

GOD'S PLAN IS TO REPAIR AND RESTORE

A. A Look At Some Biblical Terms:

Kingdom Truth Is Revealed Through These Concepts:

1. The **Land** is a country or a territory; Joshua 1:2-3; Hebrews 11:14-16
2. The **City** is within the Land; Psalm 48:1-2; Hebrews 11:10; Revelation 21:2
3. The **Temple** is within the City, which is in the Land; 2 Chronicles, chapters 3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; Ephesians 2:21-22
4. In biblical days, a **Wall** was built around a city for protection from enemies; Deuteronomy 3:5; 2 Chronicles 14:7; Isaiah 60:18; Revelation 21:14
5. A **Gap** was a break in the wall; it was an **INVASION POINT** whereby an enemy could gain access. It is a **WEAK SPOT** or an **ENTRY POINT** in our lives where the enemy can attack us. Any area of weakness, wounds or sin, is a target for the devil and can become a stronghold (a concentration of strength in a particular area); Ezekiel 13:5
6. A **Gate** is a **GUARDED ENTRANCE** to a City; they were built into the walls in biblical days. These seats of authority were places where business transactions were conducted and public announcements were made; Gen. 19:1; Matt. 7:13; Rev. 21:9-27
7. If a wall is broken down or if the gates are destroyed, the result is:
 - a. Distress, affliction and reproach; Nehemiah 1:3; 2:17; 5:9. When God's order and boundaries are violated, this is the result.
 - b. Ecclesiastes 10:8 tells us that whoever breaks a hedge, a serpent will bite him. On the other side of the hedge (wall), the enemy is waiting to afflict us. He gains entry into our lives through a gap in the wall, to enlarge his base of operations. Once the enemy has access, he continues to destroy the walls of spiritual defense which provides protection.

B. The Scriptures Reveal That The LAND Is Judged Prior To Restoration:

1. The LAND is full of decay due to sin; it will be judged because of idolatry, rejecting God's Word, rebellion, the shedding of innocent blood; see Genesis 18:20; Jonah 1:2; Proverbs 6:16-19; Ezekiel 14:13-21; Revelation 14:8
2. The LAND can include areas of our lives, our family, the Church, the State, the Nation
3. The **Judgments of God are just**, and are designed to turn men from perishing in their sin, and turn them unto God; Isaiah 26:8-9; Ezekiel 33:11
4. "And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations"; Isaiah 61:4
5. God has promised to bring restoration to His creation; Acts 3:21; Revelation 21:4-5

C. God Looks For A MAN To Co-Labor With Him:

1. God looks for a **MAN to intercede** for others, for those who are away from God or are ignorant of spiritual things. In some instances, judgment or destruction can be averted, delayed or lessened upon the land, because of someone else's obedience to stand and intercede in another's behalf; Job 22:30; 42:7-9. "And I sought for a **MAN** among them, that should make up the hedge, and **stand in the gap** before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none" Ezekiel 22:30
2. God the Father sent **JESUS**; He is that **MAN** (Head and Body); Matt. 9:6; 16:27; 17:9
3. God looks for a **MAN to restore** the broken wall (hedge). He wants to restore that which has been broken or lost. Ezra 5:3; 9:9; Revelation 21:12.
4. God looks for a **MAN to repair** the ruined **GATES**, that which has been destroyed or "burned with fire"; Nehemiah 2:17-18; 13:22; Isaiah 58:12

D. The Scriptures Reveal God's Building Process And Plan For Restoration:

1. **God builds** His church **through** the Kingdom principle of **revelation knowledge**:
“But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered...Blessed art thou...flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”; Matthew 16:15-18

2. **A key to restoration** is revealed in Nehemiah 1:4-11: godly sorrow, fasting, praying, confession of sin, remembering God's promises, repentance, obedience to God's commandments, the fear of the Lord.

3. **When the false images are removed, then restoration begins.**

a. God is provoked to anger when He sees idolatry in His temple, He calls it an “image of jealousy”; Ezekiel 8:3; Jeremiah 8:19

b. Idolatrous images must be broken into pieces; 2 Kings 11:18; 23:14; Jeremiah 50:2

c. Man-made images will be beaten into powder; 2 Chronicles 34:7

d. God will spoil the false images; Hosea 10:2

e. Other images will be cut off; Micah 5:13

f. False images include all the man-made devices, concepts, philosophies, organizations and objects in which man places his trust and his hope.

There are **six elements revealed** in God's “building process”:

“See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and throw down, to build, and to plant”; Jeremiah 1:10

First, God's ministry must:

1. **Root Out** – means “to pluck up by the roots”; it refers to anything planted, which opposes God's nature and Kingdom; deep entrenchments or attachments planted in the land by the enemy; the axe must be laid at the root of the tree; Deut. 29:28

2. **Pull Down** – anything built which opposes God's character, nature and Kingdom; that which is man-made or fashioned from man's own will; Jeremiah 18:7

3. **Destroy** – “cause to perish” that which opposes God's design and His image; Jeremiah 12:17; Isaiah 60:12

4. **Throw Down** – “to pull down in pieces; to break” idolatry, false images and their influence; Judges 6:25; Malachi 1:4

Man has taken up the “iron tool” of his own will, has rejected the “image of Christ”; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Rom. 8:29, and has created for himself “**other images**”, which is idolatry; see Exodus 20:4; Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 5:8. These “images” include:

a. **STANDING** images – a column, a memorial, something stationed or fixed

b. **CARVED** images – a “quarry”; a place where stones are squared, excavated and cut

c. **MOLTEN** images – “to pour” that which is cast, or formed into a mold

d. **GRAVEN** images – that which is “marked, inscribed” in man's thinking, imaginations, mindsets; 2 Corinthians 10:5

Then God's ministry will:

5. **Build** – according to the Word of God, the biblical pattern; Hebrews 8:5

6. **Plant** – His vineyard, His people in their land; Amos 9:14-15

