

“God’s Design For Nations”

National Identity & Sovereignty

Acts 17:21-28, “That they might seek the Lord ... and find Him.”

I. **4 Divine Institutions:** Genesis 1 – 11, Building blocks for the function of the human race.

1. Volition: personal freedom and responsibility.
2. Marriage: one man & one woman - foundation of society.
3. The family: building block of society, (society develops & death reigns) Genesis 6-8, the flood: judgment.
4. Nationalism: human government is necessary and is established after the flood.

Romans 1:21-32, Man had failed to govern himself by his own conscience. So – *God gave them up!*

Genesis 9:1-6, Romans 13:1-7, Government needed to check and control evil, and protect *individuals, households & families*.

Genesis 11:1-9, God scatters the nations to further limit the concentration of evil.

Genesis 10:5, :20, :31 & 32, God separates the sons of Adam and divides the earth (10:25) into nations.

Acts 14:15-17, God gives the Gentiles over to their own *ignorance* and sets *boundaries that they might seek Him*.

Deuteronomy 32:7,8, This was known in Israel’s history & culture and national life.

II. **God Forms And Separates His Nation:** Beginning with Abraham, *a middle wall of partition*.

Abraham □ Isaac □ Jacob □ 12 sons: *A family goes into Egypt, travails, & comes out as God’s firstborn [nation] son!*

Genesis 12:1-3, Ephesians 2:11-15, God separates His own nation from the rest of the world.

Exodus 19:4-6, They were to *be a peculiar* [unique & special] *people unto Him!*

Romans 3:1,2, God gives Israel a great advantage by committing to them His written word, creating their national identity.

The scripture gives divine instruction, guidance and wisdom from God to stabilize a nation and culture.

Romans 9:4,5, His written word makes them his special favored nation, giving a unique and exclusive relationship with Him.

III. **Israel’s National Sovereignty & Cultural Identity:** Created by the Law of Moses.

Exodus 20-31, God gives the Law; *a written code* to govern the moral, social and religious affairs and life of the nation.

Exodus 12:24-27, They had a national calendar with special days. *The families* were to pass these things on to their children.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9, *Passover, Firstfruits, Tabernacles* celebrate their history & national birth. *The Sabbath* points to creation.

Their immigration policy: “*Assimilation*” to their culture and rule of Law. Ruth 1:15, 16,

Exodus 12:48, 49, Numbers 15:13-17, foreigners were welcome, if they embraced the life and law. The culture remains pure.

They have uniform laws and standards for society: *One Law* for the natural citizen and foreigner.

Exodus 21:1-6, Work! Debts paid off via slavery. Then freedom earned in the 7th year.

Crime addressed: Exodus 21:18-25, criminal justice: punishment or compensation and restoration, not just incarceration.

Exodus 21:12-14, Murder, 21:15-17, Kidnapping, parental abuse or disrespect, 22:1-4, theft, 23:1, 2, Perjury & unrest.

Welfare for the poor. Exodus 23:9-11, Leviticus 19:9, 10, 23:22, Food provided in the field, not in the mailbox!

IV. **Israel’s National Morality:** Leviticus 18-20, The sanctity of sex and the family.

Leviticus 1:1,2, Begins with volition, personal individual responsibility and accountability to God’s word.

Leviticus 18:1-5, Marriage and family were to remain sacred! Israel was to remain a morally separate and pure nation.

Exodus 12:24-27, This was the responsibility of parents to their children in the family.

Leviticus 18:6-19, Laws against incest. 18:20, Adultery, 18:21, Child sacrifice, 18:22, Homosexuality, 18:23, Bestiality,

Leviticus 18:24-30, The Gentile nations had defiled and polluted the land. Walking in their own foolish wisdom.

Leviticus 19:1-4, **National instruction**: in the Law of Moses: *Speak unto all the congregation of Israel*.

:3, *Ye shall fear every man ...*

Individual **volition** and accountability! A nation’s course is set in the population.

his mother, and his father,

Honor the institutions of **marriage** and **the family!**

Internationalism led to God’s judgment on the nations. **Nationalism** was established in response to man’s sin and failure.

Leviticus 20:22-27, God chose Israel to be a light to the Gentiles as a separate sovereign nation under a rule of law, with a common history, and cultural identity and morality with God’s Word at the center! This is God’s design for the nations.

Deuteronomy 4:5-10, Israel was to be a pattern for the nations! National strength begins with the individuals.

Our nation became great because of these principles! We had a national moral conscience and compass in the population.

Ephesians 4:17-25, I Thessalonians 4:1-6, We are not to walk as other Gentiles, and be a separate holy people too!