

The Parallels between the Two Ages in the Providence of Restoration

: Foundation for the Messiah

Since the ultimate purpose of the <u>providence of restoration</u> is to lay the <u>foundation for the Messiah</u>, if it is prolonged, the dispensations to restore this foundation must be repeated (p. 313).

Characteristics of the providence of restoration

- : Foundation for the Messiah Repetition of restoration through indemnity
- Central figure, central : material

This has meant, in effect, the repetition of dispensations to restore through indemnity the symbolic offering and the substantial offering.

Characteristics of the providence of restoration

: Foundation for the Messiah Repetition of restoration through indemnity

Central figure, central : material





The <u>nation centrally responsible</u> for God's providence in the <u>Age of the Providence of Restoration</u> was <u>Israel</u>.

Characteristics of the providence of restoration : Foundation for the Messiah Repetition of restoration through indemnity

Central figure, central : material



Hence, the Old Testament, which records the <u>history of Israel</u>, provides the source material with which to study the history of the providence in that age (p. 314).

Characteristics of the providence of restoration : Foundation for the Messiah Repetition of restoration through indemnity

: Central figure, central material



The people who became centrally responsible for the providence in the <u>Age of the Prolongation of the Providence of Restoration</u> were the <u>Christians</u>.

Foundation for the Messiah Repetition of restoration through indemnity

Characteristics of the providence of restoration

Central figure, central : material



Accordingly, the <u>history of Christianity</u> provides the source material for understanding the providential history in this age.



The Period of Slavery in Egypt and the Period of Persecution in the Roman Empire



1 The period of <u>slavery in Egypt</u> was for the restoration of the 400-year period from Noah to Abraham, which had been defiled due to <u>Abraham's</u> mistake in his offering (p. 315).



2 The corresponding period of <u>persecution in the Roman Empire</u> was to restore this previous period through parallel indemnity conditions.



By enduring the suffering, the Christians were restoring through indemnity the 400-year period of preparation for the advent of the Messiah, which had been defiled due to the Jewish people's mistake in leading him to the <u>cross</u>.



1 During the period of <u>Egyptian slavery</u>, after <u>Jacob</u> entered Egypt with his twelve sons and seventy kinsmen, their <u>descendants</u> suffered terrible abuse at the hands of the Egyptians for <u>four hundred years</u>.



2

During the period of <u>Roman persecution</u>, <u>Jesus</u>' twelve apostles and seventy disciples were the first of many generations of Christians who suffered severe persecution in the Roman Empire over a period of <u>four hundred years</u>.





At the end of Israel's <u>slavery in Egypt</u>, <u>Moses</u> brought the Pharaoh to his knees by the power of the three signs and ten plagues. He then led the Israelites out of Egypt and set out for the land of <u>Canaan</u> (p. 316).





Toward the end of the period of <u>persecution in the Roman Empire</u>, <u>Jesus</u> increased the numbers of believers by moving their hearts with his power and grace.



Roman Persecution

2) Jesus: power and grace

Constantine: recognize

Theodosius I: state religion



Jesus led Emperor Constantine to recognize Christianity and Theodocius I to establish Christianity as the <u>state religion</u>. Christians thus <u>restored Canaan spiritually</u> inside the Roman Empire, the Satanic world.





Moses received the <u>Ten Commandments</u> and God's Word revealed in the Law, which formed the core of the Old Testament Scriptures.



By setting up and honoring the tablets of stone, the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle, he paved the way for the Israelites to prepare for the coming of the <u>Messiah</u>.



Christians gathered the <u>writings</u> left behind by the apostles and evangelists and established the canon of the <u>New Testament</u>. They built up churches and expanded their foundation to prepare for the <u>Second Coming of Christ</u>.



The Period of the Judges and the Period of Regional Church Leadership



After the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, <u>fifteen judges</u> including <u>Samson</u>, Eli and Samuel governed the Israelite tribes for four hundred years. This is called the period of the judges (p. 317).



2 In the New Testament Age, the period of <u>regional church leadership</u> was set up to restore the period of the judges through parallel indemnity conditions.



In this period, <u>regional church leaders</u> – patriarchs, bishops and abbots – led Christian society, and they had duties similar to those of the judges.



1

The judges filled the various responsibilities of prophet, priest, and king, which became separate offices in the later periods. Israel in this period was a <u>feudalistic society</u>.





Like the judges of the Old Testament Age, the <u>regional church leaders</u> had duties similar to those of prophet, priest, and king. Christian society in this period was a <u>feudalistic society</u> under these local authorities.



BENIAMIN

The Period Savery Slavs of the United Kingdom and the Period Bavara of the Christian Empire and the Avara

scany

Anglo Saxon



United kingdom



1 In the period of the <u>united kingdom</u>, the functions of the judge were apportioned to the offices of prophet, priest and king.



The <u>prophets</u> received instructions directly from God, the <u>priests</u> kept charge over the Tabernacle and later the Temple, and the <u>king</u> governed the nation.



Each carried on their distinct missions in guiding Israel to accomplish the goal of the providence of restoration (p. 318).



2 The purpose of the period of the <u>Christian empire</u> was to restore the period of the united kingdom through parallel indemnity conditions.



Thus, the missions of the regional church leaders were apportioned to the offices of <u>monastic leaders</u> corresponding to the prophets, the <u>pope</u> corresponding to the high priest, and the <u>emperor</u>, who ruled the people.



They were responsible to guide the Second Israel to accomplish the goal of the providence of restoration.



1 About eight hundred years after Abraham's descendants entered Egypt, by God's command the prophet <u>Samuel</u> anointed <u>Saul</u> as the <u>first king</u> of the First Israel (p. 319).





Likewise, Pope <u>Leo III</u> crowned <u>Charlemagne</u> and blessed him as the <u>first emperor</u> of Christendom (Second Israel) in 800 A.D. (p. 321).





Because <u>King Saul</u> disobeyed the commands of God, he was in no position to build the Temple.



Forty years of King David's reign and forty years of King Solomon's reign would pass before the foundation of faith was laid and the Temple built.


Nevertheless, <u>King Solomon</u> left the position of Abel for the substantial offering when he fell into lust. Hence, there was <u>no way</u> for Israel to establish the foundation of substance or <u>foundation for the Messiah</u> (p. 320).



2 In the period of the Christian empire, the <u>emperors</u> did not remain obedient to God's Will and left the position of Abel for the substantial offering.



Hence, neither the foundation of substance nor the <u>foundation</u> for the Second Advent of the Messiah was established.



The Period of the Divided Kingdoms of North and South and the Period of the Divided Kingdoms of East and West



Because King Solomon worshipped idols, the <u>united kingdom</u> of Israel was divided upon his death, having lasted only three generations.



The kingdom of <u>Israel in the north</u> was in the position of Cain, while the kingdom of <u>Judah in the south</u> was in the position of Abel.



2 After bitter and constant conflict among Charlemagne's descendants, the <u>Christian empire</u> also began to divide in the third generation into the <u>East Franks and the West Franks</u>.



The East Franks stood in the <u>Abel position</u> towards the West Franks (p. 321-2).



1 In the period of the <u>divided kingdoms of north and south</u>, whenever the <u>Israelites</u> strayed from the ideal of the Temple, God sent many prophets to move them to <u>internal reform</u>.



However, because they did not repent, God <u>chastised them externally</u> by sending gentile nations such as Babylon to attack them.



2 During the parallel period of the <u>divided kingdoms of east and</u> <u>west</u>, the <u>papacy</u> was corrupt. God sent prominent monks to promote <u>internal reform</u> in the Church.



Divided kingdoms of E-W

Since the papacy and the Church did not repent, God chastised them externally by letting their people fight the Muslims. This was the providential reason behind the Crusades.



1 The period of the <u>divided kingdoms</u> of north and south came to an end when gentile nations took the people of <u>Israel and Judah</u> into exile. They put an end to the <u>monarchy in Israel</u> (p. 323).



Likewise, at the close of the period of the <u>divided kingdoms</u> of east and west, the <u>papacy</u> had completely lost its prestige and credibility after the repeated <u>defeats</u> of the Crusades.



Christianity thus lost its center of spiritual sovereignty. Moreover, since the lords and knights were decimated by the Crusades, and the papacy and the feudal lords had spent enormous funds to pursue these unsuccessful wars, they were left impoverished. <u>Monarchic Christianity began to erode</u>.

Section 5

The Period of Israel's Exile and Return and the Period of Papal Exile and Return



1 When <u>the Israelites</u> fell into faithlessness, God had them suffer hardships as exiles in <u>Babylon</u>.



Nearly <u>seventy years</u> elapsed from the time King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took into captivity <u>King Jehoiachin</u> and many other of the Israelites, until Babylon fell (p. 323, 4).



2 In the period of <u>papal exile and return</u>, God allowed the <u>popes</u> to be taken into exile and suffer captivity in <u>Avignon</u> for seventy years from 1309 (p. 324, 5).



After <u>Persia</u> conquered Babylon, and King <u>Cyrus</u> liberated the Israelites, it took another <u>140 years</u> for the exiles to return to their homeland in <u>three waves</u>, until they fully reformed themselves as a nation united around <u>God's Will</u> to prepare for the coming of the Messiah as proclaimed by <u>Malachi</u> (p. 324).



2 After the pope returned to <u>Rome</u>, a period of approximately <u>140 years</u> ran, through the Great Schism, the conciliar movement and the <u>restoration of papal authority</u> in the Roman church, to the eve of the Protestant Reformation spearheaded by Martin Luther in 1517 (p. 325).



The Period of Preparation for the Advent of the Messiah and the Period of Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah

400 years from the return to Jerusalem until Jesus came







After the Israelites returned to <u>Jerusalem</u>, another four hundred years elapsed before Jesus came. This was the period of <u>preparation for the advent of the Messiah</u>.



2 After the papacy returned to <u>Rome</u>, Christianity is to meet Christ at his Second Advent only after passing through four hundred years of the period of <u>preparation for the Second Advent</u> of the Messiah (p. 325-6).



- 1
- The <u>Israelites</u> established the <u>foundation of faith</u> by repenting of their past sin of idolatry, <u>rebuilding</u> the Temple, and reforming their faith based on the Mosaic Law under the guidance of <u>Ezra the scribe</u>.



Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah

2 Christians

 Reformation led by Luther



Foundation of faith: restored

2

Likewise, medieval <u>Christians</u> established the <u>foundation of faith</u> by seeking to reform the Roman church; these efforts culminated in the Protestant <u>Reformation</u> led by Martin Luther.



Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah

2 Christians

 Reformation led by Luther

— New paths of faith



Foundation of faith: restored

This movement pierced the gloom of medieval Europe with the light of the Gospel and pioneered <u>new paths of faith</u>.



(1)

In the period of <u>preparation</u> for the advent of the Messiah, among the world's peoples, God founded <u>religions</u> suited to their regions and cultures by which they could make the necessary <u>internal preparations</u> to receive the Messiah.

) World religions to be united in Christian civilization

Internal preparation for the Messiah



Jesus was to come upon this worldwide foundation of preparation and bring together all religions into one worldwide Christian civilization (p. 327).



2 In the period of <u>preparation</u> for the Second Advent of the Messiah, beginning with the <u>Renaissance</u>, progress in virtually every field of human endeavor, including politics, economy, culture and science, has increased at a rapid rate, creating a global environment conducive to the work of Christ at his <u>Second Coming</u> (p. 327-8).



- 1
 - In Jesus' day, the <u>Roman Empire</u> ruled the vast domains, integrated by an <u>advanced</u> and extensive transportation system, and it was the center of a vast <u>Hellenistic</u> civilization.

- **1**) Vast political domain of Roman Empire
- Rebuilding the Temple
- Hellenistic civilization
 - Transmission of teachings of the Messiah



Thus, all the necessary preparations had been made for a swift transmission of the <u>teachings of the Messiah</u> to the world.

Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah

Nn

- **1**) Vast political domain of Roman Empire
- Rebuilding the Temple
- Hellenistic civilization
 - Transmission of teachings of the Messiah

2) Global democratic political sphere

YES

2

Similarly, in the <u>present era</u> of the Second Advent, the democratic political sphere has expanded throughout the world.

Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah



The rapid progress of transportation and communication and the extensive contact among languages and cultures have brought the world much closer together.

Preparation for the Second Advent of the Messiah



- 2) Global democratic political sphere
- Progress
 of transportation
 and communication
- Contact among languages and cultures
- Conveyance of teachings of the returning Christ

These factors have fully prepared an environment in which the teachings of the <u>returning Christ</u> can freely and swiftly be conveyed to the hearts of all humankind.



The Providence of Restoration




The <u>Kingdom of Heaven</u> on earth is a society whose structure is formed in the image of a <u>perfect person</u>. Likewise, <u>fallen society</u> may be regarded as formed in the likeness of a <u>fallen person</u>.



We can better understand the history of societies built by sinful humanity by examining the inner life of a fallen person.



Since human society is composed of individuals who are constantly <u>at war</u> within themselves, interactions among them cannot help but be full of <u>discord</u> and conflict.



<u>Human history</u> has consisted of people's conflict-ridden social relationships constantly changing with the course of time. Hence, it has necessarily unfolded in strife and warfare.



Progress in <u>history</u> thus originates with individuals who, even amidst the vortex of good and evil, make determined efforts to reject <u>evil</u> and promote <u>goodness</u>.



Therefore, the world toward which history is progressing is the Kingdom of Heaven, where the goal of goodness will be realized (p. 329).



Meanwhile, on the basis of his relationship of blood ties with the first human beings, <u>Satan</u> has worked through <u>fallen people</u> to realize, in advance of God, a perverted form of the ideal society which God intends to realize.



Unprincipled societies built on twisted versions of the Principle

As a result, in human history we witness the rise of <u>unprincipled societies</u> which are built upon twisted versions of the Principle.



At the end of human history, before <u>God</u> can restore the <u>Kingdom of Heaven</u> on earth, Satan will have built an unprincipled world in a distorted image of the Kingdom: this is none other than the <u>communist world</u>.



The first society built by <u>fallen people</u> was a <u>primitive collective society</u>. Due to the activity of the original mind calling people to respond to God's providence, <u>divisions</u> between relative good and evil surely arose in primitive societies (p. 329-30).



God called <u>Abraham</u> out of the sinful world to be the standard-bearer of goodness and blessed him with <u>descendants</u> who would uphold the Will of God. God raised Abraham's descendants into the first <u>Israelite clan society</u>.



They entered Egypt as a clan society, but by the time they left Egypt for Canaan, they had grown into a tribal society.

Israel feudalistic society

Divisions

Abraham Tribe and nation in Egypt

Period of Judges

The Israelite society in the <u>period of the judges</u> was a <u>feudalistic society</u>. It is the nature of a feudalistic society that its people espouse the beliefs of their lord and obey his commands.

Israel feudalistic society

Divisions

Abraham Tribe and nation in Egypt

Period of Judges Establishment of Heavenly sovereignty

The main reason that a clan society develops into a feudalistic society is to bring property and people, which had belonged to Satan, back to God's side (p.331).





The <u>monarchic society</u> amalgamated the smaller units of political and economic sovereignty secured by the earlier feudalistic society into a single territory with a large population, a strong economy and a well-defended sovereignty.

United kingdom Society population, economy, and sovereignty



This was done with the establishment of the <u>united kingdom</u> of Israel founded by King Saul (p.331)



After the fall of <u>Judah</u>, God kept the throne of Israel vacant and put the Jewish people under the control of successive <u>gentile empires including Greece</u>.



God fashioned Israel's society in the <u>form of Greek democracy</u> in order that when the <u>Messiah</u> came, he could be enthroned by the will of the people (p.332).

United kingdom Society population, economy, and sovereignty



However, the <u>Jewish</u> public crucified <u>Jesus</u>. Consequently, the purpose of the providence was attained only <u>spiritually</u>.

7.2 The Progress of History in the Age of the Prolongation of the Providence of Restoration

7.2.1 The Providence of Restoration and the History of the West



Had the Jewish people believed in <u>Jesus</u> as the Messiah and united with him, the <u>Roman Empire</u>, which had unified the ancient world around the <u>Mediterranean</u> Sea, would have been won over by Jesus during his lifetime.

7.2 The Progress of History in the Age of the Prolongation of the Providence of Restoration

7.2.1 The Providence of Restoration and the History of the West



Jesus would have been honored throughout the empire as the King of Kings and established a worldwide dominion with <u>Jerusalem</u> as its capital (p. 332-3).



However, since <u>Jesus</u> was crucified, the <u>Western Roman Empire</u> came to an end in 476 A.D., and the center of God's providence of restoration shifted from <u>Judea</u>, the land of God's bitter grief, to <u>Western Europe</u>, formerly the territory of the <u>Western Roman Empire</u>.



Accordingly, the spiritual providence of restoration based on Christianity has been conducted primarily in Western Europe. Only in Western Europe has the history of this era progressed strictly according to the <u>pattern</u> set by the providence of restoration.

7.2.2 The Mutual Relations between Religious History, Economic History and Political History



Although <u>religion</u> and <u>economy</u> seem to develop at <u>variance</u> with each other, they are related in the life of society. Thus, there has been some mutual influence between the <u>history of Christianity</u> and <u>economic history</u>. 7.2.2 The Mutual Relations between Religious History, Economic History and Political History



Religion and economy are integrated with our life in society through politics. Therefore, to accurately grasp the progress of history as it moves toward the goal of the providence of restoration, we must investigate separately the <u>Christian, economic</u>, and <u>political histories</u> (p. 334-5).

7.2.3 Clan Society

Jewish nation Crucifixion of Jesus Broken up Christian clan society Believers

With the crucifixion of Jesus, the <u>Jewish nation</u> had fallen to Satan's side. Consequently, God <u>broke up</u> that society, calling devout believers out of it to establish a <u>Christian clan society</u> (p. 335-6).

7.2.3 Clan Society



Despite severe persecution, Christian clan society gradually prospered in the Roman Empire and developed into a <u>Christian tribal society</u>.

7.2.3 Clan Society



Christian society expanded greatly as Christianity was brought to the <u>Germanic peoples</u> who migrated into this territory in the latter half of the fourth century.

7.2.4 Feudalistic Society



A <u>feudalistic society</u> was born in Europe when, around the fall of the <u>Roman Empire</u>, imperial authority waned and the empire sank into chaos.

7.2.4 Feudalistic Society



God raised a feudalistic society among the newly-Christianized <u>Germanic peoples</u> whom He had chosen to lead the providence.

7.2.4 Feudalistic Society



By strengthening small units under godly sovereignty in the spheres of <u>religious</u>, <u>political</u>, and economic life</u>, God laid the groundwork to establish a godly kingdom (p. 337).

7.2.5 Monarchic Society and Imperialism



Spiritual kingdom under papacy

(9C ~ 16C)

Monarchic Christianity



In the sphere of <u>religion</u>, monarchic Christianity was a <u>spiritual kingdom</u> which transcended national borders. It was established under the rule of the papacy and upon the spiritual foundation for the Messiah (p. 338).

7.2.5 Monarchic Society and Imperialism



In the <u>political</u> sphere, <u>absolute monarchies</u> flourished from the seventeenth century until the French Revolution in 1789 (p. 339).

7.2.5 Monarchic Society and Imperialism



In the progress of <u>economic</u> history, feudalism was followed by capitalism, which was accompanied by the age of <u>colonial</u> <u>expansion</u>.



God began a process that would eventually tear down monarchic societies and raise up <u>democracies</u> in their place in order to rebuild a sovereign nation fit to receive the Messiah (p. 340).



The progress of history in the <u>religious</u> sphere moved to the stage of <u>democratic Christianity</u> after the Protestant Reformation of 1517 (p. 341).



In the <u>political</u> sphere, the <u>democratic movements</u> which rose in the late eighteenth century gave rise to revolutions in England, America and France, giving birth to today's democratic societies (p. 340-1).



Within the progress of <u>economic</u> history, <u>socialist</u> ideals arose which undermined imperialism and fostered a democratic form of economy.

7.2.7 The Ideals of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universally Shared Values versus Communism



In seeking for a socialistic society on <u>Heaven's side</u>, <u>people's</u> original mind has drawn them to the ideals of <u>interdependence</u>, <u>mutual prosperity</u> and <u>universally</u> <u>shared values</u>.

7.2.7 The Ideals of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universally Shared Values versus Communism



The world in which these ideals will finally be realized is none other than the <u>Kingdom of Heaven</u> on earth, under the leadership of the returning Christ (p. 342-3).

7.2.7 The Ideals of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universally Shared Values versus Communism



Since <u>Satan</u> mimics God's providence in advance, the satanic side has advocated "<u>scientific socialism</u>" based on the theories of dialectical and historical materialism and has built the <u>communist world.</u>



For the paths of religion, politics and economy to converge and realize God's ideal, a <u>new expression of truth</u> must emerge which can completely integrate religion and science.



The <u>religion</u> founded upon this truth will lead all of humanity to become one with God in <u>heart</u>. Such people will build an <u>economy</u> in accordance with the <u>divine ideal</u>, providing the foundations for a new <u>political order</u> to realize the <u>ideal of creation</u>. Religionone with God in : heart

Economyin accordance with divine ideal Politics:realize ideal of creation

Messianic Interagoetaen ce, mutual

New

expression

of truth

This will be the <u>messianic lingdom built on the principles of</u> <u>interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values</u> (p. 343-4).

For more information visit http://www.unificationstudy.com

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