

The Certainty of God In An Uncertain World *God is Sovereign Over The Nations*

God's plan to save people has always been within God's plan to save nations. The Bible does not present your life as isolated from the rest of the world. The Bible presents your life in terms of your life in the context of the world and the nations.

Notice the pattern of Scripture regarding God and the nations...

Gen 12:2 – From the one man Abraham a great nation is promised
Deut 7:1 – God promises to drive out seven nations greater and stronger than Israel
Deut 28:1 – God will scatter Israel among the nations if they rebel against Him
Deut 30:1-5 – God will scatter and then gather Israel from among the nations
Psalm 47:3 – God rules over the nations
Psalm 96:3 – The glory of God is to be declared among the nations
Isaiah 40:15 – The nations are like a drop in the bucket compared to God
Rev 5:9, 7:9 – Nations are present in the New Creation (heaven)

It's fascinating that the first and last book of the Bible give mention to God's work among the nations.

Compare Genesis 12:1-3 with Revelation 5:9 & 7:9

“The beauty and power of praise that will come to the Lord from the diversity of the nations are greater than the beauty and power that would come to Him if the chorus of the redeemed were culturally uniform.” John Piper, Let The Nations Be Glad!

Notice also the Great Commission given to us by Jesus...

Mt 28:20 *Make disciples of all nations.*

Have you ever noticed that before? *Jesus said, make disciples of all nations.*

If you think about it – that is similar to the original task given to Israel. They were to be so fully devoted to God *as a nation* so that other nations would take notice. (Deut 28:9-10)

So how could Jesus say this so confidently? He has authority over the nations. (Mt 28:18)

Notice how God used the nations to help in the spread of the gospel:

Assyria
Babylon
Persia
Greece
Rome

Through the rise and fall of these nations, God prepared the world through the development of the synagogue, the placement of His people outside of Israel, an international language and a good system of roads. No wonder the Bible says that Jesus was born in the “fullness of time”. (Gal 4:4)

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. How does knowing that God rules over the nations affect your view of God? How does this affect your view of God's rule in your life?
2. The God who rules the nations is the God to whom you pray. Do you think there is anything too hard for God? Do you sometimes *feel* as if something is too hard for God?
3. Jesus said: *Make disciples of all nations*. What do you imagine that would look like? Do you think this command can ever be fulfilled?
4. Given what Jesus said, do you think the mission of the Church should emphasize discipleship?
5. Review some of the verses listed above regarding God's rule over the nations. Share your impressions from this review.