

God And The Nations

Acts 17:22-31

Kent Bailey

Paul, in his evangelistic work, arrived in Athens to present and defend the gospel of Christ. Upon his entry to the city, he awaited Timothy and Silas. As he awaited their arrival, he took note of the fact that this community was totally given over to idolatry. With this background, he involved himself in debates first of all with unbelieving Jews in the synagogue and then with Greek philosophers. This encounter with the Greeks enabled him to have a confrontation with these pagan philosophers on Mars Hill. In this specific exchange, Paul challenged the fallacy of their polytheism and pointed them to the one true God of heaven and earth. He observed that God had created the nations of the earth out of one blood. He further sought to underscore the great truth that based upon the fact there is unity in the way humanity was both created and procreated, such necessitates the unity of God.

Upon this basis of the unity and oneness of God, humanity has an obligation to search for truth regarding God and his being because God has procreated humanity to dwell upon the face of the earth, and He has determined the times before appointed and the bounds of their habitation. We thus find two crucial truths that we must never forget: (1) God has determined the time that nations would exist, and (2) the boundaries in which the various nations would dwell. In these two essential points we note the implication that God does providentially intervene in the affairs of nations. In Daniel chapters two and seven we note that the prophet of God gave inspired information regarding the rise and fall of four political kingdoms. Furthermore, he affirmed that, “**the most high ruleth in the kingdoms of men**” (Daniel 4:17). Jeremiah affirms essential truths regarding **God And The Nations**. Obviously, God permits events to happen that affect the nations. If a nation rises to power, or if a nation falls, such takes place because God wills such events to take place (Jeremiah 18:7-10).

There are eternal principles in the scriptures indicating that God deals with nations upon the principles of His holiness and revealed righteousness. God’s throne is eternal and the purpose of such is to establish righteousness (Psalm 9:7). God will bless nations who recognize his Deity (Psalm 33:12). Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34). Wickedness of nations brings the wrath of God (Deuteronomy 9:4-5). Any nation that refuses to obey God will be destroyed (Jeremiah 12:17). God’s reaction to nations is contingent upon their attitude toward God (Jeremiah 18:7-10). The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17). From these passages we note the following implications:

- God will not destroy a righteous nation.
- God providentially blesses and protects righteous nations.
- God brings about the destruction of unrighteous and wicked nations.
- When a nation turns from its wickedness, God turns away from the destruction he has promised.
- God in the past has used unrighteous wicked nations as instruments of his divine justice to punish other unrighteous and wicked nations that stand in opposition to his divine righteousness.

May we as individuals and collectively as the United States of America take note of the unrighteousness, evil, and wickedness that is running rampant in our streets. May we see the terrible aspects of the disintegration of the family unit, the promotion of the murder of innocent babies, and the acceptance of the perversion of homosexuality as well as the adaptation of the disposition of incivility of lawlessness and anarchy. May we who understand the principles of righteousness and civility retake our society before our nation finds itself enmeshed in the godless grasp of Atheism,

History attests to the sinfulness of former great civilizations as well as their consequent destruction. We note Sodom and Gomorrah. In the reading of Genesis 18 and 19 we read of two cities that were greatly blessed of God from a material perspective. Like the United States of America, they were the very essence of a rich, easy, and comfortable lifestyle. In spite of such blessings, they became reprobate in sexual perversion. They refused to repent, rejected God and were destroyed (Genesis 19:1-5; 12-15; 24-25).

Babylon is one of the oldest and most famous empires of the Old Testament. Babylon was wealthy and well-blessed. Two rivers flowed through the nation, making it one of the most fertile plains of the ancient world. The beautiful hanging gardens, its architecture, walls, and elevated paved streets are all part of the wonders of the ancient world. However, its gross perverted views of human sexuality and other immoral activity corrupted its civility and brought it to destruction (Daniel 5:17-31).

The destruction of ancient Israel God’s Old Testament people often sinned and turned away from the one true God. They committed such sin even though God brought them out of Egypt and blessed them richly. When as a nation they rejected God, he would permit their enemies to overpower and capture them. Yet, when they repented and returned to God he would deliver them and remove the yoke of bondage (1 Samuel 12:9-11). In Deuteronomy 28, Moses warned them of final destruction that would come upon them because of their rejection of God. Christ also spoke of this destruction in Matthew 24:1-35, Luke 19:41-44; Luke 21. The records of the historian Josephus describe the horrors of the destruction of Israel in AD 70:

- All of the cities were laid waste.
- The famine in the land was so terrible that mothers killed and ate their children.
- A total of 2,350,000 Jews were either killed or sold into slavery.
- Christ stated all of the Jewish race would have been destroyed were it not for Christians (Matthew 24:22).

The overthrow of the Roman Empire Rome had been elevated from a republic to an empire to accomplish the purpose of God in the spread of the gospel of Christ (Galatians 4:4-5). From AD 30 until the Jewish wars this was a time of peace. Roman law permitted freedom of travel on land and sea. Because of such peace Rome granted the rights of citizenship to non-Romans and promoted unity. Roman law was so well developed that civilized legal systems of the western world have been based upon such. An excellent system of roads was developed connecting military posts to major cities. Paul depicts the degenerate lifestyle of the Gentile world which was inclusive of Rome (Romans 1:18-32). Such is spoken of under six points: (1) Inexcusable ignorance (1:20). (2) Ingratitude (1:21). (3) Insolence (1:22). (4) Idolatry (1:23). (5) Immorality (1:24-27). Incorrigibility (1:28-31). Although persecution against the church ceased and Christianity was legalized in AD 313, the church soon was caught up into apostasy, which in conjunction with paganism and immorality brought about the fall of the Roman Empire.

While Rome the Roman Empire did not cease to exist from a political perspective, it was for all purposes destroyed as both a world power and even as a local government. God’s judgment was poured out upon Rome and it became insignificant as a world power. Much of it was over-run and destroyed by the Germanic barbarian tribes of Central Europe.

Let us ask our nation this crucial question: Which way America: Atheism, Progressivism, Socialism, or Almighty God? “**Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it.**”

(I have been asked some questions recently on this subject and think this article by Kent is very good and hopefully will be helpful to all who read it. TJK)

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)
Remember in Prayer:

Louis Preston had his hip surgery Friday in Little Rock and was hoping to come home yesterday.

Joanne Pickens, Jody Pickens’ mother, has been in ICU in Little Rock last week.

Hilda Wilcox had an emergency room visit last weekend but is at home now improving.

Mittie Stallings is now staying at the home of her sister, Gretchen Pruitt.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.
Please update us if needed.

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Wanda Hardin and her daughter Diane Hinton

In Other News:

The Drop-In Wedding Shower for Kara Kee and David Stone will be next Sunday afternoon, August 30th in the basement. Hostesses are planning carefully to make it a special and safe occasion. Come inside for refreshments and visit any time from 2 to 4.

Bible classes for 2 years through 6th grade are postponed till further notice. You may find Bible lessons on theleahjournal.com. Let us know if you would like them printed.

Those Privileged To Serve August 23, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
Closing Prayer: David Dye
Bible Reading: Jacob Eddleman
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Jason Garland
Stacy Eddleman Barry Roush
David Loggins Jerry Dodson
Tom Carner Gerald George

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
Closing Prayer: Scottie Blanchard
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

August 26, 2020
Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Jeff Presley
Closing Prayer: Scott Pratt

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

August 26, 2020
Dan Nichols

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of August 16, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	78
Sunday AM Worship	107
Sunday PM Worship	92
Wednesday Bible Study	62
Contribution	\$6153

“Many will intreat the
favour of the prince: and
every man is a friend to
him that giveth gifts.”

Proverbs 19:6

The Friend of Truth

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

Thanks to all of you for the kind comments concerning the series of sermons we have begun on the church. It is vitally important to understand who we are and what our work is. I am trying to get my notes into such a condition that you can use them for further study and receive some good from continuing your study at home. These might even be put into the form of questions and answers and be available to those who might be interested in giving a copy to a friend. I also am planning to put some, if not all, of this material on our website. So again, thank you for the encouragement.

Remember all those who are suffering in one way or another. We have those who have had or are getting ready to have tests run and/or surgeries done. Remember all of those who are going through these procedures during these times. It is never easy to have surgery, tests, or health issues to deal with, but it is compounded when we cannot be surrounded by our loved ones and have friendly family faces to see and be there with us.

Do not forget to pray daily for everyone who is working in the fields of education. School is getting ready to be back in session. So, whether you are engaged as teachers, administrators, bus drivers, in school maintenance, office, or food service, as students, or parents and family and friends, may we all pray together without ceasing for a safe and happy school year. Also let us not be quick to judge and say what we would do, when all our children have different circumstances. Also remember that while we may choose to follow one path in helping our children receive the best education they can, others may choose another path. Each must do whatever he feels is best for his circumstances. What **we can all** do for everyone, in whatever circumstances, is **pray**.

“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.” (Proverbs 19:20)

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
John 8:24
Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision,
the people perish...”
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com