**Building on a Good Foundation, #6**

***for a Nation/Society***

**Review of previous lessons:**

* **Jesus Christ as *the Chief Cornerstone* and the *Apostles* and *Prophets* as the *Foundation* of God’s *House(hold),* Eph.2:20;**
* **Why Jesus, as the *Precious* and *Chief Cornerstone,* was *Rejected* and became (to some) a *Stone of Stumbling* and *Rock of Offense,* 1Pet.2:6-8**
* **God’s *Household/Building-* of what was/is it made, Eph.2:19-22?**
* **Authority: *Christ Commanded* (what the) *Apostles Taught* (and the) *Disciples Practiced,* Matt.28:18-20; then last time,**
* **The Bible: it’s *Source, Nature, Content, Purpose(s),* and *Arrangement***

**First, think about what constitutes a *nation?*  Initially, at least three ingredients are necessary: (cf. Gen.12:2ff)**

1. ***People-***you can’t have a “nation” without *people,* cf. Ex.12:37;
2. ***Precept/Law****-* a *unifying code of conduct* with both *rights* and *responsibilities* that distinguished them from other peoples, Ex.20:1ff,22-26; 34:10a,27-28,32; 35:1ff; and,
3. ***Place/Land/Country,***Ex.23:23-33.

**Next, as we soon celebrate the very *foundation* of our nation, think further with me regarding on what *foundation(s)* should a *nation* be built that will allow it to be “good” and last throughout time (cf. Matt.7:24-27)?**

**Among many other things that might be included in such a list, I would suggest we consider primarily 3 elements:**

1. **Acknowledge God as:**
	1. ***Creator*** (knows/acknowledges *from whence it came*), Gen.1:26-27; 2:7; Acts 14:15; 17:22-24a;
	2. ***Sustainer*** (knows/acknowledges *how it remains*)*,* Gen.1:29; 2:8-9,15-17; 9:3-4; Acts 14:17; 17:24b-25,28; and
	3. ***Judge*** (knows/acknowledges its *ultimate accountability*), Gen.2:15-17; 9:5-6; Acts 17:29-31.
2. **Understands the basic building block of any nation or society to be the “family”** as God ordained and prescribed, Gen.1:27; 2:18-24; 9:7; Eph.5:22-31; 6:1-4.
3. **Reveres and reflects God’s laws in those we legislate for ourselves/the country** (understands our own “government(s)” in light of *His governing* of us)**,** Rom.13:1-7.

**So if *our* “nation” is to not only survive but thrive, it must return to proper *foundations,* and *build again* upon them*…***

* **Belief in God as our *Creator, Sustainer,* and *Judge,* Dan.4:34-37;**
* **The understanding of “family” as God ordained as the building block of nations/societies, Eph.5:22-31; 6:1-4; Luke 1:17; and,**
* **The ultimate purpose and accountability of “government” and its laws, 1Pet.2:13-17.**

Remember God’s *encouragement* and *warning* to Solomon upon the completion of the Temple concerning the nation of Israel from 2Chron.7:12-22.