

GOD AND THE NATIONS

Daniel 4

Introduction:

1. **Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, thought he had built his own empire.**
2. **GOD gave him a dream of a giant tree that was cut down.**
3. **Daniel interpreted the dream and warned the king to repent.**

“This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the MOST HIGH rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (Daniel 4:17).

3. **Paul told the Athenians GOD made the world and everything in it.**

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings...” (Acts 17:26).

4. **GOD holds nations as well as individuals accountable for their sins.**

Discussion:

I. RIGHTEOUS NATIONS ARE BLESSED BY GOD.

- A. **The LORD spoke of His Old Testament nation, Israel, when He said:**

“Blessed is the nation whose GOD is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.” (Psa. 33:12).

- B. **We must not equate Israel with America today.**

1. **The LORD’s church is GOD’s chosen people today (1 Pet. 2:9).**
2. **Any nation which exalts GOD will be blessed and any nation which turns away from Him will be cursed.**

- C. **GOD expects nations as well as individuals to be righteous.**

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

“The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget GOD” (Psa. 9:17).

II. WICKED NATIONS ARE PUNISHED BY GOD.

A. GOD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality (Gen. 19; Jude 7).

B. GOD used Israel to destroy the Canaanites for their sins (Gen 15:16).

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out from before you. For the land is defiled. Therefore, I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants” (Lev. 18:24,25).

C. GOD used heathen nations to judge Israel when they forsook Him.

“Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said: ‘Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not’ (Judg. 2:20-22).

D. GOD sent Israel into the Assyrian captivity (2 Kings 18:9-12).

E. GOD sent Judah into the Babylonian captivity (2 Chron. 36:11-21).

“And the LORD GOD of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of GOD, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy” (2 Chron. 36:15,16).

F. GOD used Babylon to punish His people, then He used the Medes and Persians to punish Babylon for their sins (Hab. 1 - 3; Isa. 44:24-45:1; 2 Chron. 36:22,23).

III. AMERICA WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOD FEARING PEOPLE.

A. People came to this country to worship GOD freely.

- 1. Massachusetts was founded by Puritans.**
- 2. Pennsylvania was founded by Quakers.**
- 3. Maryland was founded as a refuge for Catholics.**

B. The founding fathers believed in the GOD of the Bible.

1. The Declaration of Independence says: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain inalienable rights....”
2. Benjamin Franklin said: “I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: ‘that GOD governs in the affairs of men.’”
3. In his inaugural address, President Washington said: “It would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplication to that ALMIGHTY BEING who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose Providential aids can supply every human defect...”
4. Scriptures abound on government buildings and monuments.
5. Every president has been sworn in on a copy of the Bible.
6. Every session of Congress opens with a prayer to GOD.
7. Our national motto is “In GOD we trust.”
8. Every president from George Washington to George W. Bush has declared a national day of prayer.

C. The First Amendment guarantees religious freedom for all citizens.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

1. There is no mention of the “separation of church and state.”
2. The founders’ intent was that the government should not establish a state church such as European nations had.

D. The US Supreme Court in the past recognized the influence of Christianity in the United States.

1. In 1892, the Court asserted: “These references ... add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a religious people ... a Christian nation.”
2. In 1931, Justice Sutherland declared we are “a Christian people.”
3. in 1952, Justice Douglas affirmed: “We are a religious people and our institutions presuppose a Supreme Being.”

IV. THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE CREATED BY GOD FEARING CITIZENS.

A. Bible reading and prayer were allowed for 170 years.

1. Massachusetts’ “Old Deluder law” required Bible reading.
2. Prayer and Bible stories were part of the curriculum.

- B. In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled that Bible reading and prayer in public schools violated the First Amendment.**
- 1. Beginning at this point, there has been a marked decline in moral standards, discipline, and academics in the schools.**
 - 2. Various court rulings since have declared it is illegal to:**
 - a. Post copies of the Ten Commandments (1980).**
 - b. Pray at school graduations (1985).**
 - c. Discuss religion on school grounds (1965).**
 - d. Give thanks audibly before eating (1965).**
- C. In 1973, in Roe v. Wade the Supreme Court took away the inalienable right of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” from a baby in its mother’s womb.**
- 1. 56 million innocent infants have been killed since.**
 - 2. GOD has greatly blessed America in the past.**
 - 3. How long will GOD wait to punish us for our sins???**

Conclusion:

- 1. What can we do to restore our nation?**
 - a. Pray for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:1,2).**
 - b. Become informed and involved.**
 - b. Vote as Christians (Matt. 6:33; Eccl. 12:14).**
 - c. Be “salt and light” (Matt. 5:13-16).**
- 2. Become a Christian as the Bible teaches (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 18:8).**