

Handout

God's Plan for the Nations

Gen 10:32 “These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.”

Shem – 26 nations

Ham – 30 nations

Japheth – 14 nations -- **a total of 70 nations from the descendants of Noah’s 3 sons.**

70 is a significant number in the Bible:

- 70 Children of Israel came into Egypt (*Gen 46:27*) Moses referred to this: *Deut 32:7,8 “Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you. 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when He divided mankind, He fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.”* (70 nations/70 children of Israel)
- 70 weeks were determined for the Jews (*Daniel 9:24*)
- Israel led by 70 elders (*Numbers 11:16,25*)
- 70 members of the Jewish Sanhedrin
- 70 scholars translated the Septuagint (Greek OT)
- *Psa 90:10* – Man’s lifespan is 70 years
- The Babylonian captivity was 70 years
- Jesus sent out the 70 disciples (Lk 10:1)
- Jesus said to forgive “70 times 7” (Mt 18:22)
- Jerusalem & the Temple were destroyed about 70 years after Herod tried to kill the infant Jesus.

God's Plan for the Nations:

1. God’s great plan was to choose a nation – through whom the Messiah would come.

Gen 18:18 “...seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”

Gen 26:4 “And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” NKJV

2. God is over all the nations

Job 12:23 “He makes nations great, and He destroys them; He enlarges nations, and leads them away.”

1 Chron 16:31 “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns!’”

Ps 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

3. God will judge nations that defile themselves and turn from Him

Lev 18:24 “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these, the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean.”

Deut 9:5 “Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you.”

3. The Nation of Israel was to be a light to the nations.

1 Chron 16:24 “Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!”

Isa 49:6 “I will make you as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

One of the problems was that the Jewish people became insular. They pulled in rather than reach out to the nations around them.

“They were chosen only for the purpose of being the instrument and channel of God’s mercy and grace to ‘the nations’ of the whole earth.” *Genesis, A Devotional Commentary*, by Rev. W.H. Griffith Thomas, p. 128.

When Israel disobeyed and God disciplined them:

Deut 29:24-26 “...all the nations will say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?' 25 Then people will say, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them.’”

When God blessed and delivered Israel:

(David) 2 Sam 22:50-51 “For this I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to Your name. 51 Great

salvation He brings to His king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his off-spring forever.”

(Solomon) 1 Kings 4:34 “And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.”

(Nehemiah) Neh 6:16 “And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.”

4. That the church would preach the gospel to the nations.

Matt 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

Matt 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

5. That the nations would turn to God

Ps 22:27,28 “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. 28 For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.”

Ps 86:9 “All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.”

Acts 17:26-28 “And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for 'In Him we live and move and have our being.'”

6. That Jesus will save and rule the nations forever

Dan 7:14 “And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”