



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 35.0

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An Endlessly Exalted Nation

“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

We are all born citizens of a nation on earth. While we are ultimately citizens of either Heaven or Hell, the nations we live in have a place in our lives and in God’s plan. Where do nations come from? What is God’s plan for the nations? What about the world?

Paul told the Greeks that God *“made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation”* (Acts 17:26). God created nations, and He is in control, but why did He make them? So that *“they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him”* (Acts 17:27a). We can see here that the nations were part of God’s plan to draw people to seek Him, but those times have passed, since *“having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that **all people everywhere** should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead”* (Acts 17:30-31). So, God has declared equally to all people everywhere of every nation that they must repent and believe in Jesus regardless of who they are, where they come from, or where they have pledged allegiance, so that *“in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him”* (Acts 10:35). What does this mean? God is making a new nation from people taken out of every nation on earth— *“a chosen race, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession”*** (1 Peter 2:9).

This Holy nation will be ruled by Jesus

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Christ, and He will rule all nations under His righteous global government for all eternity. Only Christ’s nation will be righteous before God because it will be SINLESS. This Holy nation will be elevated far above all others, a grace (favor) to all people. We who are welcome to Him know we belong to His nation even before it is established, for *“our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 3:20).

The entire human race inherited sin equally from the Fall, and all are equally disgraced (out of favor) with God, no matter their political party, ethnicity, language, or tradition, unless they receive *“the grace that is in Christ Jesus”* (2 Timothy 2:1) and citizenship in His Kingdom. How do the nations respond to their disgrace and this promised future nation? Jesus told a parable how (although He had the right to rule), when He left earth the first time, *“His citizens hated Him and sent a delegation after Him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us’”* (Luke 19:14), so *“THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST”* (Acts 4:26). The nations of the world reject the promise of Christ’s elevated, righteous, and graceful world government, choosing instead to try elevating themselves through combined strength with their own global government. But no investment of knowledge, power, or wealth can raise a people disgraced in sin. Only righteousness exalts a nation, and only a nation ruled by Christ can be truly righteous.

The nations do not want Christ’s rule, but He is *“the ruler of the kings of the earth”* (Revelation 1:5b), and *“He shall rule them with a rod of iron”* (Revelation 2:27a), for *“He has abolished all rule and all authority and power”* (1 Corinthians 15:24b). AMEN.