

God And The Nations v3

Lesson 3

Righteousness Exalts A Nation

God Through Jesus Rules The Nations Today

1. Jesus rules the nations to save those who obey and punish the wicked
2. Jesus ruling over the nations foretold and fulfilled
3. Jesus' reign confirmed by other New Testament writers
4. Jesus uses the Romans to judge Jerusalem

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What is absolutely necessary to the strengthening of a nation?

1. Military and nuclear power?
2. Secure borders?
3. Large strong economy?
4. Large and diverse population?
5. Free and open society?
6. Righteousness?

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Righteousness exalts but sin disgraces a nation

Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a disgrace to any people.

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Introduction

- Many nations that were once considered great have long since either been diminished greatly or destroyed completely
- God, in the Old Testament, and now Jesus, determines the establishment and endurance of nations
- What happens to a nation is wholly determined by the amount of righteousness there is within a nation

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Introduction

- National righteousness differs from individual righteousness that we see in the gospel of Christ, the apostles' teaching
- But, there is a direct relationship between individual righteousness and national righteousness
- Broadly speaking, there are at least three areas in which a nation must behave in order to be righteous in God's sight

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God judges the nations according to righteousness

Gen 18:23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

Gen 18:24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?"

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God judges the nations according to righteousness

Gen 18:25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"

Gen 18:26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account."

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God judges the nations according to righteousness

Gen 18:32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten."

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God diminishes Egypt even until today

Eze 29:12 "So I will make the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of desolated lands. And her cities, in the midst of cities that are laid waste, will be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them among the lands."

Eze 29:13 'For thus says the Lord GOD, "At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were scattered."

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God diminishes Egypt even until today

Eze 29:14 "I will turn the fortunes of Egypt and make them return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they will be a lowly kingdom.

Eze 29:15 "It will be the lowest of the kingdoms, and it will never again lift itself up above the nations. And I will make them so small that they will not rule over the nations.

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God completely destroyed Edom never to rise again

Eze 35:5 "Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end,

Eze 35:6 therefore as I live," declares the Lord GOD, "I will give you over to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you; since you have not hated bloodshed, therefore bloodshed will pursue you."

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God completely destroyed Edom never to rise again

Eze 35:7 "I will make Mount Seir a waste and a desolation and I will cut off from it the one who passes through and returns.

Eze 35:8 "I will fill its mountains with its slain; on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines those slain by the sword will fall.

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God completely destroyed Edom never to rise again

Eze 35:9 "I will make you an everlasting desolation and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

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What is righteousness?

Psa 119:172 Let my tongue sing of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.

Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a disgrace to any people.

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Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

Psa 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

Psa 9:17 The wicked will return to Sheol,
Even all the nations who forget God.

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Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 4:29 "Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.

Dan 4:30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'

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Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 4:31 "While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,

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Righteous nations honor God as
Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 4:32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

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Righteous nations honor God as
Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 4:33 "Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

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Righteous nations honor God as
Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 4:34 "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

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Righteous nations honor God as
Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 4:35 "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

Dan 5:18 "O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.

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Righteous nations honor God as
Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 5:19 "Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.

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Righteous nations honor God as
Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 5:20 "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.

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Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 5:21 "He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.

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Righteous Nations Honor God As Creator And Ruler of All Nations

Dan 5:22 "Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

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Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 5:23 but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

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Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

Dan 5:30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

Dan 5:31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

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Is our nation honoring God as Creator and Ruler of all nations today?

1. Multiculturalism promoted – idolatrous cultures superior to God
2. Evolution in our schools and scientific fields – we are accidental results of randomly colliding molecules
3. Government, education and social media banning God from the public square
4. Humanism - worship of self
5. Environmentalism - worship of environment

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Righteousness Exalts A Nation

1. God judges the nations according to righteousness
2. What is righteousness?
3. Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

1Pe 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

1Pe 2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Rom 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Rom 13:2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;

Rom 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ³³

Righteous nations practice justice for all

Num 35:30 'If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Num 35:31 'Moreover, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Num 35:33 'So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; for blood pollutes the land and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Joh 19:10 So Pilate *said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?"

Joh 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Rev 19:2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Lev 18:21 'You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Amo 5:11 Therefore because you impose heavy rent on the poor And exact a tribute of grain from them, Though you have built houses of well-hewn stone, Yet you will not live in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, yet you will not drink their wine.
Amo 5:12 For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, You who distress the righteous and accept bribes And turn aside the poor in the gate.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Amo 5:13 Therefore at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time.
Amo 6:1 Woe to those who are at ease in Zion And to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria, The distinguished men of the foremost of nations, To whom the house of Israel comes.

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Amo 8:4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,
Amo 8:5 saying, "When will the new moon be over, So that we may sell grain, And the sabbath, that we may open the wheat market, To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, And to cheat with dishonest scales,

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Righteous nations practice justice for all

Amo 8:6 So as to buy the helpless for money And the needy for a pair of sandals, And that we may sell the refuse of the wheat?"

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Is our nation practicing justice for all today?

1. Failure to practice the death penalty for murders and other heinous crimes
2. Light sentences and freeing of violent criminals and sexual predators
3. Abortion
4. Pursuit of material things at the expense of the poor
5. Different justice for the rich, political elites and their protected groups

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Righteous nations encourage morality for all

Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

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Righteous nations encourage morality for all

Gen 19:24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven,

Gen 19:25 and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Gen 18:20 And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.

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Righteous nations encourage morality for all

Lev 18:20 'You shall not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife, to be defiled with her.

Lev 18:21 'You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

Lev 18:22 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

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Righteous nations encourage morality for all

Lev 18:23 'Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.

Lev 18:24 'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.

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Righteous nations encourage morality for all

Lev 18:25 'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants.

Lev 18:26 'But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you

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Righteous nations encourage morality for all

Lev 18:27 (for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled);

Lev 18:28 so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you.

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Is our nation encouraging morality for all today?

1. Homosexuality and homosexual "marriage"
2. Fornication of all types
3. Easy divorce for any reason
4. Breakdown of discipline in the family
5. Free flow of pornography and profanity
6. Free flow of alcohol and drugs
7. Government lotteries and other gambling
8. Welfare waste fraud and abuse

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Become and live as a Christian

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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Become and live as a Christian

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

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Become and live as a Christian

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

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Become and live as a Christian

1Jn 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

Mat 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

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Become and live as a Christian

Mat 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

Mat 5:15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Mat 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

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Become and live as a Christian

Gen 18:32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten."

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Become and live as a Christian

Heb 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

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Become and live as a Christian

Heb 12:26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

Heb 12:27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

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Become and live as a Christian

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Heb 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

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Righteousness Exalts A Nation

1. God judges the nations according to righteousness
2. What is righteousness?
3. Righteous nations honor God as Creator and Ruler of all nations
4. Righteous nations practice justice for all
5. Righteous nations encourage morality for all
6. Become and live as a Christian

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