

God And The Nations v3

Lesson 4

Can An Unrighteous Nation Repent of Its Sins?

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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Introduction

- Nations, like individuals, can either be righteous or unrighteous in their behavior
- Eventually when unrighteousness reaches a certain level, God uses other unrighteous nations to bring judgment
- But, is it always inevitable that unrighteous nations will be judged?
- Or, can they change course, turn back to righteousness, and avoid a national judgment?

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If nations are willing to repent God will
change His mind about judging them

2Ch 7:12 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

2Ch 7:13 "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

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2Ch 7:14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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them

Joe 2:12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning;
Joe 2:13 And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

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change His mind about judging
them

Jer 18:1 The word which came to Jeremiah
from the LORD saying,

Jer 18:2 "Arise and go down to the potter's
house, and there I will announce My words
to you."

Jer 18:3 Then I went down to the potter's
house, and there he was, making something
on the wheel.

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Jer 18:4 But the vessel that he was making
of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter;
so he remade it into another vessel, as it
pleased the potter to make.

Jer 18:5 Then the word of the LORD came
to me saying,

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them

Jer 18:6 "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal
with you as this potter does?" declares the
LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's
hand, so are you in My hand, O house of
Israel.

Jer 18:7 "At one moment I might speak
concerning a nation or concerning a
kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to
destroy it;

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Jer 18:8 if that nation against which I have
spoken turns from its evil, I will relent
concerning the calamity I planned to bring
on it.

Jer 18:9 "Or at another moment I might
speak concerning a nation or concerning a
kingdom to build up or to plant it;

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them

Jer 18:10 if it does evil in My sight by not
obeying My voice, then I will think better of
the good with which I had promised to bless
it.

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God is patient with nations
desiring their repentance

Num 14:17 "But now, I pray, let the power
of the Lord be great, just as You have
declared,

Num 14:18 'The LORD is slow to anger and
abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity
and transgression; but He will by no means
clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the
fathers on the children to the third and the
fourth generations.'

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God is patient with nations desiring their repentance

Num 14:19 "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

Num 14:20 So the LORD said, "I have pardoned them according to your word;

Num 14:21 but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

Jon 3:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."

Jon 3:3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 3:4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

Jon 3:5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 3:6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.

Jon 3:7 He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 3:8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.

Jon 3:9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

2Co 7:9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

2Co 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Act 26:20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 4:6 So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

Jon 4:7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 4:8 When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

Jon 4:9 Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."

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Assyria an example of a nation that repented

Jon 4:10 Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

Jon 4:11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

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Warning – a nation can go so far that it is unwilling to repent

Jer 6:14 "They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.

Jer 6:15 "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

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Warning – a nation can go so far that it is unwilling to

repent

Jer 6:16 Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

Jer 6:17 "And I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'

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Let us repent today while there is time!

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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Let us repent today while there is time!

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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Let us repent today while there is time!

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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2. God is patient with nations desiring their repentance
3. Assyria an example of a nation that repented
4. Warning – a nation can go so far that it is unwilling to repent
5. Let us repent today while there is time!

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