Psalm 96:7 & 9 states that all the earth is to do three things. What are they?

**GIVE UNTO THE LORD GLORY AND STRENGTH** (Vs. 7)

**WORSHIP THE LORD** (Vs. 9)

**FEAR BEFORE HIM** (Vs. 9)

According to Psalm 96:3, what is the Christian's task? **DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE HEATHEN, HIS WONDERS AMONG ALL PEOPLE.**

God intentionally made the nations (people groups) and He set them in their place. The focus of the missionary task is not a response to an accident.

God's plan to reach all nations began with the nation of Israel.

**READ GENESIS 12:1-4**

Verse 2 states that Abraham was blessed in order to do what? **BE A BLESSING**

According to verse 3, who would be blessed through Abraham? **ALL THE FAMILIES** (nations, clans, ethnos) **OF THE EARTH**

God blessed Abraham to be a blessing. He, in turn, has also blessed us so we can be a blessing to others. The promise given to Abraham gives the mission of the church a people group focus.

God, in His wisdom, designed the nations of the world with unique characteristics. The same could be said about you and me. The Bible says we were fearfully and wonderfully made. You were created with a unique purpose from the Creator. Are you fullling God's purpose for your life?

## Why National Bible Publishing Month?

*National Bible Publishing Month* is a unique opportunity for local churches and believers just like you to be involved with Bible publishing at the ground level. With your involvement, sufficient amounts of paper will be provided in order to produce Bibles and New Testaments for missionaries serving in places where Bibles are difficult or impossible to obtain.

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NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

TEEN TEACHER GUIDE | **LESSON 1**

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONS

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**LESSON ONE DEFINITIONS**

**Collaborate** – to work with another or others on a joint project.
**Commune** – to be in intimate communication or rapport.
**Diverse** – different or various kinds of something.
**Embrace** – to accept gladly and willingly.
**Ethnos** – Greek word meaning groups of people, families, tribes, or clans.
**Lineage** – direct descent from a particular ancestor; ancestry.
**Nation** – a group of people having a common language, lineage, laws, and living in the same place.

### TEACHER NOTE:

In Revelation 5:9, God allows us to see who will be gathered around His throne worshipping. This peek reveals a rather colorful and varied redeemed group *"from every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."*

These lessons will take us from the structuring of the very first nations to God's plan for all the nations. We will see how God selected Abraham to be His means of bringing the Gospel blessing to all the world. God chose a people for His name (Israel) and in blessing them, they in turn, blessed all nations.

These lessons give us a proper view of the word "nations" in the Bible and how that understanding this term allows us to see God's plan in accomplishing worship as it is seen in Revelation 5:9. Our natural reaction is to shrink back at the enormity of the task, seeing a host of hurdles and obstacles. However, God, Himself, has no problem in accomplishing the task. It is His project and His desire to be worshipped by all nations. The might of our God in respect to the nations is clearly depicted in Isaiah 40:15, *"the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance:…"* How wonderful to know that the "obstacles" of language, distance, culture, even false religions are as dust in God's hands! May these lessons challenge us to see a multi-colored quilt of ethnic peoples all praising God in various tongues and giving Him glory in unified diversity!

**Lesson One – The Structure of the Nations**

God desires our worship; He deserves our worship; He demands our worship; and best of all, He delights in our worship. Isn't that what it's all about? Creation worshipping the Creator. In His Word, God gives us a divine snapshot of who will be gathered around His throne worshipping Him.

## READ REVELATION 5:9; GENESIS 10:5, 32

The redeemed group in Revelation 5:9 will come from every **KINDRED**, and **TONGUE**, and, **PEOPLE**, and **NATION**.

Match each of these words with their definition:

**TONGUE** (Language, dialect)

**PEOPLE** (A crowd, populace; A people as a nation)

**NATION** (A race; a people group of a particular nation)

**KINDRED** (A tribe, clan, family, offspring)

According to Genesis 10:5, 32, Noah's descendants were divided by their **LANDS, TONGUE, FAMILIES** and **NATIONS**.

When the Bible uses the word nation, to what is God referring? Is a nation, in God's eyes, made up by political boundaries? Is it the dividing lines on a map that make a group of people a nation, or is there more?

### TEACHER NOTE:

The Greek root word for Nations is "*Ethnos*" which means "people groups."

What do you think of when you hear the word "nation?" Most of us envision geopolitical boundaries on a brightly colored map. Understanding this term in a Biblical context will allow us to see God's plan in accomplishing worship as seen in Revelation 5:9.

Four conditions define a nation/people group:

**LINEAGE** (seed, family line, tribe) A nation is a people group having a common ancestry; descendants in a line from a common progenitor.

**LANGUAGE** (signs, sounds, speech) A nation consists of a group of people in which ideas and thoughts are communicated freely and unhindered.

**LAWS** (ordinances, commands, government, rules) A nation is a group of people who are united by common rules of conduct and laws that govern their society.

**LAND** (territory, border) A nation is a group of people that live in a common region, territory, or border.

*"Any group of people recognizing themselves as having a common language, having common laws (written or unwritten), living on a defined area of land are a nation in the Biblical sense of the word."* (*Biblical Bible Translation*, 3rd edition. Turner, Charles)

### TEACHER NOTE:

A nation can be found within another nation. It's best to think of faces, not maps when we hear the word nation. The Navajo Nation is in the United States, the Kurds of Eastern Europe have lived in many places. Often, entire nations are in captivity or displaced because of wars or famines. The "Nation" of Israel was still a "nation" even when living in Babylon or Egypt. The country of Nepal has 341 known people groups/nations. The country of India is home to a staggering 3,237 people groups/nations.

Though all people groups/nations are different and unique, they each have unifying characteristics which draw them together.

- Communication leads to community, a mutual ownership of values, ideals, and understanding. Everyone is born with the need to communicate. Ideally, communication among the nations should be used to foster a common love and resulting worship for the one true God.
- The ability for nations to have unity in order to achieve success and accomplishment is important. Our interdependence should be viewed as a blessing from God and an opportunity to share our gifts.
- Man was created with an innate desire to worship. That desire is so strong that in the absence of truth, mankind creates worship, serving nature, idols of stone, wood, metal, and earth. In the deepest pockets of darkness on earth, mankind seeks to worship, building altars, offering sacrifice, and in their crudeness, attempting to appease the object of their worship. The nations are seeking worship, most in the absence of truth. The mishandling of worship is wherein the seedbed of all false religions lie.

However, even among nations and families, each has distinct likes and dislikes. We might say that this diversity is a great thing, but the more important fact is that diversity is a God thing. The diversity of the nations is God's pleasure. It is intentional and eternal, and it magnifies the glory of God. United diversity focuses all praise on Him. God's fame increases in proportion to the diversity of the people who recognize His beauty. The diversity of the people groups who give up their false gods to follow the true God makes God's greatness more visible.

## READ REVELATION 4:11; ACTS 17:24-27; PSALM 96:3-4, 7-9

According to Revelation 4:11, for what was everything created? **GOD'S PLEASURE**

Acts 17:26 teaches that who determines the nations' bounds and times? **GOD**

What is their purpose, according to Acts 17:27? **THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK THE LORD**