



God and the Nations

Acts 17:22-31

From our viewpoint, certain nations seem very imposing and threatening: China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, etc. It is very helpful to view the nations from God's point of view.

“And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth” (*Acts 17:26a*). All the nations of the earth have come from one source. They are derived from one man, Adam. All men who dwell on the face of the earth, regardless of race or background, have all originated from the same man.

The Greeks, whom Paul was addressing in Acts 17, did not believe this. They believed that they were specially created by their own Greek gods. They believed that other people, such as barbarians, were created by some other gods in the lands where they lived. They were ignorant of the one united human race created by the one true God.

“And hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation” (*Acts 17:26b*). In this remarkable statement, we learn that God has determined every nation's limit both chronologically and geographically. He has determined who is going to live where and when, and for how long and under what conditions they will live there. For example, God determined how long Israel would live in Egypt (*Gen. 15:13*) and how long the Amorites would survive (*Gen. 15:16*). God set the limits on the great empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome, and He is just as involved with the nations of today. God gives the people of every nationality only so much time to come to know Him and to respond to Him, and often judgment follows. This is an amazing declaration about God's absolute sovereign rule over the nations.

We can rest in the fact that He's in complete control of every nation!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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