Graham; and more recently, his son, Franklin Graham. How much attention was paid to the wisdom of these two men is mostly unknown to us.
  4. We have a very good example of a Christian national leader who made some horrendous mistakes in foreign policy. President George W. Bush sent troops into Iraq and Afghanistan, but his hope for these nations was to turn them into functioning democracies, but without making any attempt to change their religion. The armed forces, for the most part, discouraged any form of Christian evangelization from those in its ranks (on their own time, of course). The idea was, a functioning democracy was more important than evangelizing the people. President Bush, a student of history, should have known from WWII that one of the keys to our relationship with Germany, Japan and even South Korea was missionary work done by Christian teachers and evangelists. General Douglas MacArthur called for them, understanding that there was a vacancy in these countries which would pull in evil or it would pull in the truth.
- II. Definition of the Five Stages of National Discipline.
  - A. There are Five Stages of National Discipline administered to a client nation,<sup>3</sup> Jewish or Gentile.
    1. To the Jewish client nations during the dispensation of Israel, **the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union**, and the first forty years of the **Church Age**, the five cycles did function.
    2. To the Gentile client nations beginning with S.P.Q.R. in 70 A.D. and continuing to the present with the U.S.A., these five cycles are still operational.
  - B. Outline of the Five Stages of National Discipline.
    1. The first stage of national discipline, Lev 26:14-17.
    2. The second stage of national discipline, Lev 26:18-20.
    3. The third stage of national discipline, Lev 26:21-22.
    4. The fourth stage of national discipline, Lev 26:23-26.
    5. The fifth stage of national discipline, Lev 26:27-38, amplified in Deut 28:49-67.
  - C. The Stages of National Discipline are based on the principle that Jesus Christ controls history directly, indirectly, and permissively.
    1. He controls history directly through the function of His own divine essence.

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<sup>3</sup> Theoretically, there is a 6<sup>th</sup> stage of national discipline for a client nation.

2. He controls history indirectly through the function of the laws of divine establishment.
  3. He controls history permissively through permitting nations to use their own volition to destroy themselves. For no nation is ever destroyed by an outside power before it is first destroyed from within by its own individual and collective bad decisions. Therefore, no nation is ever destroyed by another nation until it first destroys itself through negative volition.
- D. Jesus Christ permits the policy of the **angelic conflict** (the function of free will) to continue and conclude in human history. Therefore, **Satan's policy of good and evil** must exist in every generation; there must be a challenge to your attitude toward doctrine.
  - E. Because Jesus Christ is righteous and holy, He must judge the nations with Stages of National Discipline.
  - F. These Stages of National Discipline are punitive measures against apostasy, **reversionism** and evil. The purpose of this discipline is to turn a nation around (that is, to turn around the thinking of the believer; and to increase evangelization among the unsaved).
- III. The First Stage of national discipline, Lev 26:14-17.
- A. Lev 26:14, **"But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all of these mandates,"**
    1. Obedience in Israel meant the execution of God's plan for their dispensation. It meant the execution of the three categories of the Mosaic Law. It meant perception of doctrine as it was revealed at that time, first through the Torah and then through the prophets.
    2. The mandates refer to the three parts of the Mosaic Law. They are explained further in verse 15.
  - B. Lev 26:15, **"If instead you reject My statutes and your soul despises My ordinances, and you fail to carry out all my commands so breaking My covenant,"** The Mosaic Law is divided into three parts.
    1. The first part of the Mosaic Law is the decalogue, the freedom code made up of ten commandments. These commandments define freedom in terms of morality, privacy, property, and authority. Freedom without authority is anarchy; authority without freedom is tyranny. The ten commandments also define freedom in terms of relationship with God.
    2. The second part is called the ordinances, the spiritual code. It graphically presents **soteriology** and **Christology** through the various articles of furniture in the Tabernacle and temples, through the modus operandi of the levitical priesthood, through the function of the holy days, and through the levitical sacrifices. This spiritual code presents the Gospel and Jesus Christ as the God of Israel.
    3. The third part is the judgments, an **establishment code** (also known as, **the laws of divine establishment**). It includes explanations related to freedom, privacy, marriage, criminal law, taxation (tithing), military policy and freedom through military victory, diet, health, sanitation, quarantine, free enterprise, and profit motivation. It outlaws violence, terrorism, civil disobedience, and revolution.
  - C. Lev 26:16, **"Then I will do this to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror [terrorism], epidemic diseases, and fever will destroy your sight and drain your life; also, you will plant your seed in vain because your enemies will devour it."**
    1. "Sudden terror" is the function of terrorism as it existed in the ancient world. It is also a reference to violence, unrestrained criminality, and hostility from other nations.
    2. Many epidemics have been the beginning of the end of great nations or empires.
    3. The last phrase refers to economic disaster and depression. The illustration used refers to an agricultural economy. In our industrial economy, this refers to inability to compete with foreign markets.



- D. Lev 26:17, "I will set My face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; consequently, those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you."
  - 1. In the first cycle, such defeat by enemies refers to only preliminary wars. But before the other Stages of National Discipline are administered, there is already loss in warfare. (Our loss in warfare began with Korea and Vietnam.)
  - 2. The Hebrew word for hate here means hate based on envy. The Jews were the recipients of such fantastic blessings from God that they were envied and then hated.
  - 3. "You will flee when no one is pursuing you" is an idiom saying that the general population becomes cowardly, afraid of war. They have no motivation from patriotism or the spiritual life. Therefore, the population will do anything to avoid a war, even surrendering whatever advantage it has in national and international
- IV. The Second Stage of National Discipline, Lev 26:18-20.
  - A. Lev 26:18, "If after all these things you will not listen to Me, then I will punish you on an intensified basis seven more times for your sins."
    - 1. The first phrase implies that some wake up as a result of the first stage of national discipline.
    - 2. Everything in the first cycle is intensified in the second cycle by seven.
  - B. Lev 26:19, "Then I will also break down [destroy] the arrogance of your power; I will make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze."
    - 1. Notice that once the first stage of national discipline is administered and it does not turn around the nation, arrogance sets in. Arrogance is a whole complex of sins and evil.
    - 2. Today we have the greatest arrogance in places of power. God actually punishes such arrogance among those in power without the humility to use their power properly.
    - 3. The sky like iron and the earth like bronze refers to a drought. Drought means economic disaster, resulting in economic depression.
  - C. Lev 26:20, "Then your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce, nor will the trees of the land bear their fruit."
    - 1. No matter how hard you work, you cannot produce food.
    - 2. The Bible should be interpreted in the time in which it was written. This was written in during an agricultural economy before the industrial revolution.
  - D. So the second stage of national discipline is a depression, bad social life, no national pride, and people work hard for nothing (inflation).
- V. The Third Stage of National Discipline, Lev 26:21-22.
  - A. Lev 26:21, "If therefore you remain hostile to Me [negative volition toward Bible doctrine], and you are not willing to hear Me, I will multiply your epidemics seven times more as your sins deserve."
    - 1. God did not speak directly to them but indirectly through His communicators, which at that time were the prophets.
    - 2. In the third cycle, there is the intensification of epidemics and illnesses in the land. In our day, AIDs will break this country if the trend continues, for it is a very serious problem, and may rival the bubonic plague of the Middle Ages.
  - B. Lev 26:22, "I will send wild animals [criminals] against you and they will rob you of your children; they will destroy your cattle and so reduce your population that your roads will be deserted." With the end of civilization, violence overflows from both animals and people.
  - C. In the third cycle, the population is thinned out by violence. Crime gets out of control; commerce is stopped; there are natural disasters.
- VI. The Fourth Stage of National Discipline, Lev 26:23-26.

- A. So far nothing but grace warnings have been given. Now God will really judge the nation. There will be great uncontrollable crime, military invasion and partial defeat, disease from overcrowding, a shortage of food causing starvation, and even greater natural disasters. Examples can be found by studying Israel in 68 A.D., 586 B.C. and 721 B.C.
  - B. Lev 26:23, "And if by these things you will not be corrected by Me, but will continue to be hostile toward Me [negative volition from cosmic involvement in the stages of reversionism],"
  - C. Lev 26:24, "Then I will go into opposition toward you [literally: act with hostility toward you], and I will strike you seven times more for your sins." Again, there is the intensification of the characteristics of all the cycles, with something more added, as stated in verse 25.
  - D. Lev 26:25, "I will bring the sword upon you to avenge the breaking of the covenant, and when you retreat into your cities I will send a plague [epidemic] among you, so that you will be delivered into the hands of your enemies."
    - 1. One of the great signs of loss of freedom, and replacing it with both moral and immoral degeneracy, is when you see the breakdown of the military establishment. The entire book of Numbers is devoted to setting up a mobilization plan for the military.
    - 2. The part of the covenant that was broken was the military part. There was military disaster as a result. Why did the Jews have to retreat into their cities? Because their cities were fortified, and their armies could not win in the field. Once there are overcrowded cities, disease becomes rampant (as illustrated by the Romans when fleeing from Hannibal).
  - E. Lev 26:26, "When I cut off your food supply, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out your bread by weight, so that you will eat and never be satisfied."
    - 1. When an army begins to lose a war on its own soil, the first thing to go is food supply. People start to starve, as the south did in the last year of the War between the States. So one of the inevitable results of the fourth stage of national discipline is the beginning of starvation.
    - 2. Ten women baking bread in one oven means there is food rationing. Therefore, after eating a small piece of bread, you are just as hungry as you were before, and even more so.
- VII. The Fifth Stage of National Discipline, Lev 26:27-38.
- A. Now there is nothing to eat. Enemies have taken over the country. People are put into slavery. People are afraid of everything. Everyone has become a coward.
  - B. Lev 26:27, "If, in spite of this, you do not listen to Me but continue to be hostile toward Me [toward the message of Bible doctrine]," The only hope is Bible doctrine; there is no hope beyond Bible doctrine. The only hope for the nation is found in believers.
  - C. Lev 26:28, "Then in My anger I will be hostile toward you [no more grace], and I will punish you seven times more for your sins."
  - D. Lev 26:29, "Then you will eat the flesh of your sons, and you will eat the flesh of your daughters."
    - 1. No longer do you eat bread and rationed food, as in the fourth cycle; now you eat people! Cannibalism is the total malfunction of all establishment principles. One of the strongest of all establishment principles is the family and the love of parents for children. But in those days, parents will eat their children.
    - 2. This type of cannibalism actually occurred between 66 and 70 A.D. among Jews under the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman army. Josephus documented such things. Civilization suddenly departs in the fifth stage of national discipline.
  - E. Lev 26:30, "Then I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars, and stack your corpses on the dumb corpses of your idols, for My soul will despise you." The high places are the meeting places of false doctrine and cults, especially the phallic cult.



- F. Lev 26:31, "I will turn your cities into ruins, and lay waste to your sanctuaries; I will take no delight in the fact that you suddenly start offering sacrifices."
  - G. Lev 26:32-33, "I will make the land desolate so that your enemies will settle in it, and will be appalled by its condition. You, however, I will scatter among the nations, and I will draw out My sword and pursue you, and your cities will lie in ruins."
    - 1. The territory is occupied.
    - 2. Being scattered among nations means you go into slavery. This happened three times to the Jewish people.
  - H. Lev 26:34, "Then the land will satisfy its Sabbaths . . . , while you are in the land of your enemies; consequently, the land will rest and be paid its Sabbaths." The Jews had ignored seventy **Sabbatical years**, and therefore the Southern Kingdom had seventy years under slavery.
  - I. Lev 26:35, "All the days of its desolation [fifth cycle] it will observe the rest which it did not observe in your sabbatical years while you were living in the land."
  - J. Lev 26:36, "As for those of you who survive [the fifth cycle], I will make their right lobes so afraid in the lands of their enemies that the sound of a wind-blown leaf will put them into flight. In fact, when no one is pursuing, they will run as though fleeing from an army, and they will fall even when no one is pursuing." People do die of fright.
  - K. Lev 26:37, "Furthermore, they will fall over each other as if fleeing from the sword, although no one is pursuing them; consequently, you will have no strength." No strength means no military establishment for freedom, and no patriotic motivation. It's too late in the fifth stage of national discipline, because it takes a long time to train a military establishment.
  - L. Lev 26:38, "But you will perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies will devour you." Enemies of the Jews were those like Assyria, Chaldea, and Rome.
  - M. Deut 28:49-67 is another horrible description of the fifth stage of national discipline.
  - N. Isaiah warned the Northern Kingdom and Jeremiah warned the Southern Kingdom during the first administration of the fifth stage of national discipline to each of these nations.
- VIII. Historical Examples of the Administration of the Fifth Stage of National Discipline to Jewish Client Nation:
- A. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to Assyria, Ezek 31:3-14.
  - B. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to the Northern Kingdom, Hosea 4:1-6, in 721 B.C. Elijah, Elisha, Amos and Hosea all prophesied the coming of the fifth stage of national discipline. 2Kings 17 gives the historical account. Isa 28:1-13 gives the prophetic account.
  - C. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to the Southern Kingdom in 586 B.C., Jer 50:17, 7:24-29, because they did not listen to the teaching of doctrine, Jer 15:5-6, 13:10-11, 17, 17:27, 35:13.
    - 1. The overt manifestation of Jewish reversionism in the Southern Kingdom was idolatry, Jer 2:27-30, 3:9, 7:17-20, 13:10, 17:1-4.
    - 2. The duration of the first fifth stage of national discipline to the Southern Kingdom was seventy years, all of their sabbatical years. Cf Ex 23:10-11; Lev 25:3-4, 26:33-36; 2Chron. 36:20-21; Jer 25:11-12, 29:10; Dan 9:2, 24-27.
  - D. The fifth stage of national discipline was administered to Judea in 70 A.D.
    - 1. This was prophesied by our Lord in Lk 21:20-24.
    - 2. They were also warned by the teaching of Paul. The gift of tongues was also a warning to Israel that they were about to lose their status as a **priest nation** to God.
    - 3. The dispensation of the Church and the completion of the Jewish Age both occur while Israel is out under the fifth stage of national discipline.

- E. Grace always precedes the fifth stage of national discipline by the warnings of the first four cycles. In the fifth stage of national discipline, you either are killed or become enslaved.
- IX. The Fifth Stage of National Discipline to the Northern Kingdom.
  - A. The Northern Kingdom was established as a result of a revolution, based on jealousy of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, 1Chron. 12:30; Psalm 60:7; 2Sam. 19:40-43.
  - B. Mental attitude sins like jealousy destroy capacity for love. The Northern Kingdom never had the basis to love God because it was founded on jealousy. A kingdom founded on emotional revolt of the soul will inevitably destroy itself. Being built up by emotional revolt, the actual incident that kicked off the revolution was human good when the people complained to Rehoboam with their grievance.
  - C. The Northern Kingdom began with Jeroboam in 926 B.C. He was in emotional revolt of the soul.
  - D. Even though the Northern Kingdom had such a bad start, God in His grace tried to stabilize the Northern Kingdom. God provided for the Northern Kingdom special prophets who warned the Northern Kingdom against apostasy and tried to communicate to them the principles of freedom. Four outstanding prophets were involved in this grace push by our Lord.
    - 1. Elijah, c.871-851 B.C.
    - 2. Elisha, c.845 B.C..
    - 3. Amos, 787 B.C.
    - 4. Hosea, c. 746 B.C.
  - E. Amos warned the Northern Kingdom in 787 B.C. during the reign of Jeroboam II. Hosea warned the Northern Kingdom, c.746 B.C., during the fourth stage of national discipline when Tiglath-Pileser III was the Assyrian king. In addition, Isaiah provided some warning, as in the first part of Isa 28.
  - F. The fifth stage of national discipline is described in two passages of the Old Testament, so that both the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom had adequate warning about it; Lev 26:27-46; Deut 28:49-67.
  - G. The historical account of the fifth stage of national discipline to the Northern Kingdom is found in 2 Kg 17:1-12.
  - H. The prophetic account of the fifth stage of national discipline to the Northern Kingdom is found in Isa 28:1-13 and mentioned in Jer 3:8.
  - I. Before judgment came to the Northern Kingdom, and during the two years in which the Assyrians were in the Northern Kingdom and even afterward, Jews of the Northern Kingdom fled to the Southern Kingdom and became citizens there, 1Chron. 9:3.
  - J. Therefore, there is no such thing as the "ten lost tribes." The ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom, from the time of Elijah down to the time when Shalmanezar invaded, constantly fled south. So all the tribes were represented in the Southern Kingdom after the Northern Kingdom fell.
  - K. The fifth stage of national discipline began in 721 B.C. with the fall of Samaria. The Assyrians' siege began under Shalmanezar V (who died), and ended when Sargon II defeated the Northern Kingdom in battle, Jer 50:17a.
- X. The Fifth Stage of National Discipline to the Southern Kingdom.
  - A. Deut 28:49-67 was fulfilled.
  - B. The first administration to the Southern Kingdom of the fifth stage of national discipline is called the Babylonian captivity, Jer 50:17b. The time was 586 B.C. The administrator was the Chaldean Empire under Nebuchadnezzar.
  - C. The second administration to the Southern Kingdom is the present dispersion, Lk 21:40-25. Its time period is August 70 A.D. to the Second Advent. Its administrator was Rome under Vespasian and Titus.

- D. The reason for the fifth stage of national discipline was the rejection of Bible doctrine, Jer 7:24-29, 13:10,11,17, 15:5-6, 17:27, 35:13.
  - E. The overt cause of the fifth stage of national discipline was apostasy and idolatry (which resulted in rejection of Bible doctrine), Jer 2:27-30, 3:9, 7:17-20, 13:10, 17:1-4.
  - F. The length of the first administration of the fifth stage of national discipline was seventy years. This was determined on the basis of the Jews having rejected seven Sabbatical years over a period of 490 years, Jer 25:11-12, 29:10; Dan 9:2,24-27.
  - G. During the present dispersion, there are two substitutes for the nation Israel.
    - 1. The Church Age, where every believer is a priest.
    - 2. The **Tribulation**, when 144,000 Jews represent the Lord, Rev 7 and 14.
- XI. Why do Client Nations Face these Stages of National Discipline? Hosea 4:1-6.
- A. This passage is addressed to believers. For in the final analysis, it is the believers who are responsible for the rise or fall of a client nation.
  - B. Hosea 4:1, "Hear the word of the Lord, you citizens of Israel [Northern Kingdom] because the Lord has a case [indictment] against the inhabitants of the client nation, because nothing of doctrine is taught, nothing about grace is being applied; there is no knowledge of God in the land."
    - 1. Just as God had an indictment against the Jewish client nations, so today He has an indictment against a Gentile client nation, the United States of America.
    - 2. "Because nothing of doctrine is taught." There is no demand for Bible teaching in time of apostasy.
    - 3. As a result, "nothing of grace is being applied." Grace and doctrine go together. When they are both gone, that is one of the reasons for the Five Stages of National Discipline.
  - C. Hosea 4:2, "Instead, there is lying [dishonesty], deception, homicide, stealing, rape, therefore blood touches blood [idiom for perpetual violence]."
  - D. Hosea 4:3, "Therefore, the land mourns, and all who live in it languish along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air."
    - 1. "The land mourns" means the people are miserable under the Stages of National Discipline. No one is enjoying anything or having any fun. Social life, business life, and spiritual life are gone; there is nothing but abject misery.
    - 2. "All who live in it languish" means loss of national courage, patriotism, vitality, and
    - 3. Animals suffer when people suffer. People are viciously cruel under the Stages of National Discipline.
  - E. Hosea 4:4, "Yet let no one find fault [as in evil activism]; let no one offer criticism, for your citizens are like those who contend with the priests [communicators of doctrine]."
    - 1. Activism is the last thing you need to get into when under the Stages of National
    - 2. Criticism is blaming other groups. It is the believer who must take the responsibility for these things himself. It is negative volition and a shrinking pivot that brings these things.
  - F. Hosea 4:5, "Therefore, you have stumbled in the daylight, and even the prophet will stumble with you in the night darkness; and I will destroy your native country [motherland]."
    - 1. Stumbling in the daylight means cosmic involvement, including crusader arrogance. Daylight means becoming a loser by rejecting Bible doctrine after hearing it, or failing to metabolize **gnosis** doctrine into **epignosis** doctrine.
    - 2. "And even the prophet will stumble with you" means prophets become false prophets and they teach false doctrine.
    - 3. Today, hundreds of thousands of pulpits speak of "‘peace, peace,’ when there is no peace," just as they said in Jeremiah’s day, Jer 6:14, 8:11; Ezek 13:10, 16. Today, pastors peddle false doctrine while the United States is declining for lack of pivot.

4. There can be no pivot without the pastor-teacher communicating the mystery doctrine for the Church Age. There can be no **pivot** without the manufacture of invisible heroes.
- G. Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed by lack of knowledge of doctrine. Because you have rejected the knowledge of doctrine, I will reject you from being My priest nation.”
  1. A client nation to God is a priest nation in that it represents God under three factors. The freedom developed in the client nation means:
    - a. Freedom for evangelism in the nation.
    - b. Freedom to teach doctrine in the nation.
    - c. Freedom to send missionaries to other countries to communicate the Gospel, and form the converts into indigenous local churches.
  2. Today, the United States is a priest nation. It may not be tomorrow. The only hope for this country resides in your soul. If there is negative volition, we will go down. If there is a surge in positive volition, it could form a large enough pivot to deliver this country.
  3. A nation without Bible doctrine is a nation without solutions.
  4. As goes the believer, so goes the client nation to God.
- H. This prophecy given in Hosea 4 was fulfilled to the Northern Kingdom. What happened to greater nations than we in the past can certainly happen to us tomorrow.
- XII. The stages of national discipline for a client nation do not have to follow these exact stages in just this exact order (although it makes sense that they normally do). This would not be considered prophecy, but simply historic trends. For instance, as a nation has more and more people who believe in Jesus Christ, that nation will become more prosperous and more law-abiding and a better place to live in. That is a natural historical trend. As a nation with many believers and some mature believers turns away from God, then, as a result these disciplinary measures tend to occur in the order in which they are found.
- XIII. A nation which has never been a client nation to God (e.g., North Korea) is not necessarily going to be under God’s discipline (nationalism, ideally, isolates problematic nations from the rest of the world, which is a good thing). However, it is not impossible for a nation to get so far out of line that God has to remove them from human history (as God did to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah).
- XIV. There is a potential 6<sup>th</sup> stage of national discipline for a client nation to God (but not for Israel). A nation could be completely destroyed and all its people destroyed if they turn away from God. Israel will not face a complete annihilation, because they have a future in the plan of God.
- XV. The client nation USA may or may not have an important future in God’s plan. For the moment, it does.

**Topics**

**Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines**

## Addendum

Interestingly enough, we are first exposed to the concept of stages of discipline way back in Genesis 14 ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)):

You may not understand that this is part of what is being taught here; but it will all be explained after the translation.

## A Complete Translation of Genesis 14

A Reasonably Literal Translation	A Reasonably Literal Paraphrase
The alliances in this great war of nations	
And it was in the days of Amraphel, the king of Shinar; Arioch, the king of Eliasar; Chedorlaomer, the king of Elam and Tidal, the king of Goiim—they made war with Bera, the king of Sodom; and Birsha, the king of Gomorrah; [and] Shinab, the king of Admah; and Shemeber, the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela (that (is) Zoar). These joined forces in the valley of Siddim, which [is near] the Salt Sea.	And it was in the days of Amraphel, the king of Shinar; Arioch, the king of Eliasar; Chedorlaomer, the king of Elam and Tidal, the king of Goiim—that they made war with Bera, the king of Sodom; and Birsha, the king of Gomorrah; [and] Shinab, the king of Admah; and Shemeber, the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela (which is Zoar). These latter kings formed an alliance in the Valley of Siddim, which is near the Salt Sea.
The eastern alliance conquers many city-states along the way	
[The peoples of the Valley of Siddim] served Chedorlaomer [for] 12 years, and [in] the thirteenth year, they rebelled [against him].	The people of the Valley of Siddim served Chedorlaomer for 12 years, but in the 13 <sup>th</sup> year, they rebelled against him.
In the 14 <sup>th</sup> year, Chedorlaomer and the kings who [are] with him came and they conquered the Rephaim in Ashteroth-Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emin in Shavey-Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their mountain Seir, [going] as far as El-Paran, which is adjacent [to] the wilderness.	In the 14 <sup>th</sup> year, Chedorlaomer and the kings who are with him came and they conquered the Rephaim in Ashteroth-Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emin in Shavey-Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their mountain Seir, going as far as El-Paran, which is adjacent to the wilderness.
Then they turned back and came to Eyn Mishpat (that [is], Kadesh) and they defeated the entire country of the Amalekite as well as [lit., <i>and also</i> ] the Amorite, the dwellers of Hazazon Tamar.	Then they turned back around and came to En Mishpat (which is today known as Kadesh), where they defeated the entire territory of the Amorites and then went on to defeat the Amorites, who were living in Hazazon Tamar.
The 4 kings of the east defeat the 5 king coalition	
They went out—the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboim and the king of Bela (which [is] Zoar). They organized [themselves] in battle [array] with their enemies [lit., <i>with them</i> —Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, Tidal the king of Goiim, Amraphel the king of Shinar and Arioch the king of Ellasar—four kings against [lit., <i>with, near</i> ] the five.	The king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboim and the king of Bela (also known as Zoar) went out and organized themselves in battle array with the four kings of the East: Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, Tidal the king of Goiim, Amraphel the king of Shinar and Arioch the king of Ellasar.
[There were] pits—pits of bitumen—[in] the Valley of Siddim. When the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah retreated, [many in their armies] fell there [into these pits]; and those who remained fled to the mountains.	There were pits of bitumen all over the Valley of Siddim. Therefore, when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah retreated, many from their armies fell into these pits; and those who did not, fled to the mountains.



## A Complete Translation of Genesis 14

A Reasonably Literal Translation	A Reasonably Literal Paraphrase
They took all the wealth of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as all their food; and they departed. They also took Lot (Abram's brother's son) and all of his wealth, and they departed ([Lot was] the one living in Sodom).	The kings of the east took anything of value out of Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as all of their food; and they departed. They also took Lot and all of his wealth and departed (Lot was Abram's nephew and he lived in Sodom).
Abram is told about Lot, and his army defeats the eastern alliance of kings	
An escaped man came in and he makes [this] known to Abram the Hebrew. [At this time] he [is] living near the Oaks of Mamre, the Amorite [who is] the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aner—[in fact] these [men] are in league with Abram [lit., (are) possessors of a covenant of Abram].	A man who escaped the kings of the east came to Abram and made this information known to Abram the Hebrew. At this time, Abram was living near the Oaks of Mamre the Amorite, who is the brother of Eshcol and Aner, all of these men being confederates with Abram.
When Abram heard that his brother had been taken captive, he led forth [lit., emptied out] his trained men, those born in [lit., of] his house, 318 [men], and they pursued [them] as far as Dan. Abram [lit., he] divided [his troops] against them at night—he and his servants. He attacked them and then pursued them as far as Hobah, which [is] south of Damascus.	When Abram heard that Lot had been taken captive, he took 318 of his trained men, those of his household, and they pursued the kings of the east as far as Dan. Abram divided his troops at night and then attacked the kings of the east, pursuing them as far as Hobah, which is south of Damascus.
Abram [lit., he] brought back all of the wealth as well as Lot, his relative, and his wealth. He also brought back the women and the people.	Abram brought back all of the wealth that had been taken, as well as Lot, Lot's possession, and all of the women and the people of that area who were to be enslaved.
Abram interacts with the Priest-King of Salem and with the king of Sodom	
Consequently, the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that [were] with him in the Valley of Shaveh (that [is], the Valley of the King).	Consequently, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abram after he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the Valley of the King).
Also, Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He [was] a priest to El the Most High. Melchizedek then blessed Abram [lit., and so he blesses him] and said, "Blessed is Abram by El the Most High, possessor of heaven and earth. Furthermore, blessings to El the Most High Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." Therefore, Abram [lit., he] gave him a tenth of all.	Also, Melchizedek, the king of Salem, came out with bread and wine. He was a priest for that city to God the Most High. Melchizedek then blessed Abram, saying, "Blessing be to Abram by God the Most High, the Possessor and Redeemer of heaven and earth. Furthermore, let God the Most High be blessed—God Who has delivered your enemies into your hand in battle. Therefore, Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all he had.

## A Complete Translation of Genesis 14

A Reasonably Literal Translation	A Reasonably Literal Paraphrase
The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people [lit., <i>the soul</i> ] to me and take the wealth for yourself.”	The king of Sodom said, to Abram, “Give me the people but you may take the wealth that you recovered.”
Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised up my hand [as a vow] unto Y <sup>e</sup> howah, the El Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, not from a thread to the thong of a sandal [will I take]; in fact [lit., <i>and</i> ], I will not take from anything that [is] yours, so that you can never say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ Apart from me, only the young men have eaten. Also, a portion [for] the men who went out with me—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre—they will take their share.”	Abram then proclaimed to the king of Sodom, “I made a vow to Jehovah, God the Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a single thing that belongs to your or to your people. I made this vow so that you can never say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ However, I did have men who also fought, apart from me, and they have eaten some of the food. Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, the leaders of the men who went out with me, they will take their fair share.”

**Chapter Outline**

**Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines**

### The Stages of National Discipline Genesis 14 insert

One might call the book of Genesis, *the Book of Seeds*, because there are so many seeds of fundamental doctrines found in Genesis. One of the doctrines found in this chapter is called the *Cycles of Discipline* or the *Progression of National Discipline*, which sequence is laid out more specifically in Lev. 26:14–44. The 4<sup>th</sup> stage of national discipline is when a country is ruled over or controlled by an outside power. This is often because the people have become so degenerate that the authority and guidance of an outside power is necessary in order to provide structure for the society. This is known as *enforced humility*.

This is what has happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. Chedorlaomer, a king from the east, had conquered their country, and was taxing it. In order to be taxed by another country, there is some order that must be enforced by this outside power. This is what had gone on for over a decade (Gen. 14:4). Chedorlaomer had conquered Sodom and Gomorrah, as well as several other city-states in that area, and soldiers would have been left behind to provide some law and order, so that the tax could be collected.

If this nation in the 4<sup>th</sup> stage of discipline does not change its ways, which would mean to go from enforced humility to genuine humility, then they would be further disciplined, which could involve being enslaved and removed from their country, or being destroyed (which is the 5<sup>th</sup> and final stage of discipline).

These cycles of discipline (or stages of national discipline) are applied to a priest-nation because of its spiritual state; and they can be applied to a heathen nation for a variety of reasons, mostly related to the laws of divine establishment.

What has happened is, these city-states have gone from the **4<sup>th</sup> stage of discipline** (being controlled and taxed by an outside entity) to the **5<sup>th</sup> stage of national discipline** (being defeated and enslaved as a people, and then removed from their homeland).

When a people have gone into deep degeneracy, so that God will allow them to be under the 4<sup>th</sup> and even 5<sup>th</sup> stage of discipline, what is the best way for them to recover? Military discipline and military training followed by the application of military training (war). This has been an underlying theme of this chapter.

God will spell out these stages of discipline to the nation Israel in Lev. 26, and the history of Israel is going to be all about a nation going into degeneracy and then being subjected to these stages of discipline. In fact, the Northern Kingdom of Israel will go into captivity (the final stage of discipline) in 721 B.C. and the Southern Kingdom of Israel will go into captivity in 596 B.C.

**The Five Cycles of Discipline** (Chart); originally done by R. B. Thieme, Jr.; and reproduced on Joe Griffin's [website](#); accessed November 11, 2017

## The Five Cycles of Discipline to Client Nations

Leviticus 26:14-39

**The 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 (vv. 14-17).

**The second cycle:** Economic recession and depression, increased personal and individual discipline for continued negative volition in spite of the first warning (vv. 18-20).

**The third cycle:** Violence and breakdown of law and order; severe restriction of travel and commerce (vv. 21-22).

**The fourth cycle:** Military conquest and/or foreign occupation, scarcity of food (reduced to one-tenth the normal supply), separation of families (vv. 23-26).

**The fifth cycle:** Destruction of the nation due to maximum rejection of biblical principles (vv. 27-39).

R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Freedom through Military Victory*, 4th ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2003), 16n13.  
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## The Abbreviated Doctrine of the Five Stages of National Discipline

Chapter Outline

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

We should be aware that these stages of discipline, #1–5, were specifically designed by God for Israel. That means that, although our own nation may receive discipline, there is no requirement for it to follow these stages exactly. R. B. Thieme, Jr. coined the phrase the *5 cycles of discipline*.

## Links to the 5 Cycles (Stages) of [National] Discipline

R. B. Thieme, Jr. chart (posted by Joe Griffin Ministries):

<http://admin.joegriffin.org/Visuals/Five%20Cycles%20of%20Discipline-Lev.26.pdf>

Denver Bible Church:

<http://www.realtime.net/~wdoud/topics/fivecycles.html>

Grace and Truth Bible Ministries:

<http://www.gtbm.org/prayer.php?date=2009-09-20>

R. B. Thieme, Jr. Ministries (taken from notes):

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1568429/posts>

Although we do not necessarily follow these stages exactly, these are a good indicator of where a nation is at any given time.

## Bibliography

This is posted in [http://gracebiblechurchwichita.org/?page\\_id=1129](http://gracebiblechurchwichita.org/?page_id=1129) (January 15, 2011) and in <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/2820596/posts> Cvengr lists this as coming from the notes of by R. B. Thieme, Jr. from 1991.

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