

Subject: *God of the Nations – Part 2*

Scripture: *Genesis 10:1-5*

1. God's Division of the Nations

Genesis 10 and 11 fit together like this. Genesis 10 gives us the record of the nations divided, and Genesis 11 tells us the reason why the nations were divided (the tower of Babel and confusion on languages).

2. God's Control of the Nations

Acts 17:24-26 ²⁴ *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; ²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.*

3. God's Blessing for the Nations

Genesis 12:1-3 ¹ *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: ² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

God's plan in choosing Abraham included blessings on a whole nation (Jews) and on all other nations. God would reveal Himself to Israel and through Israel to the world. God gave the Scriptures to Israel and through Israel to the nations of the world. God sent Christ to Israel and from Israel He sent the gospel to the nations of the world.

Psalms 86:9 *All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.*

Revelation 5:9-10 ⁹ *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

Revelation 21:23-24 ²³ *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. ²⁴ And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.*

4. God's Use of the Nations (Isa. 10:5-15)

Isaiah 10:5-15 ⁵ *O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. ⁶ I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down*

like the mire of the streets. ⁷ Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. ⁸ For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings? ⁹ Is not Calno as Carchemish? is not Hamath as Arpad? is not Samaria as Damascus? ¹⁰ As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols, and whose graven images did excel them of Jerusalem and of Samaria; ¹¹ Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols? ¹² Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. ¹³ For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: ¹⁴ And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. ¹⁵ Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.

God used the Assyrians to punish Israel for its hypocrisy. Assyria was the rod of God's anger, but when Assyria boasted of their wisdom and military power to defeat Israel, God promised to punish them. The nation of Assyria was merely a tool in God's hands. God used Assyria to punish Israel and then He judged them because of their pride.

The same thing was true of the Babylonians and how God used and then punished them.

Jeremiah 25:8-14 ⁸ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, ⁹ Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰ Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. ¹³ And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations. ¹⁴ For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

Before Russia there was Nazi Germany and before them the Roman Empire and before them the Greek Empire and before them the Babylonian Empire and before them the Assyrian Empire and before them the Egyptian. God uses nations and leaders for a time and purpose.

5. God's Estimate of the Nations

Isaiah 40:15-17 ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. ¹⁶ And Lebanon is not

sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. ¹⁷ All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

God's people were being threatened by other nations and they were afraid because they had a low view of God. They had forgotten how great and how good God is, and so God reminded them of His greatness and majesty. The nations that threatened Israel's security were nothing in comparison to God.

6. God's Message to the Nations

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Luke 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 17:30-31 ³⁰ *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

God commands all people everywhere to repent. This is God's message to every nation and every person. In previous times God overlooked their spiritual ignorance in that He was patient and didn't judge their sin immediately. But a judgment day is coming and that calls for repentance right now.

To repent is to turn from sin with a broken and humble heart and turn to God in faith and obedience. Repentance is never perfect in this life, but it is real. To repent is a change of thinking that leads to a change of heart and a change of action.