

The Third Nation Building Principle II

Nationbuilding Principles

In unequal power relationships,
spiritual power overcomes
worldly power. God can and does
overcome the advantage of the
powerful in behalf of those who
have his favor.

Part Two: Reversals of Fortune

Spiritual Judo

Questions to be Resolved

- How exactly does God reverse unequal power relationships?
- Why do we not see these reversals happening in our world today?

Biblical Examples

- Joseph in Egypt Gen 37-47
 - Joseph experienced extreme injustice at the hand of his brethren and the Egyptians. God reversed an unequal power relationship when he catapulted Joseph to the mastery over the people of Egypt and made him the savior of his brothers who had ignored his cries for mercy.

Biblical Examples

- Samson and the Philistines Judges 13-16
 - The Philistines exercised oppressive power over the Israelites during the time of the Judges. God raised up a single man, Sampson, who, by himself repeatedly delivered the nation of Israel from the hands of their oppressors. Even in his death, Sampson inflicted more destruction upon the Philistines than in his life.

Biblical Examples

- Israel and the Exodus Ex 1-14
 - Israel was a nation of slaves, living under oppression in the strongest and richest nation in the world. They had no money, no political clout, no weapons nor military organization. Nonetheless, God destroyed Egypt economically and militarily and delivered the Israelites with great riches.

Biblical Examples

- The Twelve Disciples Eph 2.20 Rev 21.14
 - The Twelve were a group of very fallible believers (except Judas). At first, they did not have a profound understanding of the OT, nor did they possess great spiritual maturity. At the time of their masters greatest need, they all fled in fear. However, that small group of men established the Church, and were reputed to have “turned the world upside down” Acts 17.6. In the resurrection, the wall of the New Jerusalem will have its foundations named after these Twelve.

Biblical Examples

- So as we examine the bible we begin to see many examples of the Third Principle of Nationbuilding at work. The same has occurred in countless lives and continues until this very day. We will now examine in detail the spiritual principles that underly this great truth.

Biblical Examples

- Ps 127:1-2 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To retire late, To eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep. NAS
- 2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. NIV

Biblical Examples

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, 29 that no man should boast before God. NAS
- Isaiah 40:29-31 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. NIV

Biblical Examples

- 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. NAS

Principle #3

- In unequal power relationships, spiritual power overcomes worldly power. God can and does overcome the advantage of the powerful in behalf of those who have his favor.

2 Chronicles 14:2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. NIV

- To obtain divine favor you must examine your spiritual condition
 - You have to know what God approves before you can do what God approves.
 - The invisible precedes the visible, priesthood precedes ambassadorship

2 Chronicles 14:3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. NIV

- To obtain divine favor you must examine your spiritual conviction
 - Negative and positive actions must be taken to receive Gods favor
 - Someone probably warned Asa that he'd be better off just emphasizing the positive. Don't make waves, after all your father and grandmother approve of these things 1 Kings 15.11-13.
 - Asa destroyed the emblems of false worship-he didn't say, "I'll ignore these idols, I'll just do positive things from now on."

2 Chron 14:3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. NIV

- To obtain divine favor you must examine your spiritual conviction
 - Negative and positive actions must be taken to receive Gods favor
 - Asa rendered these emblems of no further use for future generations. He removed, cut down and smashed...
 - We must perform the same service to false systems of doctrine that are causing the malfunction of the church to the hurt of the community
 - We must use doctrine to dismantle deadly errors which damage the church and the people

2 Chron 14:3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. NIV

- To obtain divine favor you must examine your spiritual conviction
 - Negative and positive actions must be taken to receive Gods favor
 - The man of God and the leader has the responsibility to represent the Word of God in accuracy 2 Tim 2.15
 - Abijah knew the right thing but didn't do it. Abijah tried to please God and the people. 1Kings 15.3,12,13,15
 - Asa knew the right thing and did it, both the negative and the positive

2 Chron 14:4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.NIV

- To obtain divine favor you must examine your spiritual conviction
 - Do you fear the people or do you fear God
 - Confidence in God leads to courage before men.Ps 27.1-3 Isa 51.7 Rom 8.37
 - Asa knew the Word, obeyed the Word and led by means of the Word. This is the leadership formula Ezra 7.10

2 Chronicles 14.6 He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest.

- God creates the conditions that enables the empowerment of those He favors
 - God provided time by providing peace
 - Asa used the time to build his defenses and devote resources to the economy rather than to war
 - Asa acquired power in the peace and the time that God provided

2 Chronicles 14.6 He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest.

- God creates the conditions that enables the empowerment of those He favors
 - Once the doctrinal and ethical obstacles to Gods working are removed, God is free to create power for the powerless.
 - This is how bad doctrine keeps the oppressed powerless-God is not free to create space for the weak due to incorrect behavior based upon incorrect beliefs about Himself and his Plan

Nationbuilding Principle #3

- Know, obey and lead with the Word of God
 - Removal of doctrinal and ethical barriers
- Results in the conditions necessary for the creation of power
 - Peace, economic conditions, health, longevity or whatever is needed in your situation
- Power in whatever category required

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Nationbuilding Principle #3

Curriculum #11

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