

THE ORIGIN OF NATIONS (#7)

During the months of May and June we will be studying a special series entitled the “Antiquity of Nations”.

Lesson #1	Origin of Nations	Gen.10:32
Lesson #2	Table of Nations	Acts 17:26
Lesson #3	Babel Internationalism	Gen.11:1-9
Lesson #4	Priest – Nation of Israel	Ex. 19:1-6
Lesson #5	Client Nations (#1)	Rom.13:1-7
Lesson #6	Client Nations (#2)	1 Pet.2:13-16
Lesson #7	Evangelism of Nations	Matt.28:18-20

There has been some theological debate regarding our lesson text that is known as the Great Commission. The controversy revolves around whether the Great Commission applies only to the Jewish Age or to the Church Age, or to both – “Go therefore and **make disciples** (matheteuo / a.a.impv.2pl) **of all the nations.**” (Matt.28:19a)

This controversy can be resolved by understanding that the Great Commission is messianic. It is part of the Suffering Servant prophesy of Isaiah (Isa.42; Matt.12:18-21) – “And I will appoint you a covenant to the people, as **a light to the nations.**” (Isa.42:6b)

Simeon applied it to the baby Jesus while being present in the temple (Luke 2:21-32) – “A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” (2:32)

Paul and Barnabas applied it to their first missionary trip (Acts 13) – “And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For thus the Lord commanded us, **‘I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the end of the earth.’**” (Acts 13:46-47; 26:22-23)

This lesson will study five aspects of the church’s responsibility of the Evangelism of Nations.

1. Because Jesus is the Savior of the world, it is the responsibility of the church to evangelize the world.

“And they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the **Savior of the world.**’” (John 4:42)

Bethlehem temple shepherds – “For today in the city of David there has been born for you a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11) and the Messianic prophet (JB) – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

- God broke the world down into nations for evangelism in Gen.10-11 (Matt.28:18-20; Rom.4:17; Gen.17:5).
- Paul – “For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the **Savior of all men**, especially of believers.” (1 Tim.4:10)
- John – “And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be **the Savior of the world.**” (1 John 4:14)

2. Gospel evangelism is how we regain the divine dominion of the world for Christ.

The divine dominion of the world was lost in the fall of Adam to Satan (Gen.1:28; Gen.3; Ps.8:3-6; John 12:31; 14:30-31; 16:11)

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19)

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (the gospel of grace salvation) defeats Satan and his rulership over the world:

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Cor.4:3-4; 1 John 3:8)

3. Therefore the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power to deliver mankind from the rulership and dominion of Satan

“To open their eyes so that they may **turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God**, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:18) (Matt.13:36-43) [Explanation of the parable of Tares]

All mankind starts out in cosmos diabolicus sphere and is **transferred** by the gospel of grace salvation to the divine dynasphere – “For He delivered us from the dominion of darkness (cosmos diabolicus sphere), and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (divine dynasphere).” (Col.1:13; Acts 4:12)

“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

“Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).” (Eph.2:5, 8-10; Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4)

4. As the dispensational divine agency, the church is the custodian of evangelism of the world and the word of God (Matt.28:18-20; 1 Thess.1:5-10; acts 1:8; Rom.15:20; 1 Cor.3:6-9).

“Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our **Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.**” (2 Tim.1:9-10)

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a **witness to all the nations**, and then the end shall come.” (Matt.24:14; 26:13) (1 Cor.15:23-26; Rom.16:20).

5. It is the responsibility of the church to teach and train and to send and support missionary evangelist (Acts 11:19-22) [church at Jerusalem].

“Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 13:3-4a) [Church at Antioch of Syria]

First missionary trip of Paul and Barnabas was recorded in Acts 13-14. Acts 14:21-28 records them planting churches and then returning to home church of Antioch of Syria.

Paul taught the divine open door concept of evangelism – “For a **wide door** for effective service **has opened** to me, and there are many adversaries.” (1 Cor.16:9) “Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a **door opened** for me in the Lord (2 Cor.2:12) “Praying at the same time for us as well, that God may **open up to us a door** for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.” (Col.4:3-4)

Missionary ambassadors promote the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world - “For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.” (2 John 7) (Gal.6:14; Acts 18:3; 2 Thess.3:8-9; 2 Cor.5:17-21) – “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Rom.8:37; **1 John 5:4-5**)