

Does God Judge & Restore Nations?

In November of 2012 I was in Jerusalem and I had the opportunity to see a part of King Hezekiah's ancient wall. It motivated me to go back and read the stories of the Kings of Israel and Judah. I read from King Hezekiah to King Josiah in II Chronicles Chapters 29 through 37. There were several bad Kings who did not follow God and serve Him, and there were a few good Kings who did follow Him. I began to see a pattern where the bad Kings' actions would bring God's judgment and punishment. Once the punishment was decreed by God, it was certain to happen... but timing of the

judgment was variable. If a King desired to follow God and brought the nation and people back to God, there was a general pattern that the King would follow, and that would result in great joy, peace and prosperity for the nation. However, when a bad King would turn away from God again and lead the people away from God, the judgment that God had already pronounced, would be released.



By Dan Schaffer

Two things began to be clear to me. First, nations (and institutions) are under God's Law and not His grace. Second, I needed to further understand the general pattern that could bring a nation back to God.

As I read through the accounts, this is the pattern that I saw:



1. The King (leader) had to "initiate" the move back to God.
2. Good Kings tore down and destroyed the alters to other gods... burned their idols
3. Good Kings restored the temple, the place where God abodes. The temple needed to be restored so that there was an appropriate place for God to exist.
4. The Books of Truth or God's Laws were found and read publicly.
5. That Truth led to public confession of their rebellion and sin.
6. God defined specific actions required to come back to Him. (Depending upon their sins... those actions required by God, could be very difficult and harsh)
7. King's obedience in following God led to public worship, great joy and celebration.
8. Additionally, the fertility of the land was restored, the nation was at peace and economic prosperity was restored.
9. This continued as long as the King and the people followed God.
10. God's judgment was withheld... until they sinned again... and it was then released!

Now let us go back to the first point. Nations and bureaucracy are under God's Law and not grace. Christ died for individuals not for nations or institutions. Do you agree with this?

If this is true then God's wrath is put off but not forgiven when the nation or institution turns it's back to Him. The judgment is not permanently removed. When the nation turns away from God the judgment comes back.

When we as individuals repent the blood of Christ pays for our sin and the penalty of sin is removed...forever! 1John 1:8-10

There are two questions we must wrestle with.

- Are we as a nation (and churches, institutions) under God's judgment?
- If so, what should be our response to forestall His judgment?

The Building Brothers Process

Building Brothers is helping Churches face one of the greatest challenges in modern time. As Dan Schaffer states...

**“Our Society is in crisis (*because*)...
The Church is in crisis (*because*)...
Families are in crisis (*because*)...
MEN are in crisis!!!!”**

The BB Process helps Churches, by offering a **relational process** designed expressly for men and geared to equip men for their passionate pursuit of God. The goal is to build men into **Spiritual Fathers** and they then become **Spiritually Reproductive**... overcoming the crisis!!

Some Outcomes of the Building Brothers “Leadership Training”:

- Affirm that men are Foundational to the life and health of the Church.
- Identify and assist in overcoming the Barriers that prevent men from passionately pursuing God
- Understand how to build a unique Pathway for men to spiritually mature, grow.



- Learn and understand the Process of becoming **Reproductive Spiritual Fathers**.

The Building Brothers “Phase Training” is expressly men who have participated in either the **3-day BB Leadership Training**

or the **BB Pastors Overview** ... AND ... desire to enter into the year-long transformational Four Phase Process of becoming a **Spiritual Father**.

Some areas covered in BB “Phase Training”:

- **Filling the Father Vacuum** thus allowing each man to experience God as the loving Father that He is.
- **Finding a Safe Place** for men so they can be open and ask the right questions.
- **Becoming Servant Leaders** and building unity and trust among men in their small group.
- **Identifying the Pathway** to take men from spiritual childhood to spiritual maturity, Spiritual Fatherhood and life-giving in our local church.
- **Pursuing and knowing God** together, which is the source of what we desire in the Christian life.

Completing the Call - Helping Churches Build Men Into Spiritual Fathers, is a video narrated by **Dan Schaffer** and is available for viewing online. In the video, he discusses subjects that many clergy and laity avoid talking about publicly.

For anyone who has heard him speak, knows that he has a **God-given gift of taking subjects that range from the sublime to the controversial, handling them vigorously, and with sensitivity**. Dan is at his best in the video, **Completing the Call**. His narration transcends sublimity and controversy in a compelling discussion about the Church that you will want to hear again and again. Here’s a brief outline of the topics covered in this 8-minute video.

Three Primary Groups Within the Church

1. Consumer
2. Discouraged
3. Hungry

Three Levels of Spiritual Maturity (see *1 John 2:11-14*)

1. The Child
2. The Young Man
3. The Spiritual Father

Some International News!

Germany

This last May, 12 German leaders, involved in the BB Process, traveled to the US for 10 days. These dedicated men really grew in their passion for helping German men become Spiritual Fathers. The men ranged in age from 21 to 69 and enjoyed several days of great fellowship, interactive discussions and visits at the Schaffer home in Elizabeth, Co. and time at the Preuss’s Saddleback Ranch in Loveland, Colorado.

The BB Ministry in Germany continues to expand with 3 Churches currently active in the Four Phase Process and 10 Men’s groups outside the church are also very active. The Folks Mission Denomination is opening up and they will be introducing the BB Four Phase Process to two churches in Hungary.

Dan will be traveling to Germany at the end of September to speak at a men’s conference and train in Northern and Southern Germany.

We are very excited to report that we now have three German men, officially trained as a “Certified Phase I Trainer”. All 3 are now progressing through Phase II Trainer Certification.

Ghana West Africa

Between 5 and 15 young pastors, “hungry” to become Spiritual Fathers are entering into the Four Phase Process. We look forward to reporting on the fruit of this excited group.

East Coast USA Base Camp

These five men have completed the BB process have come together, grown and are launching groups in Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. All were committed practicing Christians but have experienced a safe place, deeper understanding, renewed passion and are taking the next step in starting the reproductive process. This has become the foundation that they will minister out of.

Video conferencing

We continue to use Skype technology to maximize our impact and minimize travel. We are pleased with the results and find the technology effective for interactions with these men who we could not visit! As Dan facilitates the training through the Phases, we have experienced that the Process is very effective and the men are truly impacted...they positively engage as Dan mentors the Process.