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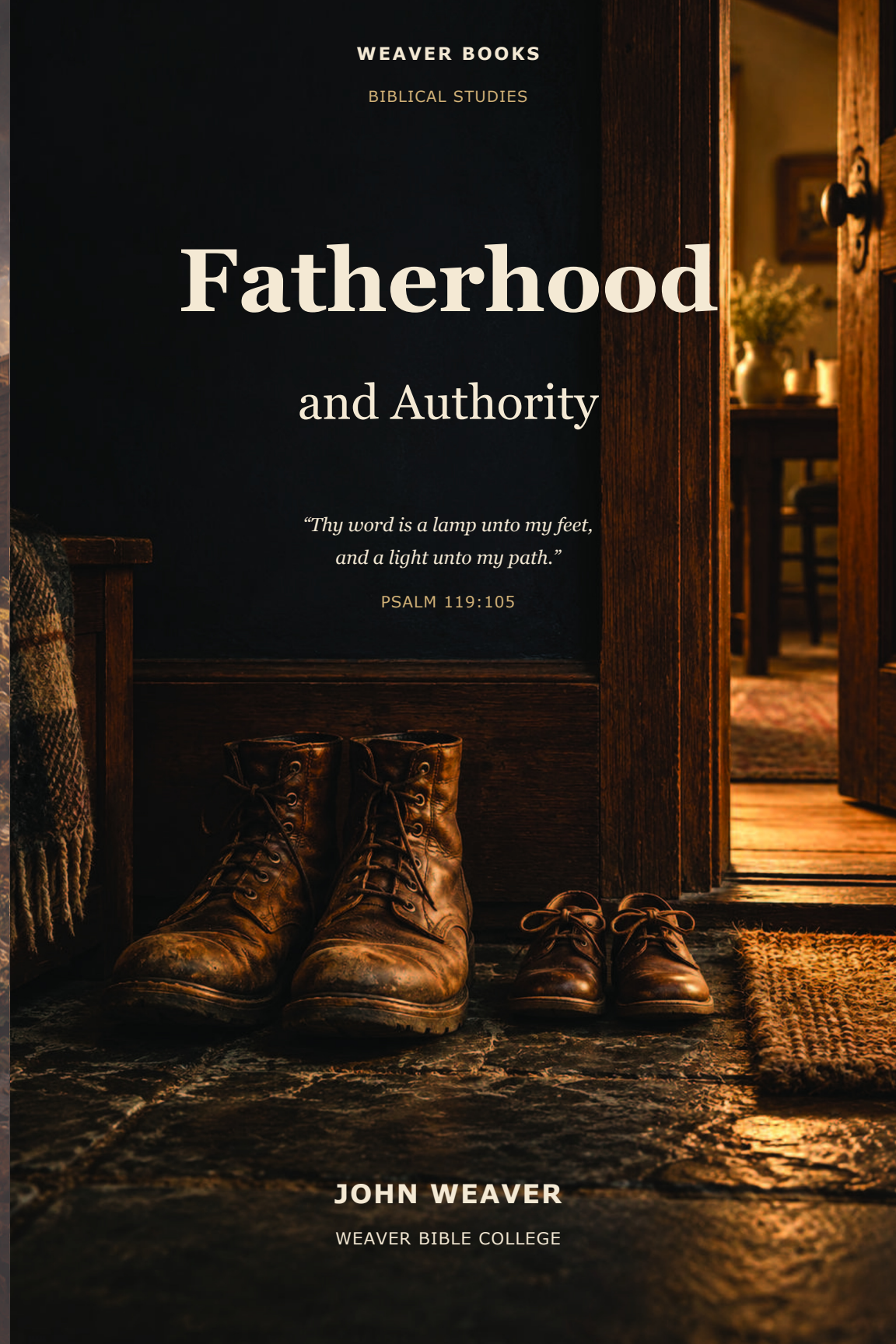
BIBLICAL STUDIES

Fatherhood

and Authority

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

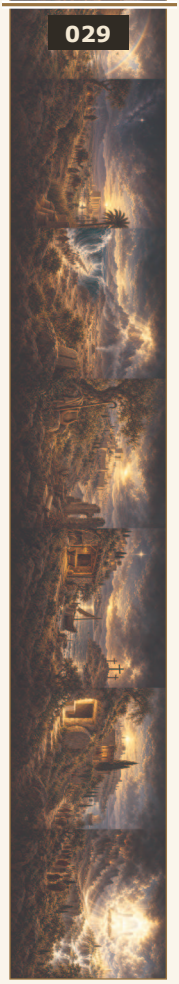
PSALM 119:105



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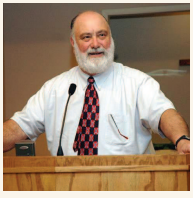
Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6:4, EXCERPT

Fatherhood joins authority with provision, discipline, and accountability. John Weaver examines the place of fatherly responsibility in the household and draws connections with the ordering of a people. This message asks how authority should be understood as a duty before God rather than merely as a claim to power or obedience.

“This truth should make something exceedingly clear: child discipline, child instruction, and child training are not forms of hate, but forms of love.”

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

John Weaver's sermons form the teaching collection presented by Weaver Bible College. This volume gathers his teaching from that collection.

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CHAPTER 1

Does America Have A Father Or Is It A Bastard Nation?

Introduction: The Question of America's Fatherhood

In Genesis chapter 17, we are going to read verses 4 and 5. However, I will not be expounding on these two verses other than showing you a development as we go through the Scriptures looking at them. God says, “And for me, behold, my covenant is with thee and thou shalt be a father of many nations.” He is speaking to Abram: “Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham, for a father of many nations have I made thee.” When God speaks of a father of many nations, He is not talking about a land mass or a geographical location. He is referring to people.

Historical and Spiritual Founding Fathers

The title of this sermon seems a bit strange and unique in one sense of the word. The question, Does America have a father, or is America a bastard nation? could be asked another way: Who is the father of our nation, if there is one? I am sure you could give me some historical answers. Most people would say that George Washington

is known as the father of our country, and that is certainly true. I believe George Washington was not only a noble man, but a godly man, and I certainly believe that he was a patriot.

Let me give you a couple of samples, and I will give you another quote later, of something George Washington said. On October 3, 1789, he said, “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.”

In his address to the Continental Army before the Battle of Long Island, on August 27, 1776, he said, “The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves, whether they are to have any property they can call their own, whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human effort will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend under God on the courage and the conduct of this army.”

"Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us no choice but a brave resistance or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die." Certainly, the truth enunciated in 1776 is equally true and valid today, because we have cruel and unrelenting enemies who have secured positions of power and wealth and seek basically to enslave the world.

When we talk about founding fathers, we can name Samuel Adams, John Adams, John Hancock, John Witherspoon, Ben Franklin, Jonathan Mayhew, Patrick Henry, George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, and a host of other men. Each had a major role in founding this country. As I think about these men, I think not only of their major role, but also that it is probably with regret and disappointment that we must say we have strayed from and left the principles they enunciated and set forth. If those men could see today what is going on, I am sure they would, in one sense of the word, be rolling over in their graves, because we have left everything for which they labored and sacrificed their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to secure. But we had not only founding fathers, per se; we also had spiritual fathers.

There were many pastors during the American War for Independence: Jonas Clark, John Witherspoon, Ezra Stiles, Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, Jacob Duchesne, who also gave the first prayer in Congress, Moses and Thomas Allen, Timothy Dwight, James Caldwell, John Gano, and a host of others.

Unhappily, most historians and most people today have not recognized the importance of God's preachers in the founding, and yea, even in the protection, of this country. Most people depend upon standing armies, great wealth, great weaponry, or something similar, thinking that our safety lies in those things. Let me give you a few quotes, and think about them as I give them to you.

Proverbs 20:7 says, “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” Psalm 147:10 says, “He delighteth not in the strength of a horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.” In other words, man's ability, man's strength, man's anything that man can do, it does not please God in and of himself. He takes no delight in the legs of a man.

Psalm 33:16–17 says, “There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.” Notice that everything is actually putting down what you and I would call that which we mainly depend upon.

I love Psalm 127:1, and I have quoted it very often: “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” Proverbs 21:31 says, “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.”

Biblical Basis: God's Protection Through His Representatives

Obviously, standing armies and great weaponry—none of this is really sufficient in defending a people or defending a nation apart from God Himself. Now, there are two very important Scriptures in relation to God's preachers and the protection of His nation. Everyone knows the names of Elijah and Elisha. These were two mighty men of God. They were used of God not only in protecting

that nation, but, in one sense of the word, in establishing the nation as well.

In 2 Kings 2, remember that God told Abram He was going to make him a father of many nations. Notice in verse 12 that Elijah passed by Elisha and threw his mantle upon him. Elisha said to him, “Let me go and say goodbye to my father and my mother.” And Elijah said, “What have I done with thee?”

Elisha went back, sacrificed his oxen, burned his plowing equipment, said goodbye to his father and mother, and followed Elijah and ministered to him. In fact, Elisha was known as the man who poured water upon the hands of Elijah. In other words, he was a servant to Elijah.

In 2 Kings 2, Elijah was about to be taken to heaven in a whirlwind. It came to pass, as they still went on and talked, that there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder. Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha saw it, and he cried, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof." He saw him no more, took hold of his own clothes, and ripped them to two pieces. Note what Elisha said when Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind: "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof."

In other words, he recognized that Elijah, being a representative of God, was indeed the true protection of the nation. When it came time for Elisha to die, King Joash basically said exactly the same thing concerning Elisha. In 2 Kings 13, verse 14, the Bible says, "Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness, whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my Father, my Father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof."

In other words, we must understand that our safety is really and truly dependent upon God. God speaks to us through His representatives, through His preachers, through His prophets. Through these preachers and prophets, He warns us, exhorts us, admonishes us, and encourages us. We must heed the warnings if we really and truly wish to be protected, and if we really and truly wish to be prosperous.

Since we are talking about fathers, we have talked about founding fathers and spiritual fathers in one sense of the word. God said to Abram that He was going to make him a father of many nations. In Romans 4, the New Testament gives us this truth again concerning Abram, beginning with verse 11.

Abraham as the Father of Believers and Paul as a Spiritual Father

"And he, that is Abraham, received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had, yet being uncircumcised." He received it "that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised, that righteousness might be imputed unto them also, and the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised." The Bible tells us that Abraham is indeed the father of all those who believe, and all those who believe are going to walk in the steps of Abraham.

The Apostle Paul himself claimed to be a spiritual father. How did he become a spiritual father? Through the ministry God gave him—preaching and teaching, by which many were converted. Paul started a number of churches, including the church at Corinth. He wrote to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 4:15: "For though you have 10,000 instructors in Christ, yet have you not many fathers. For in Christ Jesus have I begotten you through the gospel." Paul claimed to be their spiritual father because he was the means God used to convert them. Then he said to the Galatians, in Galatians 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Again, Paul appears as a spiritual father.

The Importance of Fatherly Authority and Headship

I am saying all this to point out that we have failed to recognize the significance and importance, or the necessity, of fathers and fatherhood. This is true not only in the familial realm, but also in the spiritual and national realms. When you look around our country, you find that feminism, wokeism, and all the other isms fight against fatherly authority, headship, and influence. God places a great deal

of emphasis upon the man and upon headship. I want to show you two passages that demonstrate this importance. Look in your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 11. I quoted this verse last week, but I want you to see it in light of what I am teaching this week. Look, please, at verse 3.

So the Apostle Paul enunciates God's order: “The head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man, and the head of Christ is God.” Here you have it: God, Christ, man, woman. That is God's order—not only His order, but the way everything moves.

Just as God requires the woman, the wife, and the mother to be in submission to her husband, He also requires the husband to be in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ. No one escapes submission. Even our Lord Jesus Christ, as He came as the God-man, submitted Himself to the will of His Father. So many times He said, “I came not to do My own will, but to Him, the will of Him that sent Me.” God, Christ, man, woman.

This is true in the home, and it is true in other areas as well. Now turn in your Bibles to Exodus, chapter 22, verses 16 and 17. I am trying to show you fatherly authority—patriarchal authority, if you wish to call it this. Look at this. Exodus chapter 22, beginning there with verse 16. Let me stop with verse 16. Look at this.

The Bible says, "And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife." So if a man then seduces a young woman, she's not betrothed, she's not married, she's not engaged, God said, he shall surely endow her to be his wife. In other words, he must marry her.

Now, if this law was applied, I think it would certainly cut down on a lot of fornication. But now watch if you would again, verse 16, because there's going to be an exception to this. Watch. "And if a man enticeth a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife, if her father utterly refused to give her unto him."

"He shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins." So the only exception to verse 16 is verse 17, if the father utterly refused to give her unto him. And in other words, even in an immoral situation, even what you and I might call an emergency situation, the father

still had the authority to say, "Yes, she may marry him," or "No, she may not marry him." And if he said no, then the man was to pay the young woman a dowry according to virgins, which was usually two to three years' wages. Yes. So, but the point I'm trying to make at this point is, obviously, here is fatherly authority clearly established in the Bible. So the father had the final say whether or not the daughter was to marry or not to marry.

Now, I want you to turn in your Bibles to Ephesians chapter 5. And here is another reason why. And I quoted this passage last week. So, Clay, I'm only hitting a light point of last week's message, okay? So, Mary, listen up. All right. So notice, if you would, Ephesians chapter 5. And let's begin reading there with verse 31. The Bible says, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

"This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ in the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular husbands so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband." So notice if you would, again, we're talking about a position of importance, a position of authority, and a position of honor.

Now, with this in mind, with the background, I want you to turn right over to Hebrews chapter 12, because you're going to see the connection, I hope now, of what I've been trying to show you in reference to fathers. There have been founding fathers, political fathers, spiritual fathers. So, let's begin reading with verse 5, Hebrews 12, verse 5. "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children."

The Definition of a Bastard from Hebrews 12

"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If you endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards, and not sons."

Concentrate with me on this truth: "But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards, and not sons."

Do not shy away from this word or be upset about it. It is a biblical word, and it conveys truth applicable not only to families, but also to the nation.

What in the world is a bastard? First of all, the Greek word is nothos, and it literally means a bastard, or what you and I would call an illegitimate son, one born out of wedlock. Such children in Bible times were usually born to concubines, prostitutes, or slaves. Today, many such children are born due to high immorality, governmental education, welfare, and ungodly and unbiblical sexual exploitation. Note, therefore, the significance of the word bastard in this context.

He said, "But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards and not sons." According to the Bible, a bastard is a fatherless child, one not loved by his father or by the man who sired him. Therefore, he is not only unloved; he is untaught, untrained, and undisciplined. He has no fatherly direction or instruction. He is not under a father's law. In other words, there is no accountability to this child because there is no authority over him.

This truth should make something exceedingly clear: child discipline, child instruction, and child training are not forms of hate, but forms of love. The father who loves his child will educate him, train him, and discipline him.

It is possible, as Scripture shows, that one could make himself a bastard. How could that happen? By refusing the authority, instruction, and law of the father; refusing to hear, heed, and obey. Such a child would be, for all practical purposes, what you and I would call a bastard.

Now, the interesting thing is this, and I'm going to show you very quickly. Such a person in the book of Proverbs is called a fool, foolish, a scorner, a despiser, and a grievous person. So let me show you. Turn in your Bibles, if you would, to the book of Proverbs chapter 10. And look, if you would please, at verse 1, Proverbs 10 and verse 1. I'll just show you several passages very quickly. Note, if you

would, what this child is called. Look at it. "The Proverbs of Solomon, a wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is heaviness, is the heaviness of his mother." A foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. Look in chapter 13 and verse 1. Here it is again. "A wise son heareth his father's instruction, but a scorner heareth not rebuke." A scorner heareth not rebuke. Look in Proverbs 15 and verse 5. Now, in this passage, he's called a fool. "A fool despiseth his father's instruction, but he that regardeth reproof is prudent." Skip down to verse 20 in the same chapter.

"A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish man despiseth his mother." Look, if you would, in Proverbs 17 and verse 21. Proverbs 17, verse 21. "He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow, and the father of a fool hath no joy." Skip down to verse 25. "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bear him." And then if you'll look in Proverbs chapter 19 and verse 13, the Scripture says, "A foolish son is the calamity of his father, and the contentions of a wife are continual dripping." A foolish son is the calamity of his father. So all through this book of Proverbs, he's been called a fool, he's been called foolish, he's been called a scorner, he's been called one who despises reproof and rebuke. Now, we've been talking about a father, and we've been talking about children.

And God said to Abram that I'm going to make thee a father of many nations. Let me say this again, and I'm going to show it to you from Scripture. A nation is not a landmass. A nation is a people. So I'm telling you that it is possible for individuals, for families, for churches, for nations to become bastards. So you could have a bastard, a bastard family, a bastard church, and a bastard nation.

A Nation Can Become a Bastard: The Example of Israel

I'll give you the prime example. If you will turn in your Bibles to the book of Isaiah chapter 1, Isaiah chapter 1, and you can see how bastard individuals become a bastard nation. Watch. Isaiah chapter 1, beginning there with verse 2. Look what God says. "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord hath spoken." Now note what God says, and He's talking about Israel.

He said, "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib. But Israel does not know. My people does not consider." In other words, they do not know which side their bread is buttered on. They do not even know where their bread comes from. They are dumber than an animal.

A nation is a people. It is usually a people of the same race, speech, or faith. He says, "Ah sinful nation of people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corruptors, they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel into anger, and they are going away backward." Now watch how impotent they are:

"Why should you be stricken anymore? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores. They have not been clothed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

Here is the result of having a bastard nation: "Your country is desolate. Your cities are burned with fire, your land, strangers devoured in your presence. It is desolate as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion, that would be Israel, is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city." So this passage not only states, but demonstrates rebellion, especially that of rebellious children.

They do not recognize their father, his law, or his authority. They are dumber than animals. They are laden with their sins and iniquities. They provoke God in His face and thumb their nose in His face. They are defiant unto Him. They refuse correction. Nothing that He does to them will turn them; it simply makes them worse and worse. They will not hear, heed, listen, or obey. Practically speaking, they have no father. They are bastards, and a bastard nation.

I was reading a short article by R.J. Rushdoony. In fact, the article was titled, “How to Pray Thy Kingdom Come.” I got the one paragraph, and that one paragraph got my mind to churning.

Rushdoony had been dead since ’91, I think it was, or ’99, sometime in the 90s. But listen to what he wrote.

“A fatherless home is a broken home, one lacking its true support and authority. Likewise, a people whose lives are lived apart from God the Father are without true authority and security. A godless nation is a nation in which authority and law are broken or corrupt because the only source of authority is denied or neglected. The nations of today are broken homes, breeding delinquency in the body politic because of their prodigal wandering from the authority of God the Father, who is alone the true sovereign of all nations. Having rejected His authority, they are subject to His judgment.”

Wow! When you look at America and what is going on today, it is absolutely astounding in light of what he wrote, because this is exactly where we are. That’s why you have congressmen like Jerry Nadler, who says the Bible has no place in Congress. Wow.

Nations Are People, Not Landmasses

Let me show you something. Go back in your Bibles to Psalm 33, and look, if you would please, at verse 12. Psalm 33, verse 12. Watch this. The Word of God says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” Now, wait, look at that again: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people.” It’s the people who make up the nation. The nation is the people. It is not a geographical landmass. So he says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom He hath chosen for His inheritance.”

You must understand this: nations may have God as their Lord and Father exactly as do individuals. So, in Psalm 33 and verse 12, the nation is defined as people, and people are defined as the nation. In other words, nations are made up of individuals. They are made up of people.

When you look at Psalm 65 and verse 4, the Bible says, “Blessed is the man whom thou choosest and causes to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even thy holy temple. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causes to approach unto thee.” So God chooses

individuals. Individuals are people, and people make up nations. This plainly ties the matter together. So let's tie this together plainly and look in Psalm 106. Let's begin reading there with verse 1, Psalm 106, verse 1.

The psalmist says, "Praise ye the Lord, O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can show forth all his praise? Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times." Then he prays, "Remember me, O Lord, with the favor that Thou bearest unto Thy people. O visit me with Thy salvation, that I may see the good of Thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Thy nation, that I may glory with Thine inheritance."

So He has chosen individuals. He has chosen people. Those people then make up the nation and His inheritance. The word nation does not refer specifically to a landmass or to borders, but to a people—a people of the same race, the same religion, the same faith, or the same language.

Turn back in your Bibles to Genesis chapter 25. Rebekah, Isaac's wife, was going to have twins, and those twins were struggling in her womb. Genesis 25:22 says, "And the children struggled together within her. And she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord." The Lord told her, "Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels. And the one people or the one nation shall be stronger than the other people of the other nation, and the elder shall serve the younger."

So a nation is a people. Two nations were in her womb; two peoples were in her womb. In other words, two different people, two different nations. The Edomites were not like the Israelites. They were totally, completely different. Exodus chapter 33 and verse 13 gives us the next passage to consider.

Moses says, "Now therefore I pray thee, if I found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight, and consider that this nation is thy people." This

nation is thy people. They were not in the promised land; they were not in a geographical landmass. He said, "this nation is thy people."

In Leviticus 20:23, God says, "And you shall not walk in the manner of the nation which I cast out before you." Obviously, they were going to walk on the same land, but a nation is not a land; a nation is people. He said, "And you shall not walk in the manner of the nation, or the people, which I cast out before you. For they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them."

"But I have said unto you, You shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey. I'm the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people." They were not going to walk like the other nation, that is, the other people, but God would give them their land. A nation is a people.

Deuteronomy 4 says, "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do so in the land whither you go to possess it." Moses tells the people, "Keep therefore and do them," that is, God's law and judgments, "for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations," not in sight of landmasses, but in sight of other people. "Which shall hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation, that is, this great people, is a wise and understanding people. For what nation or what people is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we shall call upon Him for."

"And what nation or what people is there so great that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day?" Notice how nations are indeed people.

Is it different in the New Testament? The answer is no. If you will turn in your Bibles to Matthew chapter 21, you remember how those Jews and the Pharisees hated the Lord Jesus and rejected Him. After He told the parable of the vineyard, notice what happened: "He finally sent His only Son, verse 39, and they caught him, cast him out of the vineyard, and they slew him." Well, that is exactly what they did to the Lord Jesus. Now, look what our Lord asked: "When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will He do unto those

husbandmen?" They said unto Him, "He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen, who will render Him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said unto them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures the stone which the builders rejected, the same has become the head of the corner."

"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Therefore say I unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation or a people bringing forth the fruits thereof." It is not given to a landmass. The landmass cannot bring forth any fruits thereof; it is the people that can do that. Our Lord said the kingdom is going to be taken from them and given to a people that will bring forth the fruits thereof. Thus, the nations are a people, and not necessarily a geographical piece of land.

Does America have a father, or is America a bastard nation? You remember that you can become a bastard by rejecting the authority of the Father, the law of the Father, and the rule of the Father. Isaiah chapter 1 makes that exceedingly clear. Consider a few quotes from our founding fathers, so to speak.

Evidence of America as a Bastard Nation

Fisher Ames, an influential member of the first federal Congress, recommended the Scriptures as a textbook. He said, "Should not the Bible regain the place it once held as a school book? Its morals are pure, its examples captivating and noble. In no book is there such good English, so pure and so elegant, and by teaching all from the same book, they will speak alike, and the Bible will justly remain the standard of language as well as of faith." How many government schools teach the Bible? Not even as English normally. No.

John Adams wrote to Benjamin Rush on February 2, 1807: “The Bible contains the most profound philosophy, the most perfect morality, and the most refined policy that ever was conceived upon earth. It is the most Republican book—that is, the rule of law—in the world, and therefore I will still revere it. Without national morality, a Republican government, or government of law, cannot be maintained.” Without national morality, a government of law cannot be maintained.

Patrick Henry said, “The Bible is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed.” John Jay, President of the Continental Congress, who also helped co-author the Federalist Papers and was the first Supreme Court Justice, said: “The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the Word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue, therefore, to read it and to regulate your life by its principles.”

George Washington said, “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.” Moreover, he said, “We owe God our sincere and humble thanks for the favorable interpositions of His providence.” John Adams, as a young man, wrote this in his diary in 1756: “Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precept there exhibited. Every member would be obliged in conscience to temperance, to frugality, and to industry, to justice, and kindness, and charity toward his fellow men, and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God. What a utopia, what a paradise that region would be if people just simply lived by the Bible.” Alexis de Tocqueville, the Frenchman who came to America and wrote Democracy in America, made this comment in the book: “Upon my arrival in the United States, the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention. The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive of the one without the other.” Christianity and liberty were so intertwined in the American mind when he came here that it was impossible to distinguish one without the other. That is the way it should be, for the Bible says, “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” Where He is not, there is no liberty. There is only enslavement.

John Adams said, “We recognize no sovereign but God and no king but Jesus.” These men were the ones who helped found this country. Adams also said, “The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the precepts of Christianity. The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the great principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity

are as eternal and immutable as the existence and the attributes of God."

He went on to say, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this, it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government and the principles of Christianity." In 1776, at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he said, "We have this day restored the sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven from the rising to the setting sun. Let his kingdom come."

John Adams wrote to John Scolay in 1776, "Revelation assures us that righteousness exalted the nation. Communities are dealt with in this world by the wise and just ruler of the universe. He rewards or punishes them according to their general character." Happiness is connected to virtue. When virtue is diminished, happiness is diminished, liberty is diminished, and freedom is diminished.

The Bible says in Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." There is the nation and there is the people. We could say righteousness exalteth the people, because a nation happens to be the people. Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and the nations that forget God." It is not the land masses that will be turned into hell, but the people, because nations are people.

Is America a bastard nation? Has America forsaken God the Father, His law, His authority, and His instruction? What is a bastard? It is a child who has no fatherly presence or influence in his life, a child who is not disciplined and is rebellious and wicked. Hence the Bible says in Hebrews 12, "He scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons. For what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

Application and Call to Repentance

If someone who professes to be a Christian can consistently and constantly sin and rebel against God, go contrary to God's law and authority, and does not get chastened, whipped, corrected, or

scourged, then that individual is not a Christian. He's a bastard. God chastens His own. I have never whipped any of Steve and Lorraine's children; they're not mine. I have no fatherly authority to do that. That's Steve's position. God is not going to whip those who do not belong to Him.

If this is true individually, it is also true nationally, because individuals make up nations. Nations are people, and people are nations. If a nation can flout God and His law, thumb its nose in God's face, and commit all kinds of wickedness, perversions, murder, and whatever it chooses, it is not a Christian nation. It's a bastard nation. Proverbs 3 and verse 12 says, "For whom the Lord loveth, he correcteth, even as a father, the son, in whom he delighteth." For whom the Lord loveth, he correcteth.

Correcting, chastening, scourging, and discipline are acts of love. “For whom the Lord loveth, he correcteth.” You know what our Lord said to the church of Laodicea in Revelation chapter 3 and verse 19? He said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous therefore and repent.” As many as He loves, He rebukes and chastens. If you do not get rebuked when you sin, if you do not get chastened when you’re sinned, you are not loved by Him as a child. You follow that?

These truths are very serious, and also very applicable. When we speak of the lack of discipline, immorality, destruction of the rule of law, rise of sexual perversions, subsidizing wickedness by our government and groups, loss of liberty, denial of rights, destruction of the home, mocking of patriarchy, and rise of a matriarchal society, all this points to the realization that, in reality, we are a bastard nation.

Everywhere you turn, husbands are put down. Fathers are put down. Patriarchy is put down. Why? Because we are rejecting all authority—from that of our Heavenly Father to that of earthly fathers—which is evidence of a bastard nation. Thomas Paine, in The American Crisis, said, “I am as confident as I am that God governs the world, that America will never be happy till she gets clear of her foreign dominion.”

When he wrote that, of course, he was speaking of George III, King of England. However, the larger problem that we possess in this nation is that we are indeed still under foreign dominion. It is not just England; it is those who call themselves the elite, who are planning our destruction, enslavement, and destruction of everything Christians hold dear. Now we are under foreign dominion.

When you read Deuteronomy chapter 28, that is the result of forsaking God and His law. It is denial of our Father's authority. The only way out of a bastard nation is to return to the Father. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "I'm the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." So we must come back in humility, repentance, faith, and obedience. We must learn to submit to our Father's authority, or else continue on the road of judgment. A nation that has God as its Father is an orderly, obedient, law-abiding nation, full of good works, worship, and faith—a nation of law, justice, and righteousness.

When you look around today, we see corruption in the White House, Congress, the court system, big business—corruption everywhere. Why? Because we rejected the authority of the father and his law. We are evidencing the fact that we have turned our backs upon him, just like Israel in Isaiah chapter one, and have become a bastard people and a bastard nation, because the people are the nation.

The only way out is repentance, obedience, and faith. It is a sobering truth. Unless there is real, genuine repentance, as bad as things are now, you ain't seen nothing yet. It will get worse without repentance and without faith.

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we bow to Thee. We thank You for Your Word and Your truth. We ask, Lord, that You would help us, teach us, build us up in the most holy faith, and grant us repentance. As the psalmist prayed, "Turn us, O God, and we shall be turned. Quicken us, Lord, and we shall call upon Thy name." Grant us faith and obedience. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

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