

# The Holy Nation, Part 3

Joe Fuiten, Bible Teacher, July 21, 2024

We have started our series on the Bible and Politics with a discussion of the “holy nation.” The main idea is that God requires obedience to his law as a condition. From that we have the political value of the rule of law and order.

God wanted Israel to be that “holy nation” but the realization of that desire was conditioned on obedience to God’s law. (Exodus 19:5-6) “**5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”**

Secure borders, economic prosperity and being God’s people was conditioned on obedience in Deuteronomy 28:9-11: “*The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, **if** you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. 11 The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity — in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground — in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.*”

The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:9-17 brought forward the Old Testament agreement and applied it additionally to Christians. “*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”*

Peter greatly expanded the universe of required obedience. In the OT it was to God’s law. Then in verse 13 Peter applied the same requirement to man’s law, essentially to the government as “every authority.” You should live as free men but using that freedom to disobey the rule of God is a cover-up for evil. Government and government law has a rightful place and to disobey that is comparable to disobeying God since God has instituted that authority among men.

If we were to apply modern political terminology to these ideas we would say that “law and order” are God’s essential ideas for a holy nation. That “law and order” applies to government law and also to the law of God.

**Jesus prophesied that acting against law would be a sign of his coming and of the end of the age.** Matthew 24:3-14 makes that point. *“As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”*

*Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.*

*“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV)*

The disciples asked three questions in Matthew 24:3 including (1) the signs related to the Second Coming and (2) the signs related to the end of the age. In the answer that Jesus gave, I see our era as well as ideas relating to the “holy nation.” Usually when we read this passage we think of end time events and rightly so because that was what Jesus was describing. What I want to highlight is what this says about “politics and the Bible” and what it says about the “holy nation” as a kingdom concept.

The “gospel of the kingdom” is an important phrase. Notice that it is not merely the gospel of salvation or the gospel of repentance or any other phrase which is primarily about the individual. Further, this gospel of the kingdom has to do with a message to “all nations.” Kingdoms and nations are in focus. In the end, God’s kingdom will fill the earth and Christ will rule over the nations from his capital in Jerusalem. Remember Jesus is speaking of the end of the age and his Second Coming. In that time, *“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever!”*<sup>1</sup>

Nations characteristically have borders and a body of law that governs within those borders. As Daniel prophesied, four kingdoms would last on earth, following their own laws, until God’s kingdom with obedience to his laws will fill the earth creating God’s “holy nation.” *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the people and all who dwell therein.”* God’s plan for the “holy nation” will be realized when within the borders of the earth his law is fully obeyed. The great contest that leads up to that moment is whether God’s law or rebellion against God’s law will prevail. Politics is all about governance and the establishment of law. In this passage Jesus said that politics will be increasingly taken over by lawless rebels fighting against the law of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 11:15

**Jesus prophesied our times in the phrase, "the increase of wickedness." In the Greek language "wickedness" is *anomia*, a violation of law. More than violating a specific law, it is the condition where a person is unwilling to be subject to biblical law. Rejecting biblical law is lawlessness. So lawlessness and wickedness are identical in this passage.**

Jesus indicated that the consequence of people not willing to be governed by biblical law is that most people will drift away from God. It would be obvious that those who don't want to be governed by biblical law will drift from the love of God, but will that really affect the spirituality of most people in that society? Jesus said the love of most people will grow cold. Instead of warm, embracing love there will be the cold chill of selfishness and disregard for others. People will be cold and without natural affection. The Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3 gave additional synonyms “**3** *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,<sup>4</sup> traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;...*”

Cold blooded attacks upon women and children are the natural consequence of spiritual lawlessness. Celebrating attacks upon human beings such as the assassination attempt on Donald Trump are signs of spiritual rebellion and love grown cold. So many publically wished the Trump shooter had better aim and were so brazen as to post their opinions online. This is an example of what it means to be without natural affection, without a natural regard for another human whether to a powerful president or a baby in the womb.

There is obviously a spiritual act of rebellion in many of the political policies and laws today. Virtually all the political policies supporting abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism which is really just another expression of homosexuality, legal drug use, legalized prostitution, gay marriage, and a host of other primarily sexual freedoms, are acts of rebellion against God and against his “holy nation.” They are also expressions of what Jesus called “the increase of wickedness.” In recent times, many, if not most appeals to freedom, equality as applied to homosexuals, libertarianism, liberalism, or individualism are sophisticated political language for this same spirit. Such attitudes are the *anomia* of which Jesus spoke. It is unwillingness to be subject to biblical law.

In 2 Thessalonians 2 Paul gave additional information about the “*coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him...*” “**3** *Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion<sup>2</sup> occurs and the man of lawlessness<sup>3</sup> is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. **4** *He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**

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<sup>2</sup> Apostasia. defection from truth or "apostasy": KJV-- falling away, forsake.

<sup>3</sup> *anomia* (an-om-ee'-ah); illegality, i.e. violation of law or wickedness: KJV-- iniquity, transgress (-ion of) the law, unrighteousness.

The falling away is falling away from truth. Literally, the word is *apostasia*. What God has said in the Bible will cease to be the measure of truth. What God said about creation will be changed into evolution; what he said about people being created in his image will be changed into all nature is equal with humans not being superior to animals; when Jesus said he was the only way to heaven will be replaced with the acceptance of many religions and ways to God; when God says marriage is between a man and a woman this will be changed into justifying homosexuality saying “love is love;” when God says he created two genders, male and female, that will be changed into scores of genders with movement between them a matter of choice rather than biology. *Apostasia and anomia* are two sides of the same coin.

In the Bible lawlessness and apostasy are the same. Interestingly **the description of lawlessness is specifically related to sexual morals and even more particularly to homosexual issues.** The Apostle Peter said it like this: *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)--if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”<sup>4</sup>*

We know that Sodom’s sin was homosexuality and not primarily inhospitality as some try to argue. Jude 7 is clear enough about that. *“...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.”* Further, inhospitality was not a capital crime while homosexuality was punishable by death in Israel (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13). God did not ignore the capital crime of homosexuality while leveling two cities for inhospitality which is nowhere listed as a serious offense.

Putting Paul’s discussion about lawlessness and rebellion against God with Peter’s discussion of sexual sin in Sodom and Gomorrah as lawlessness we have a description of the current state of affairs.

Even if politicians legalize all these acts it does not change the fact that it is rebellion coming from the devil and is meant to overthrow God’s plan of salvation and God’s plan for the family.

Family is a big part of what God is about. Let me read you a summary passage relating to God’s plan for the world found in Galatians. As I read, notice all the underlined portions that have to do with family and relationship. Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV) *4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you*

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<sup>4</sup> 2 Peter 2:4-9

*also an heir.*” In the gender rebellion none of these family titles retain their actual meaning or how it all relates to salvation.

If I could add one other dimension to the gender rebellion. In Revelation 2:12-17 Jesus describes Pergamum as Satan’s throne and where Satan lives, a description unique to that city among the seven churches of Revelation. I believe he labels it satanic because of their demonic alternative to salvation and healing through their god Asclepius. Their health care system relied upon the demonic and the use of drugs for demonic purposes. Elsewhere in Revelation there were several sins mentioned as ones people in the end time would refuse to repent of no matter how bad things got. Revelation 9 describes them: *“<sup>20</sup> The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent even then of the works of their hands, so as to cease worshiping and paying homage to the demons ....; <sup>21</sup> and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries (drugs, intoxications; Greek: Pharmakeia) nor of their [sexual] immorality nor of their thefts.”*

It seems clear that in the end times drugs and health care will be used for demonic purposes. You can get drugs prescribed after a thirty minute phone call to Planned Parenthood that will block the development of gender specific qualities. You can also get a mail order prescription to terminate your pregnancy without an actual doctor visit. Drug induced abortion now accounts for more than half (54%) of all abortions in America. Where Jesus called “Satan’s throne” may have started in Pergamum but it has spread to the whole world in a strange nexus of gender, sexuality, and health care. All of it comes under the category of “the rebellion.”<sup>5</sup>

Returning to Paul teaching in 2 Thessalonians 2 we have the therapy that is applied to this lawlessness already at work.

*5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? 6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

In summary, law is a key element in the “holy nation” with conformity to God’s law as the measure of it. Politics is about governing through law. The Christian weighs governmental law in the degree to which it conforms to God’s law. Conforming law is to be supported politically while nonconforming law is to be opposed politically. Voting always has in mind the big picture of advancing God’s purposes to the extent possible with our limited knowledge.

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<sup>5</sup>Wednesday night Bible study on May 18, 2022 I did an hour and a half lecture on this topic which is available on Cedar Park’s Facebook page and with full notes.

