

PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 301

KINGDOM NATION

Session Nine

“The Birth Of A Nation”

I. Review The Course

A. Connecting The Common Heritage Of Israel And The Church

1. After the Fall of human race in Adam's sin, God's master plan of redemption is revealed in the rest of scripture, culminating with their eternal life in the presence of God as described in the Book of Revelation.

2. God, in the most excellent and wise counsel of His own will, predestinated in His omniscient foreknowledge to save *some*, (not *none*, or all, but *some*).

3. This particular group, the redeemed, are the “objects” of God's electing grace, His “Kingdom Nation”.

4. In the Old Testament, this redemptive plan was centered around Israel; in the New Testament, we understand it is the Church; in either case, it is ONE GROUP with a common heritage:

- A “holy nation”, a “royal priesthood”
- Whose origin is in the “seed of the woman”, (Genesis 3)
- Whose “father” is Abraham

5. Every dealing of God with Israel (in the “natural”) has an equivalent expression in the Church (in the “spiritual”). (See 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Hebrews 3 & 4; 2 Timothy 3:16)

B. Three Locations /Three Feasts

1. In the grand, epic account of Israel's redemption, (a model for the Church), there are 3 “addresses” or locations: Egypt, The Wilderness, The Promised Land

2. There are 3 “Feasts” or “events” ordained for Israel: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles

3. There is a Feast for each place: Passover occurred in Egypt; Pentecost in the Wilderness; Tabernacles in the Land

4. Once we see the connection in the pattern, or model, of God's redemption of Israel, we can see how it mirrors the destiny of the Church and God's plan for us.

- Our "Passover", (salvation by the blood of the Lamb), occurs in "Egypt", (the world)
- Our "Pentecost" is a second event...our "Acts 2" experience...

BUT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL MEANING OF THE PENTECOSTAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE CHURCH, WE MUST RECONSIDER AND MEDITATE UPON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF. IT WAS....THE 'BIRTH OF A NATION'!

II. Birth Of A Nation

A. From Egypt To Sinai

1. Passover is followed, 50 days later by Pentecost.
2. Passover occurred in Egypt; 50 days later, the first "Pentecost" was not a "Feast" as we think of it, it was the GIVING OF THE LAW.
3. The "giving of the Law" to Israel was a "type" and "shadow", prefiguring the events of Acts 2 in the days of the early church right after the resurrection.
4. We have reduced our understanding of a Pentecostal experience to debates over speaking in tongues and spiritual gifts!

But there is MUCH MORE going on here!

B. The Big Picture

1. A prophetic view of scripture seeks the "big picture" perspective of context.
2. God has sovereignly apprehended a people for Himself, purchased by the blood of the Passover Lamb, and delivered them OUT of Egypt, and INTO the wilderness.
3. The giving of the Law occurs in Exodus 20, 50 days AFTER Passover.

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 16:1 KJV

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

Exodus 19:1 KJV

4. The purpose of the first Passover is to SAVE God's people; the purpose of Pentecost was to NATIONALIZE God's people...to unite the various clans and tribes of saved people into a "Kingdom Nation"!

5. Up until now, the "Kingdom Nation", (beginning with the Patriarch Abraham), has grown in numbers, but is still not "one people"...it is more a collection of individuals, tribes, clans and families.

6. The thing that makes a "nation" a "Nation" is that the individuals in it share a COMMON LAW!!!

7. It is self-evident that a nation finds its identification in its laws!

a. The early American settlers were "colonists", under the rule of England

b. They did not become a nation until LAWS were passed, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, etc....THAT is when America became a nation...and it's at Mount Sinai where the redeemed of the Lord become a "Kingdom Nation"!

8. We must see that what God did at Sinai (Horeb), is a "type" of what God did on the Day of Pentecost in the Church!

C. "Connecting The Dots": Sinai and Pentecost

1. The emphasis in modern-day Christianity has been on "personal" salvation". And this has its place. We must never minimize the importance of a "personal Pentecost". God does save personally and individually.

2. *However*, God does not leave individuals as individuals. His purpose in Pentecost points us toward His purpose in Pentecost...to make us a "holy nation, a royal priesthood, a kingdom of priests"! (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9)

3. In the Old Testament, this "nationalization" occurred in the giving of the Law on tablets of stone; But the Old Testament prophets foretold a new "nationalization" of God's people!

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 KJV

Ezekiel prophesies of Israel's restoration of judgment for her backsliding...looking ahead to the days of the New Testament...

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from

all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. and ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezek 36:24-28 KJV

And again...

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: *And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all...so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.*

Ezekiel 37:21-23 KJV

4. What other New Testament event could possibly be in view except the first “Day of Pentecost” experienced by the early church?

*God brought Israel out of Egypt and then nationalized them by giving them His Law...
God redeems the New Testament believer and then baptizes him in the Holy Spirit...writing the
Law of God on the heart!*

- The “upper room” experience of Acts 2 occurred exactly 50 days after the crucifixion of Jesus, which was the ultimate “Passover”!

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Acts 1: 1-4 KJV

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

Acts 1:26-2:7 KJV

5. There MUST be a spiritual connection between the nationalization of Israel in the giving of the Law in Exodus 19-20, and the events of Pentecost, Acts 1-2. This mystery is ultimately unsearchable in its richness...but here are some thoughts:

- The giving of the Law to Israel is now the empowering work of the Holy Spirit to the Church
- The “finger of God” wrote the commandments on tablets of stone; the Holy Spirit writes the laws of God on our hearts
- In both cases, the result is the “glory of God”, the unification of His people around unanimous consensus regarding the Law-Word of God
- Acts 2 tells us the Believers were “all with one accord in one place”. This is the antitype of the unanimous consent to obedience found in the people of Israel just before the Law was given!

And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, " Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' *These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel. " So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the Lord had commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do!"*

Exodus 19:3-8 NASB

- In both cases, the “nationalization” of God’s Kingdom Nation was a sign and a wonder to all! It was the UNITY of God’s people under one common Law, all speaking the same thing, that was to be the WITNESS to all other nations!!!

But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you. See, *I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'* *"For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God whenever we call on Him?" "Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"*

Deuteronomy 4:4-8 NASB

And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?

Acts 2:7 KJV

- In both cases, the law was not mentioned at all UNTIL the people had been redeemed...the law has NOTHING to do with our salvation. It does not save us...*it cannot save us*...nor keep us saved.* But it IS God’s guideline for how a redeemed people are to live! It IS the standard to be met in order that we might be the witness to the world God intended us to be. And it IS our “tool of dominion”, our “passport” to our promised land, as we shall soon see.

*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.

We must be ever careful to avoid the horrific heresy of “legalism” (or its theological expression, “semi-Pelagianism”), which holds that we can be justified (or “saved”) by our own works or by keeping commandments, or that we only “remain” in a justified condition by keeping the Law.

Christ is indeed the “end of the law” regarding our “righteousness” or justification.

On the other hand, to reject the fact that the Law of God is still in effect for the New Testament believer is heresy on the other side of the coin, “antinomianism”, which can never produce the witness of a “Kingdom Nation”, since “every man doing what is right in his own eyes”, the spirit of iniquity, robs us of national identity and of our ability to model ourselves as God’s people.

- In both cases, the creation of a “holy nation” was intended to provoke a sense of unique speciality of God’s people in the sight of all other “nations”*

* A good analogy might be the unique, special place that the United States of America holds in the world today. In spite of her flaws, America continues to be a ‘sign and a wonder’ to the other nations of the world. It’s where everyone wants to come and the only nation in the world that has a border issue because of people trying to get in! What makes America special? It’s her LAWS!

III. Conclusions

A. The Nationalization Of God’s People Is Accomplished Through Law

1. Personal salvation is one thing. But once we are saved, God *collectivizes* His people by means of *common law*.

a. In the same way we identify “nations” in the world, so we identify the people of God.

2. The basis for our unity and identity is *ethical*.

a. In the same way that a nation’s ethical system, (what is right and what is wrong), is defined by its laws, so the Kingdom Nation’s identity is defined by the Law of God.

3. God’s commandments are the expression of God’s very nature, which is love; or we might say, God’s law contains His will regarding our *relationships*...with God and with each other.

a. In the same way that the parental authority in the home sets the rules and standards by which the family will abide, so God exerts His authority in establishing the rules and standards for His “family”.

b. A family is known by its habits and lifestyle; in the same way, God's "Kingdom Nation" was to be identified by its habits and lifestyle as set forth in God's law.

4. The uniqueness of the Kingdom Nation is ethical, that which sets us apart from other "nations" and gives us our identity and our "witness".

5. The giving of the Law on Mount Sinai on the 1st "Pentecost" corresponds with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. This is how God "marks out" a people as His own. All we've studied about so far has led us to this grand climax...the "Birth Of A Nation"!