

Study Guide

Series: The Battle for Christianity in America

Message: Our History - Humanity, Nations, Israel, and the Church

Messenger: Pastor Keith

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Scripture: 1 Peter 2.9-10 (NKJV)

Objective: to reflect on the creation of humanity, nations, Israel and the church, so we can understand God's plan for humanity.

Review:

1. God created **Humanity:** Genesis 1.27-28

Redemptive Plan: From the beginning God made people, so they could *know* Him *personally* and *live in close relationship* with Him. He gave them the call to marry and have children so they could grow the *human family*, to *fill the earth*, and take care of it on His behalf. (Genesis 1-2)

But Adam fell into sin, and humanity became separated from *God*. Yet *God promised a seed of a woman*, to *redeem* and *restore* humanity and our relationship with Him (Genesis 3.15).

2. God created **Nations:** Acts 17.26-27

Redemptive Plan: God created all people from one blood, forming one family. But because of their sin, not skin, He *divided them* into nations and gave them different languages, so that they might seek Him and reach out to find Him.

‘But during this period of time, nations formed and grew distinct in their own languages, ethnicities, cultures, and government. Hostilities grew between nations for various reasons, precipitated wars and domination of nations over nations that led to Empires.’

3. God created **Israel:** Genesis 12.1-3, Exodus 19.5-6

Redemptive Plan: God called Abram to establish a chosen nation for Himself. This nation, set apart to receive God's Word and blessings, would have a global mission: to be a blessing to all nations and proclaim His name through the earth. This nation became known as Israel.

Through Israel, all nations of the earth would be blessed, as promised, through the seed of the woman, Mary, the Messiah would be born. Jesus, the Son God, who came into the world to die for the sins of all people, offering salvation to every nation through faith in Him.

4. God created the _____ Matthew 16.18 'Jesus *announces* that He would call a *church-nation* after all those who *confess* Him as their *Savior* and *Lord*.' The Church grows through the Gospel: Mark 16.15, John 3.3
- Belief in the gospel – Repent, Submit, Faith
 - Born of the Spirit – 'Seed of Christ'
 - New life in Christ – Life in the Spirit from Christ's perspective

Our Nation-Church Identity: 1 Peter 2.9-10

- a) Our _____: v.9a. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, *we must live out this new identity if we are going to attract the world to the church.*
- Generation: race or class of people with shared traits or origin
 - Royal Priesthood: Royal (belonging to a King) Priesthood (have access to God and intercede for others)
 - Holy Nation: Holy (devoted to God) Nation (community of people with a shared identity and government in Christ – spiritual, not natural). A nation without borders.
 - Own special people: people for God's own possession. We belong exclusively to God. We are His treasured possession. We're marked, protected, and valued by Him.
- b) Our _____: v9b. that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- c) Our _____: v10. Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (NKJV)

Redemptive Plan: Through Jesus Christ, God has called a new people from all nations by the gospel. They are His holy nation, a kingdom without borders, marked by His identity, and heavenly culture. As witnesses, they proclaim the gospel to the world, revealing God's redeeming power and glory. Revelation 7.9