

**God's
Controversy
With
The
Nations**

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Christians often have to struggle to find a balance between patriotism to the country of his birth or the race from which he is born in as well as loyalty to God and His holy words. Many times Christians find themselves in opposing view with other Christians especially when their countries are at war or are engaged in some conflicts. So how should Christians relate with brethren from other races or nations especially when there is conflict going on between the two nations or races? How should Christians relate to the lost world especially of other nations and other races? What does the Bible reveal about the history of nations and God's plan for them? Where do Christians stand in relation to the nations on earth? Does the Bible teach racism? Does the Bible teach Christians to hate certain races? Why did God instruct Israel to engage in wars to exterminate their enemies? Are Christians supposed to emulate the Israelites by engaging in warfare with other nations or races of people? What is actually the warfare for Christians? Do Christians belong to any particular nation on earth as a nation instituted by God as a Christian nation to do God's will? All these and many more questions can only be answered from within the pages of the Holy Bible.

A study on the history of the nations, the present condition of this world during the Church Age and the future of the nations is necessary in order to have all the above questions answered. Acquiring this knowledge from the God of Creation will enable a Christian to know how he should conduct himself in this fallen world. God does have a plan for the nations on earth and His program is running right on schedule. In due time, the child of God will understand the working of the Most High and rejoice in the marvelous salvation he has obtained through the most wonderful Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (Acts 17:24-28)

This incident took place some two thousand years ago. When the supposedly educated but superstitious sinners in Athens had the wrong idea about the Godhead, the apostle Paul preached to them the true and living God who is the God of Creation, history and nations. The Athenians were trying to play it safe by worshipping all kinds of gods they could figure including erecting an altar dedicated "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD" just in case they missed out on this one. Over the years as the fallen human race develops or rather degenerates, their understanding of the Godhead has become more and more confused and uncertain. It is only through the Holy Bible that fallen man can still ascertain for sure the true Godhead and trace their true lineage back to their Creator and Maker God.

The issue of race and nations can only be understood from revelation within the pages of the Holy Writ. Fallen man all over the world even in modern times would just be the same like those superstitious Athenians second guessing who God really is and how to get to know God. While the true and living God remains unknown to billions of people on earth, Christians should seek the face of Almighty God to have a better understanding on God's dealing with fallen men on earth and His program for sinners in times past, at present and in eternity. Armed with such knowledge from above, Christians would avoid getting into unnecessary quarrels with people in this world including Christians who let their earthly patriotic emotions hijack them from living the lives they are supposed to live in relation to sinners of all nations and races on this earth. Indeed, even Christians can become very worked up when discussing politics and wars. Moreover, such issues can become contentious and fellowship with the saints across the ocean can become affected. Unfortunately some self-conceited Christians have the tendency to feel superior over others because of his race according to his calling from God. This brief study will put the

child of God in the proper perspective when approaching the things of God for himself as well as for his brethren, especially those of a different race from his own.

According to Paul's message, it is God who created the nations. God created the nations of fallen men of one blood to dwell upon the face of the earth. This is to be expected as God is the Creator of the heaven and the earth. Since God is the Creator God of all things both in heaven and on earth, God does not require or need anything from His creatures in order to remain as God. God who spoke the world into existence by His creative act and power does not reside in houses of clay like fallen men. It is God who gives life to men by giving them breath and all things and God does not require fallen men to do anything or build anything to accommodate Him. God certainly does not dwell in a temple on earth made by the hands of men. In fact such knowledge is not hidden from the Jewish people and Solomon commended on this when he prayed during the dedication of the temple he built in Jerusalem some three thousands years ago. **But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? (1 Kings 8:27)** Obviously, God is so great that no earthly accommodation would be suitable to house this Almighty God. Solomon had a first hand understanding that God would not reside in a literal temple but he went ahead to build a temple anyway. So the Creator God is so much greater than fallen men can ever imagine will not and does not need to reside in a literal temple made by the hands of fallen men. No nation of fallen men can claim exclusive rights that this Creator God is their God while the rest of the nations do not have any rights or access to this Almighty God. The apostle Paul asked the Christians in Rome: **Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: (Romans 3:29)** The answer is obviously in the affirmative. This Almighty God who created the heaven and the earth is both the God of the Jews as well as the Gentiles.

So when God created the nations, He separated them and appointed the bounds of their habitation. God distributed the land on earth which He created to the respective nations on earth. Such an act is by divine appointment. No one has the right to question the authority by which the decisions are made to give the land to different nations of people on earth. The main purpose of separating the nations is for fallen men to be able to seek after God and feel Him and find Him. The apostle Paul told the Athenians that this Creator God, unknown to them, was actually very near everyone. They had a lecture on the true nature of God from a Jewish preacher that this unknown God is actually their Creator and this God does not need any weak and beggarly elements from fallen men in order to be their God and worshipped by His creatures. Furthermore, this Almighty God

spoke through the psalmist: **I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? (Psalm 50:9-13)** So the Creator God does not need anything from His creatures. Only fallen men imagine they could bribe God into doing their bidding for personal gain.

As this Creator God is very near to fallen men, there is no excuse for fallen men not being able to come to know this gracious loving God. No one can claim by circumstances or by nature of his birth into whichever race that he has been disadvantaged to the point where it is impossible for him to seek after God and find God. So the reason why the segregation of the nations is to enable men to find God whom God made of them from one blood. Unfortunately, fallen men are prone to rebel against God's appointment of the boundaries set for them to reside in and this is one main reason why there is war on earth. There will be no end to wars on earth until men settled in their respective bounds of their habitations according to divine appointment. But then fallen men will rebel and congregate together to become one united people like they were in the past before their forced segregation. Hence wars and more wars are on the way.

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee? Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee. When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. (Deuteronomy 32:4-8)

According to Moses, the division of the nations is predetermined by a certain number. The division is based on the number of the children of Israel. If the number of the children of Israel is twelve like the twelve tribes who received their inheritance in Canaan land, then there would be twelve nations of fallen men living in their respective bounds of their habitations. There could even be twelve regions of nations on planet Earth where the nations of men were given inheritance. In fact, this divine division took place before the existence of the nation of Israel. It is God's intention to keep the nations separated. This is to allow them to seek after Him, feel Him and find Him. God's original perfect plan for men is often thwarted by men's rebellion.

Actually, the division of the nations is no strange news or something new under the sun. Moses mentioned that their fathers and elders had prior knowledge of this division of the nations and they would tell those who would ask them. The ancient people did know this truth concerning the separation of the nations. Whether they understood the reason behind this division, it is not necessary to speculate to detract from this study. The ancient people all knew God. They were dealt with by the same God long before the children of Israel received the Law and became a separate nation from the rest of the nations called the Gentiles. Since God is the Creator of the heaven and the earth, He has absolute right to grant inheritance to the nations and set their boundaries. It is God's will to separate the sons of Adam but fallen men will continue to challenge God's will and work out their own destiny. Down through the centuries, claiming sovereignty over territories by competing nations resulted in wars and bloodshed. Each had her own self-interest to protect and her own cause to champion. Stepping out

of the bound of their habitations is not in the interest of the nations. Will fallen men ever learn to be obedient?

The history of the nations actually began after Noah's flood. Before the flood, there was but only one human race though Cain, the wicked who slew his brother Abel, and Seth were the ones on record to be progenitors of the race of Adam. However, Adam did not just have two sons Cain and Seth to propagate the human race. He had other sons and daughters as well according to Genesis 5:4: **And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:** So the fallen race of Adam reproduced and multiplied until the time of the flood when they were wiped out due to gross wickedness and violence on earth. Another reason for the extermination of this fallen human race is because of the corruption of the human race with another race, the angelic race of the sons of God. These sons of God left their first estate and took up real estate on earth and cohabited with the human race and produced giants. Their rebellion was recorded in Genesis 6 and that event triggered the global flood that killed all flesh except those kept safe in the Ark. The psalmist also revealed there were gods who would die like man: **God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations. (Psalm 82:1,6-8)**

The corruption of the human race is a Satanic ploy to thwart God's plan of redemption for fallen men promised to Adam and Eve via the promised Seed of the woman. Notwithstanding, no human race or angelic race could prevent God from fulfilling His promise of damning the Devil and rescuing the lost sons of Adam. Before the flood, fallen men built cities and they were of one language. Whether they were separated into respective nations, it could not be ascertained for a certainty. So the study of the nations will begin after the flood for practical purpose.

After the flood, the three sons of Noah, Shem, Japheth and Ham became the main progenitors of the nations of men on a renewed earth where the wicked human race and the corrupted seeds of men with the fallen sons of God were completely destroyed. Noah and his three sons received the same commission that Adam received in Genesis 9:1: **And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.** But something happened to the head of this new tribe of men, Noah. Noah had the dubious honour to be the first man to become drunk. He was then found naked. Drunkenness and nakedness usually go together. Ever since the discovery of wine, fallen men often engage in

drunkenness and those who love such indulgence will be found naked before God and those around them. What was the consequence of Noah's drunkenness? His younger son Ham did something to him.

And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. (Genesis 9:20-25)

When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew Ham did something to him. It is more than seeing the nakedness with the eye. A study on Leviticus 18 & 20 would reveal more about seeing a person's nakedness. Noah's drunkenness resulted in the cursing of Canaan. Canaan very likely was also involved with his father Ham in this episode of seeing Noah's nakedness. This unfortunate incident would affect a line of descendents and the future of a people. So the Bible proceeds to reveal the development of the nations in Genesis 10 where the people were still of one language. God's plan for the nations to be divided into their respective bounds of habitation has begun. Not only the nations were to be divided, the land mass on earth was divided as well according to Genesis 10:25: **And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.** This indicates God's determination to divide the fallen sons of Adam. So the continental drift is not merely a theory but a Biblical fact. Genesis 10 listed the divisions of the nations via the three sons of Noah. **By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations. These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations. These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations. These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood. (Genesis 10:5,20,31,32)**

Actually before the divisions of these nations, the people rebelled against God's directive will and refused to spread out and replenish the earth. They congregated together with a grand scheme to build a stairway to heaven in the project Babel. They were apparently quite successful in their scheme and nothing would stop them in their project to explore outer space. They refused to abide in their own habitation according to divine allocation of their boundaries on earth. God's will had been revealed to them: **The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men. (Psalm 115:16)** They wanted to seek to abide in a higher domain which does not belong to them. They tried to ascend into heaven through their grand project Babel. This is clearly a Satanic manifestation of having an ungodly desire to set their own thrones on high like what Satan did in ages past recorded in Isaiah 14:12-15. So God intervened and messed up their plans by confounding their language according to Genesis 11:1-9.

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

The confounding of the languages of men was first of its kind. For the first time fallen men could not communicate with one another effectively. This time God did not send a flood to destroy the rebellious sons of Noah. This judgment was one of its kind and took fallen men by surprise. They did not anticipate such an occurrence and they had no recovery plan in place.

This left fallen men with no choice but to abandon their grand project of an integrated resort to connect earth with heaven to build a better world for all mankind. So they finally spread out and replenished the earth according to God's directive will. This prevented fallen men from getting together again for some four thousand years.

Now we are seeing the coming together of the nations again under the auspices of the United Nation in a global village where all men are global citizens. This is the time of the end as revealed from Scriptures. Fallen men being children of disobedience led by the prince of the power of the air will spare no effort in scheming and rebelling against God's will and plan for them. So when fallen men refused to be separated, they ended up in wars. Why? According to James, we are told: **From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (James 4:1-3)**

The primary reason for wars is the refusal of fallen men to reside in the respective bounds of their habitation. This is due to covetousness. Discontentment will lead to covetousness. The lust of fallen men is insatiable. Covetousness is equivalent to idolatry based on what the apostle Paul told the Christians in Colosse: **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (Colossians 3:5)** Hence Almighty God left the nations to develop on their own while at the same time preparing a people to become a great nation to bring to pass the promise of redemption for fallen men via the Seed of the woman. This does not however mean that God was not working in the nations of fallen men or had abandoned them. God on the one hand is raising up a nation of special people to manifest His holiness and righteousness while at the same time deal with the rest of the nations separately though many events and histories of the nations are not recorded in the Holy Bible which have no direct bearing on the drama of redemption of Adam's fallen race.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)

So the Lord God sought out a man to bring forth a great nation. This man was Abraham. He was promised God's blessing upon him and his descendents. A curse was also pronounced on those who curse him and his descendents. God promised to make his name great and he shall be a blessing. In him shall all the families on earth be blessed. God has changed his dealing with fallen men by dealing with one man to raise him up a great nation to deal with the nations on earth. All blessings for the rest of the nations must come through this new nation and how they deal with the descendents of Abraham. The territorial jurisdiction of this nation is given in Genesis 13:14-17.

And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

This land is given to Abraham and his descendents by promise. This promise is unconditional and it is on this piece of land in the Middle East connecting three continents that the nation of Israel is to be established. This piece of land is not very big in comparison with the total landmass on earth but it is on this piece of land that the Lord God watches over Israel. But God revealed to Abraham in advance that the nation of Israel would be in bondage for 400 years.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. (Genesis 15:13-16)

The Lord revealed that the nation of Israel during her incubation stage would be in affliction. They would be subject to cruel bondage and put through the fiery furnace of iron in Egypt. This is to prepare them to leave Egypt with much appreciation and awe of Jehovah God who delivered them with a strong arm in the midst of signs and wonders as well as leaving their land of bondage with much riches. This nation of Israel has a special mission prepared for them when they leave Egypt. They are not given the land promised to Abraham immediately as the land was then resided by the Canaanites which were earlier cursed by Noah. The iniquity of this people was not yet full and the gracious Lord God was giving time for them to repent of their sin. But God's foreknowledge foresaw their continuous rebellion and one day, when their reckoning would be due, they would be expelled from that land. Meanwhile, the nation of Israel is being prepared to make an entrance into this world where the Redeemer of all mankind would come through this nation as the promised Seed of the woman promised since the fall of Adam.

When the children of Israel were finally delivered from Egypt and set foot on Canaan, these were the words that Moses were supposed to tell them: **And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. (Exodus 19:6)** The nation of Israel is supposed to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Their relation to the rest of the world of nations is to manifest God's holiness and righteousness. They are supposed to be a holy nation to the rest of the world where the rest of the nations should come to know the true and living God through Israel. The whole nation of Israel is to be a kingdom of priests when they relate to the rest of the nations. God is only interested in seeking one nation to represent Him on earth to deal with the rest of the world. So the children of Israel was given a piece of land to establish their nation and institute the worship of Jehovah God with the prescribed laws for this nation in their approach to the holy things of God. They were given laws to govern themselves on earthly affairs and foreign affairs with other nations. But one main mission for them is to deal with the iniquity of the Amorites, which is now full after 400 years.

When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the

LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. (Deuteronomy 7:1-10)

So the children of Israel were given a mission to exterminate the inhabitants in Canaan where their iniquity was now full. They were to completely wipe out all these inhabitants and replace them and establish their own nation on this piece of land. The reason they were to wipe out these inhabitants before them was because these people worshipped false gods. They were to show them no mercy because if these people were to remain in this land, they would cause the children of Israel to join them in the worship of false gods. Intermarriages between these people and the children of Israel were forbidden to protect the purity of their own race and worship of the true and living God. Besides, the inhabitants there also indulged in sexual perversion where the land could no longer stand their sin: **Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. (Leviticus 18:24&25)** They had defiled the land and the land would vomit them out of the land. The children of Israel were a special people to Jehovah God as His representatives on earth.

However, the children of Israel failed their primary mission and they did not completely destroy these people in Canaan. The psalmist tells us: **They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions. Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance. And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them. Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. Nevertheless he regarded their**

affliction, when he heard their cry: And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies. He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives. (Psalm 106:34-36) Hence, these nations became a constant source of trouble to Israel and cause them to turn their back on Jehovah God and worship false gods. So Jehovah God eventually raised up the Assyrians and the Babylonians to chastise Israel and carried them away into captivity. This allowed the land to rest the Sabbaths for seventy years where the children of Israel also failed to keep the Sabbath as a sign given to them as a nation.

God only promised to give Abraham and his descendents a piece of land in the Middle East and not the entire planet Earth. Israel was not given an expansionist policy to conquer the whole world. They were supposed to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before Jehovah God. They had a mission to show to the rest of the nations the holiness and righteousness of God, the Creator of the heaven and earth and all nations. **I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. (Isaiah 42:6&7)** The children of Israel failed to be a light to the Gentiles and soon this mission is to be taken over by their Messiah. **And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6)** As a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before the Lord, the nation of Israel was supposed to be light to the Gentiles nations but they failed miserably. They were hence set aside when God raised up another nation to provoke them to jealousy.

Isaac had two sons, Esau the firstborn and Jacob the younger son. Why did God bypass the firstborn and choose Jacob instead? Did Almighty God make a wrong choice which resulted in the failure of the nation of Israel to be a light unto the Gentiles? Would Esau prove to be a much better candidate? What was the basis of this selection of putting the younger before the elder? Were the fate of the two sons of Isaac predetermined and they could do nothing about it? The children of Israel were told.

I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. (Malachi 1:2&3)

Was the choice by Jehovah God arbitrary without any consideration at all? Would Esau have been a better choice than Jacob who failed this mission to be a righteous nation before the rest of the nations on earth? The apostle Paul also had something to say concerning the choice between Esau and Jacob.

For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. (Romans 9:9-14)

This further complicates matter where the choice had already been made before the two sons of Isaac were born. Is God unrighteous? What was the basis of this choice for choosing Jacob over Esau to be a great nation of special people to Jehovah God? Was Esau disadvantaged in any way? So what was the point of living a righteous life when their fate was already sealed? But the answer to the reason why God chose Jacob over Esau is found in **Hebrew 12:16&17: Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.** So it was recorded that Esau was a fornicator, a profane person who despised his birthright. Esau had absolutely no

inclination towards spiritual things. He is a type of the flesh. That is why God hated Esau and loved Jacob. God according to His foreknowledge knew exactly the outcome of the two sons of Isaac. Hence one is loved and the other hated. Unlike the wicked, God does not hate anyone without a cause.

So the racial characteristic of Esau was passed down from generation to generation. Because of Esau's sin and attitude, all his descendents were affected just like by one man sin entered into the world via Adam. The defect of the human race is a reality. God hates sins and he will judge sinners and their sins. While God hated Esau, he told the children to deal with their people differently. **Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land. (Deuteronomy 23:7)** Almighty God is not a God of unrighteousness. God did not issue Israel with a blank cheque to exterminate everyone next to the land given to them. In fact God commanded the children of Israel on how they should treat those people outside the race of the Canaanites.

Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 22:21&23:9) And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. (Leviticus 19:33)

Hence Israel was given very humane laws on how to treat strangers. God only wanted them to destroy the Canaanites and not everyone else. They are supposed to treat strangers well as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before God in their relations with the nations in this world. Unfortunately, some self-conceited and self-righteous Christians teach hatred of some people God did not hate. They teach people to hate the Arabs and those who opposed Israel. They forgot that those nations around Israel were also partly descendents of Abraham. Moreover, God has a future for them.

In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and

shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it. And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them. In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance. (Isaiah 19:19-25)

So God's plan for the nations will work out according to His divine will and perfect timing. There is no point trying to interpret Scriptures through newspapers headlines. There will be a conversion of the Egyptians and the Assyrians one day in the future. The meddling of the politics in the Middle East will not in any way thwart God's plan for the people of Egypt, Assyria and Israel. What Israel failed to achieve will be accomplished one day. **Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 14:21)** So the Canaanites whom Israel failed to exterminate will one day be forever destroyed. Praise God there will be no more Canaanites to trouble God's people forever.

While Esau was a profane character devoid of spiritual qualities, Jacob did not come out smelling like a rose either. For Jacob was a supplanter and a schemer. The Lord's conclusion about his descendents was also nothing to be proud of. **Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people. (Deuteronomy 9:6)** So Israel actually does not deserve to be chosen either. The reason for selecting Israel is revealed by the Lord as follows:

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and

redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

So the Jehovah God did not choose Israel because they were great in number but because they were the fewest in number. The Lord loved them and chose them because God is a promise keeping God. What God promised their fathers unconditionally, He would keep it to the end. It is through the nation of Israel that the promise Seed of the woman would eventually come. The promise of blessing to come upon all the families on earth given to Abraham must run its course. The drama of redemption for fallen men is unfolding in time and history in spite of the failure of the nation of Israel.

What Israel failed to be to the nations on earth will also be accomplished one day when they are converted unto the Lord. **But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed. (Isaiah 61:6&9)** In time past when Israel failed to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before God will one day be fulfilled. What Israel failed to be the head of nations according to divine plan will be fulfilled in the future kingdom. **And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: (Deuteronomy 28:13)** It is God's will to make Israel to be the head of nation and not the tail. So all this will one day come to pass as planned. But before the nation of Israel becomes a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation, the judgment of the Gentile nations must take place first.

A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 25:31) **God choosing Israel over the rest of the nations is a controversy. Fallen men will resent God's choice of Israel to be the head of nation. But the Lord is the Creator of the nations. He is the One who gives life to all and give them breath and all things. He is also the One who chose the nation of Israel to be a great nation. He will settle this controversy with the nations in the future during the time of Jacob's trouble. The judgment of the nations will take place soon when the Church is taken out of the way. The criteria for this judgment is based on Matthew 25:31-46 as revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

During that time, the nations will be gathered, separated and judged accordingly. The criteria of judgment are based on how they related to helping the Lord's brethren, the children of Israel. Some Christians think that they would be judged according to these criteria. If Christians were to be judged according to these criteria, where would we stand? Have Christians consistently rendered help to the Lord's brethren? How many will make it based on these criteria of entering into eternal life? How much have Christians given out to help the Lord's brethren? Do you think you and many Christians would make it? Would Christians turn out to be sheep or goat? The passage here clearly refers to an event in the future. It is not concerning how Christians would be judged whether they would merit eternal life based on their contribution towards helping the Lord's brethren. This passage is concerning the time of Jacob's trouble where the children of Israel will be severely persecuted. That is why it is important to rightly divide the word of truth.

So the judgment of the nations is an event in the future before the kingdom of the Lord on earth will become a literal reality. God is the creator of the nations in the beginning and there will also be nations in the end. Some nations will be saved and some will be lost. Eternity is not a place devoid of nations of people.

Because of the rebellion of the nation of Israel, her statehood as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation is set aside and her programs held in abeyance. However, soon one day, all the unfulfilled prophecies concerning Israel and the nations of the world will kick-start again and become newspaper headlines in the world. The time to settle the controversy with the nations of the world will begin. This has been foretold by the prophet Jeremiah some 2600 years ago. **A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. (Jeremiah 25:31&32)** This is called the time of Jacob's trouble, which must be distinguished from the Church's trouble. This concerns an event where a period of time is set aside to deal with Israel and nations in the world. **Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7)** The Church has no such time period of great trouble prophesied for her. It is during this time that the controversy with the nations

of the world will be dealt with. The prophet Daniel also was told about this tribulation for the nation of Israel in Daniel 12:1: **And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**

The Lord is determined to gather the nations for this time to trash out all the issues of this fallen world. This is also known as the day of vengeance of the Lord. Many other prophets were told about this event as well. **I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. (Joel 3:2) Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. (Zephaniah 3:8) For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, As when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence! (Isaiah 34:2,64:1&2) For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. (Zechariah 2:8, 12:9, 14:2&3)**

The Old Testament by and large has many unfulfilled prophecies. The Church does not replace Israel nor inherit all her promises and targeted with all her threats. The blessings and curses for Israel are not meant for the Church. This day of the Lord also known as the time of Jacob's trouble is a time of a great gathering of the nations. God in time past scattered the nation

by confounding their languages will reunite them again in Israel. During this time, a converted Israel will be exalted and all the nations will come to know this Creator God who made the heaven and the earth as well as all nations of men. So the prophets continued their prophecies.

The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay their hand upon their mouth, their ears shall be deaf. (Micah 7:16) After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which cause them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD. (Ezekiel 38:8, 23, 39:27-29) And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. (Haggai 2:7)

As far as the Gentile nations are concerned, this is what the prophet Jeremiah had to say: Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. (Jeremiah 10:7,10)

This Millennial Kingdom is the subject of much discussion in the Old Testament. The prophet Zechariah revealed that the Gentile nations would be converted to the Lord in that day of the Kingdom Age. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you. (Zechariah 2:11, 8:22,23) **The Lord also confirmed this through the prophet Zephaniah:** For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. (Zephaniah 3:9) **For the moment, the languages of fallen men have been confounded to scatter men upon the face of the earth. The day will come when there will be unifying of the people of a pure language to call upon the name of the Lord.**

The prophet Micah likewise mentioned the conversion of the Gentile nations during that time living in peace on earth. **And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.** (Micah 4:2,3,7)

Isaiah the prophet also concluded such a scenario in the future. **And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that**

come forth of it. For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. (Isaiah 2:2,4,34:1,66:18-20)

The prophet Malachi also made this conclusion when the Lord settled the controversy with the nations: And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:12) **The original intention to make Israel the head of nations will be fulfilled in that day. Ezekiel documented the Temple and their worship during the Kingdom Age from which the Messiah of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign from Jerusalem over all the earth from chapter 40 to 47. The distribution of the land grant given to Abraham is also recorded in chapter 48 where the twelve tribes of Israel will receive their inheritance layer by layer from the top to the bottom in the Middle East. The Kingdom of Israel will no longer be divided and Ezekiel also confirmed this in Ezekiel 37:22-28:** And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle

also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore. **So the Gentile nations will know without any shadow of a doubt that it is the Lord God who has chosen Israel. The controversy will be settled and no dispute will be entertained.**

Temple worship will be restored and the nation of Israel will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation before the Lord. During that Kingdom Age, all Gentile nations shall serve the Lord through Israel. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. (Isaiah 60:12,61:11) **The Gentile nations are commanded and are expected to come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord during the Kingdom Age.** And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. (Zechariah 14:16-19)

All nations have to serve the Lord in that day by going up to Jerusalem to worship. This is the divine plan for all the nations of the world. But this time, Satan will be temporarily incarcerated in a bottomless pit for 1000 years to prevent him from deceiving the nations like he did right now. After which, Satan will be released for a while according to revelation from the apostle John in Revelation 20:7-10: And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the

beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. **This is new revelation not revealed to the prophets in the Old Testament. It is when this final episode of rebellion is over that eternity will begin and the healing of the nations will take place.**

So the Holy Bible does speak a lot about nations and kingdoms including races of people. It reveals God's plan for fallen men and God's program in redeeming them to live forever in righteousness and holiness before God for all eternity. The psalmist also talked a lot about God dealing with the nations throughout the book of Psalms. In fact, the entire Psalm 2 talks about this issue on the Creator God ruling over the nations on earth. Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

So more prophetic utterances from the psalmist continue to enlighten Bible readers about God personally ruling over the nations on earth. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD's: and he is the governor among the nations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all

nations shall serve him. His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. (Psalms 9:17, 20; 22:27,28; 33:12; 66:7; 67:2,4; 72:11,17; 86:9; 113:4; 117:1)

Hence any Christian reading through the Holy Bible with a Bible believing heart would know that God has a plan for the nations on earth and God's divine will must come to pass. No one can prevent God from fulfilling His purpose in creating the nations, separating them and eventually gathering them again to redeem to Himself a people who will obey Him and serve Him.

When the final rebellion of fallen men having lived in a redeemed world with the Devil incarcerated for 1000 years is over, the program for eternity rolls in. This time, there will be no more rebellion. All nations of men who rebelled have been cast into the lake of fire with the Devil and his angels as well as all lost sinners born in Adam from the beginning of time. Those redeemed nations will enter a permanent Kingdom of Age where time is no more. This will be the real time of eternal bliss for the redeemed basking in the light of the thrice holy God serving Him forever and ever. The apostle John revealed this future glorious state.

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. (Revelation 21:22-26)

There will be saved nations in that kingdom in eternity serving Almighty God. They will walk in the light of God in eternity. Their kings will bring the glory and honour to the city where there is no night there. In times past, they worship in an earthly temple in Jerusalem. This time, they enter the New Jerusalem. This is the holy city that comes down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). This is no longer a holy temple but a holy city. There will be no more temple in eternity for **the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it**. Worship is not restricted to an earthly temple. This time, Almighty God will dwell with men in harmony for all eternity. This will be a time of endless worship and continuous fellowship. Nothing will disrupt this joy and happiness of the saints of light in that day. Eternity is not some Christians floating in the air giggling like babies. There will be nations and people and there will be worship in the new heaven and new earth forever and ever.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month:

and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:1&2)

These saved nations will be healed and the lost nations are forever lost. No more rebellious fallen men will be there to trouble the saints in eternity. The redeemed of the Lord shall enter this age of permanent boundless blessings and endless joy and worship of the great God who loved them and redeemed them to be His people. The tree of life lost in the Garden of Eden will be restored in eternity. This forbidden fruit after the fall of man will be made available to heal the nations of men. The nations will rejoice in that day soaking in eternal bliss where the river of life is a permanent reality. Gall and wormwood would be a thing of the past. The future of the saved nations is one of glory. God has not forgotten the rest of the nations just because He chooses the nation of Israel to be head of the nations. The controversy with the nations will be settled and all nations of men will give honour and glory to this thrice holy God of creation, time and eternity.

All nations of saved men will be worshipping God in eternity. What about this present time? What is the role of the Church? What is the future of the Church vis-à-vis the nations on earth? Is there a literal Christian nation on earth serving the Lord to replace Israel? If there is, which country is it? According to the apostle Peter, the Church is also a nation. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter 2:9)

The Church is also a nation but this church is not the nation of Israel. This nation has no territorial jurisdiction on planet Earth. This nation has no laws to govern the affairs among the nations on earth. This nation has no power to administer corporal or capital punishment on offenders. This nation has no national tax regime like that of Israel to support the priesthood in a literal temple. This nation has no Canaanites to exterminate in order to replace them to establish a nation on their land.

The nation of Israel failed God and was set aside. So meanwhile God raised up the Church as another nation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation to be ambassadors for Christ on earth (2 Corinthians 5:20). Now Christians have become God's representatives on earth that replace Israel in time past. The purpose is in line with the mission given to Israel to be a light to the Gentiles. The Church as a new nation is supposed to be a light unto this lost and dying world. This church is supposed to manifest God's righteousness and holiness to sinners on earth irrespective of nations and races. This Church is a spiritual nation that transient local territorial sovereignty of nations. This Church is a nation that is supposed to bring life to sinners on earth by the foolishness of preaching of the gospel of Christ. This Church as a nation is commissioned by God for a mission till the time of the end. **And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)** This commission is to reach all nations on earth with the gospel of Christ's saving grace.

Eventually, this Church would be like Israel and failed her mission in the last day. The Church becomes lukewarm having only a form and no substance. This nation, the Church would be taken out of the way where

God's dealing and program for Israel, currently set aside, would resume. The promise to make Israel the head of nation is not forgotten by God. The promise of a greater Son of David to sit upon his throne in Jerusalem will be right on schedule. So how are Christians to relate to nations and races and racial issue?

The apostle Paul had something to say about a certain group of people in Titus 1:12-14: **One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.**

Paul would not mince words when he mentioned the weakness of a certain group of people. Their defects as a race of people were recorded in the holy Bible. He claimed that the Cretians were not only liars but always liars. He called them evil beasts and slow bellies. These are exceedingly strong words to say about another people. He told Titus how to deal with this people. Was Paul a racist? No. Certainly not. Racial weaknesses are a reality unless one is desperately naïve or brutally dishonest. Paul recorded his observation on the character weaknesses of the Cretians just like a prominent politician here commended that the Chinese were compulsive gamblers. Christians cannot allow the popular media of the day to blind him to such weaknesses of certain race of people. Missionaries in foreign land can tell Christians how the people they minister in the mission fields behave. There are racial traits that cannot be wished away. How fallen men wish they were perfect! Some races of people are predisposed to certain weaknesses. This cannot be helped just like Esau's defects cause his entire descendents to be rejected by Jehovah God.

However, never in the New Testament is a Christian ordered to hate any race of people on earth. Christians are taught to love sinners and offer them the gospel of Christ. Christians are told to love their neighbours as themselves. Racial hatred is never taught in the Holy Bible for Christian to emulate and practice. In this regard, even the disciples of Christ failed to understand. They need to be taught a lesson on the changing of times in dealing with other nations.

And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not

what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. (Luke 9:51-56)

The Samaritans were a mixed race of people. The Jews in the Northern kingdom were carried away and foreigners replaced them. There were also intermarriages between the foreigners and the Jews. So the Jews despised the Samaritans and never treated them as their equal. So they grew up with this baggage of self-righteousness. Their contempt of the Samaritans was quite obvious. When the Samaritans did not receive the Lord Jesus Christ when he passed through, the disciples thought they could act like Elijah to call down fire to exterminate the Samaritans. The modern day's term is to nuke them to stone age. They had the wrong spirit and were soundly rebuked by the Lord.

Christians are never to regard any race of people as their enemy. The Christian warfare is spiritual and not carnal. The nation of Israel and the Church are not the same. Israel was only told to exterminate the Canaanites and not everyone else. They were supposed to be humane towards strangers living in their midst. There are no Canaanites for the Church to exterminate. The Canaanites the church ought to exterminate are the flesh of Christians; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. These Canaanites in Christians are a constant scourge that troubles them just like they were a trouble to Israel.

Christians should never be caught with hatred for any other race on earth. Christians are to love the nations of people enough to offer them the gospel of Christ's saving grace. Some conceited Christians get involved in politics and ruined their testimonies before the unsaved. They argued with the lost on politics and many other unimportant issues in this life and when they bring out the gospel message, they cause God's name to be blasphemed.

The Church's mission is different from Israel. Christians are not given an inheritance for a piece of land in the Middle East. Christians' destiny is the New Jerusalem in outer space to replace the race of the fallen sons of God. The estate of Christians is a heavenly estate and not some real estate on earth. The apostle Paul told the Christians in Ephesus: **And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (Ephesians 2:6)** Christians are already currently sitting in heavenly places in

Christ. Their destiny is above and not below. The apostle Paul mentioned further: **To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. (Ephesians 3:10-12)**

There are powers are in heavenly places. That is why Christians have power in prayers. That is why Christians have access before the throne of grace in heaven and not in a temple on earth or in a church building. That is why Christians are to set their affections on things that are above and not on things on earth.

God is the creator of the nations on earth and God will deal with them according to His perfect timing. There will be redeemed nations of people in the future on a new earth as well as the Bride of Christ in New Jerusalem like there are lost nations of people on earth and the host of angels in heaven today. Unlike today, access to heaven to the New Jerusalem will be available to the redeemed saints on earth. In eternity, the days of the redeemed saints on earth will be as the days of heaven upon the earth. Heaven and earth will be in harmony and so God will be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Christians are to remember their heavenly calling and not to be involved in racial issues that cause them to lose their testimony before the unsaved. There will be no end to hatred and bloodshed in this sin cursed world. Nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. This is the present reality in this fallen world where nations of men are not content to dwell in the bounds of their own habitation.

Let not any Christian think his fallen mind can offer any solution to all the troubles in this world. Fallen men's rebellion against Almighty God is the cause of all the troubles in this world. War and more wars are on the way. The world cannot expect to have peace when the Prince of Peace is not sitting upon the throne of his glory in Jerusalem reigning on earth. The prophetic vision of Habakkuk: **For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)** is still yet to be fulfilled in the future. All races and nations of people on earth are born dead in trespasses and sins. There is really no point in indulging in superiority complex over some other races of people. For all races of people are in need of the gospel of Christ. The

exhortation of the apostle Paul for the Christians in Corinth comes to mind: **Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. (1 Corinthians 10:32&33)** Let not any Christian argue with fallen men on politics and racial issues that may cause him to lose his Christian testimony before the unsaved. May the Lord help us to reach the lost so that more lost sons of Adam may become part of this holy nation, the Bride of Christ to inherit New Jerusalem.

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kjp-asia.com.