

Strangers and Pilgrims on the Earth

Israel, God's Nation

After the Great Flood God divide the people of the earth into Nations.
 "From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations."
 -Genesis 10:5

"Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge.'"

-Genesis 15:13-14
 "For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow and without hope."
 -I Chronicles 29:15

"For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us."
 -Deuteronomy 4:7



Israel rejected God & God rejected Israel

God predicted that when the nation of the Jews rejected Him that He would set up a spiritual nation that people of all nations could be part of. Abraham, the father of the Jewish Nation was told, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." -Genesis 22:18
 "So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. Cut off your hair and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on the desolate heights; for the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.'" - Jeremiah 7:28-29
 "Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'" Paul explained how this was God's purpose from the beginning, "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles (Men of all nations) by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.'" So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham." - Galatians 3:6-9



All secular Nations Belong to God

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes." - Proverbs 21:1
 "Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?"
 -Isaiah 40:15-18

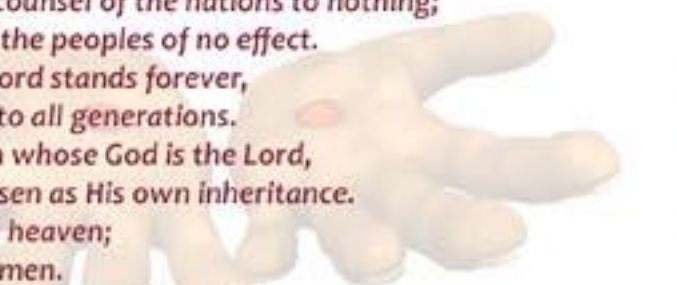


"The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect."
 -Psalm 33:10

Nations are blessed For Righteousness

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people. -Proverbs 14:34
 Political issues are vitally important to many people, however, there is one thing that concerns God when He judges a nation - Righteousness!
 God has a unique view of His creation and judges the cultures of all peoples by their adherence to His commands.

- The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.
- The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.
- Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.
- The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.
- From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth;
- He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.
- No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.
- A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.
- Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy,
- To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine. -Psalm 33:10-19



America, Blessed by God

Many American Soldiers have done what Jesus said. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." - John 15:13
 America is a nation quite different from many other nations. The unselfish sacrifices of Americans that have given freedom to those oppressed, is a 'secular' freedom. True secular freedom allows for freedom for the gospel to spread. The intent of the founding framers was for Christ to be preached, God to be worshipped freely, and for the Kingdom of God to prosper. This does not make America the Church (The Kingdom of God). America is a nation 'of' this world with physical boundaries, physical laws, physical rulers, and a physical military. God's Kingdom is 'in' this world but not 'of' this world. Like all secular nations America has the choice whether or not to abide in the favor of God through the pursuit of righteousness.



Jesus' Kingdom has a Different Nature

Jesus' words about His Kingdom: "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.'" -John 18:36
 "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?' But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, 'Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it.' So they brought it. And He said to them, 'Whose image and inscription is this?' They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" -Mark 12:14-17
 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."
 -Matthew 21:43

