

A Nation in Peril (#7)
[Nations in the Plan of God]

In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth (Gen.1:1). The study of creation describes the equipping of the heavens and earth for human habitation (Gen.1-2).

This lesson is about God's decree to separate mankind geographically by nations. God established Nations for the habitation of Postdiluvian people after the flood of Noah's day (Gen.10-11).

Genesis Ch.10., outlines the original 70 Postdiluvian nations from the sons of Noah (Ham) [30] and (Shem) [26] and (Japheth) [14]. Originally they all spoke one language (Gen.11:1) [Adam; Seth; Shem]. Then, because of God's divine discipline for the Tower of Babel apostasy, God established different languages and nations.

This lesson will study five aspects of Nations in the Plan of God
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A clear understanding of the establishment and function of Nations is important to every Church Age Believer (CAB), especially for those of us living in USA and speaking a southern dialect.

1. Nations play a prominent role in the plan of God until the end of human history.

At the end of human history, nations are separated by "sheep" (blessed) and "goats" (accursed) and be subject to national judgment at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The standard of a nation's judgment will be its attitude towards Christ and Christians (Matt.25:31-40).

2. As god of this world, satan is the adversary of nations operating according to the plan of God (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 1 John 5:19; 2 Cor.4:4; Acts 26:18).

Just like the Garden of Eden apostasy (Gen.3), the Tower of Babel apostasy (Gen.11) was a satanic attack against the plan of God for the human race. These types of satanic attacks will continue until the end of human history (Rev.20:3, 7).

The only break from satanic attack upon nations will be during the Millennium. In the first part of the Millennium, satan is imprisoned in Tartarus of Sheol (Rev.20:1-3, 7-10; 1 Pet.3:19-21).

POINT: Satan is the source of deceptive evil in a nation (Rev.20:7; Matt.15:16-20)

3. God established governments to restrain evil within nations (Rom.13:1-7; 1 Pet.2:13-17; 1 Tim.2:1-4).

(1 Pet.2:13-14) "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right."

POINT: Every divine institution has a divinely delegated authority under a divine chain of command. For the nation, it is God to government to citizens.

4. **During the Last Days of human history, God provided the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, within the body of Christ, to restrain evil in a client nation (1 Cor.3:16; 6:19-20; 2 Cor.6:16) (Heb.1:2; 1 Pet.1:20).**

(2 Thess.2:6-7) “And you know **what restrains him now**, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; **only He who now restrains** will do so until he is taken out of the way.” (1 Thess.4:13-18)

(Ryrie, NASB) “Antichrist is now being held back by a restrainer. Some understand this to be God indwelling His church by the Holy Spirit, while others see human government as the restrainer. According to the former view, the removal will be at the rapture of the church (1 Thess.4:13-18) but, according to the latter, at the overthrow of human government by Antichrist.” (2 Thess.2:7)

(Ryrie, NASB) “Paul’s argument is this: the Day of the Lord will not begin until the Antichrist is revealed (v.3); the Antichrist cannot begin to act until the restrainer is removed (v.7); since the restrainer has not been removed, the Thessalonians could be certain that the Day of the Lord has not yet begun, regardless of what the false teachers were saying.” (2 Thess.2:8, 2:1-8)

5. **After the flood and Tower of Babel (Gen.6-11), God separated the human race into the following four categories.**

- “These are the sons of Shem, according to their **families**”
- “according to their **languages**”
- “by their **lands**”
- “according to their **nations**”

(Gen.10:31-32) “These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated (parad / niphala pf.3pl) [divided] on the earth after the flood.”

(Acts 17:27-28) “And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having **determined** their appointed times and boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” (2 Pet.3:9)
[THE SOVEREIGNTY of GOD]

(Ryrie, NASB) “God has determined the exact times and places in history during which nations would emerge and live.” (Acts 17:26; Deut.32:8)

(Ryrie, NASB) “**God is sovereign** over the destinies of nations and can cause their leaders to lose their reason.” (Job 12:23-25)

MY Point: God gave an everlasting covenant to the human race of the Postdiluvian Civilization. He also gave a sign of this covenant until the end of human history (Gen.9:12-17).

(Gen.9:16) “When the bow is in the cloud, **then I will look upon it**, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” (The Rainbow)