

Kingdom Report

Week of 15 September 2018

The Rise of Sheep Nations

We are moving into a new era. The era of the separation of sheep nations from goat nations. But first the Lord will do a new thing. He will create sheep nations. This is how He will do it....

In Matthew 25: 32-34 we have the strange statement that Jesus made to His disciples that the time will come in His Kingdom history that He will gather the nations and separate out the sheep nations from the goat nations. The sheep nations to inherit the Kingdom of God saying to them ***"Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."***

Let me clarify this enigmatic prophecy for you by explaining what Jesus did not mean.

If you take a roll call of all the nations gathered at the UN, which basically is all the recognized nations in the world, I will be as bold to say that not one of them qualifies as a "sheep nation" And that includes South Africa and America....and yes Israel as well.

Now let me add perhaps a controversial addendum: Regardless of what my American evangelical friends believe about "American exceptionalism" or about Israel being "God's people", neither qualify for being a "sheep nation" in which Jesus says "Come ye all Americans and Israeli's and inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." And that equally applies to South Africa.

We are not talking here about the vision of 'let's win South Africa for Jesus' or America of any other UN member state. When Jesus talks about "nations" He is not talking about current geographical entities...He is talking about prophecies made ages ago in scripture and He is defining nations as God defines them in those prophetic scriptures.

And that is the next great thing I propose is going to make its appearance on earth...the creation and separations of God's own people united into His nations fulfilling His purposes in all the earth. And I am not talking about forming political parties and taking over governments and nations.

This new phenomenon is entirely unpredicted and unexpected in any prophecy books I have read and in fact anyone who has tried to come up with some sort of prophetic timeline for this "sheep and goat nation" fulfillment are frankly baffled how and when this could occur.

To understand what Jesus is talking about we need to read what He was reading in prophecy and then we can see or project a prophetic fulfillment.

Let's go back the first mentions of prophecy when God says He is going to create His own new nations:

God's promise to Abraham:

Gen. 12:2-3 ***"I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you...and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed."***

Now your first reaction to this is 'of course, the great nation God is referring to here is Israel' Not so fast. Remember Paul's warning in Romans 9:6 "Not all Israel is Israel". Read what the Lord says to Abraham's grandson Jacob after changing his name to Israel:

Gen. 35:11 ***"And God said unto him (Jacob/Israael) I am God almighty; be fruitful and multiply, a nation and a company of nations shall be of you..."*** Now that word "company" in you Bible in the original Hebrew is "kaw-hawl" meaning also "a multitude" So God is telling Jacob a multitude of nations will come from his seed.

So who are these multitude of Israel nations to come? Can you see this does not refer to the nation calling itself Israel in Palestine. And a message to the British-Israel folks: This also does not refer to all the Anglo-Saxon Caucasians.

Let scripture interpret scripture. This is how 1 Peter 2:9 qualifies who is God's sheep nations:

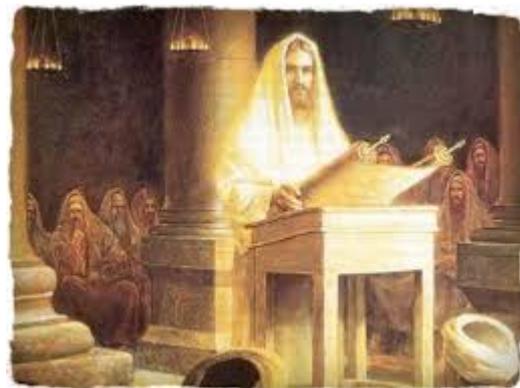
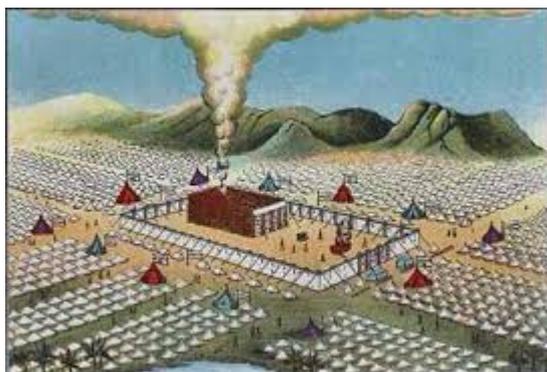
"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

So God's people are His nation. But the Lord says there are a multitude of nations that He has called...how can this be?

Let's see how Jesus looked at this:

You remember when Jesus said ***"I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."*** (Math 16:18)? Please consider the possibility that what He had in mind was not necessarily what we have in mind when the word "church" is used.

Here are graphics of what I believe Jesus saw when He said "church and what we think of as "church".



On the left is the what Acts 7:38 called "***the church in the wilderness***". It is the Israel nation encamped around the Tabernacle of God that held the presence of God.

On the right is Jesus attending His regular weekly synagogue meeting.

Please note that Jesus did not say "I will build my synagogue". Synagogues were common in Jesus day. The Pharisees built them everywhere. Jesus attended weekly. Synagogue comes from two Greek words meaning "meeting together". A Synagogue was people coming together for a meeting. That is our present idea of a "church", people coming together for a meeting. Actually in Jesus day we would be a Synagogue and wonderful news...Jesus still attends our Synagogue meetings because He promised "wherever two or three gather together in my name I will be there in their midst".

But Jesus used the word "Church" as the Greek idea of, "ekklesia". And in His day on earth that was a well known entity. Athens was an "ekklesia". It was a political, commercial and religious entity that was a city state that governed its affairs, that organized its commerce and that had courts of justice, taxes, and a gathering of people that debated its issues and plans.

Acts 7:38 describes the camp of the Israelites in their tribes around the Tabernacle with Levites and Priests in attendance, with the people divided in camps of warriors with leaders as an entity called "**the church in the wilderness.**"

So try this idea on for a radical interpretation of what a "Church" is as far as God sees it.

A "church" is a mighty gathering of God's people in a geographical area of say a city like Ephesus. Which is why Jesus addressed in the book of Revelation "the church at" and named 7 cities.

Jesus was not referring to "the synagogues" of Ephesus. He was referring to the Ekklesia of Ephesus. Every reader of that letter at the time John wrote it knew what an Ekklesia was. They also knew what a Synagogue was. Athens and Sparta were city states or "Ekklesia's".

The Vision of the City Church

Here is what is coming soon all over the world....the City Church. In a geographical area of nations all over the world something wonderful is going to happen with our without the current denominational church leaders blessing or leadership.

The various "synagogue" gatherings of church meetings are going to come together and say I don't care about your denominational label; but we have such problems in our area that it is time we work together, pray together and tackle the issues of our region that need help. Government is not working, people are crying out and the job is too big for just one church.

Do you know what qualifies you as a sheep nation according to the scripture in Matthew 25 that I quoted you...just read the next verses after Jesus said the sheep

nations on the right of me and enter into the kingdom...why? What did they do? This what Jesus said is how God's sheep nations act....

Matthew 25: 34-40

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Mat 25:35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Mat 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Mat 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

Mat 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Mat 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Mat 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

I know this does not sound exciting like world evangelism or mighty healing crusades but let me tell you why this is a critical part of God's Kingdom agenda.

We have been so focused by our church leaders that the only purpose of church is saving souls...and please don't get me wrong...it is central to the gospel. But we have forgotten about the first Great Commission from Gen. 1:26-28...subdue the earth, be productive and multiply.

God has a plan that is all encompassing. He not only requires church growth but He requires family growth. That means economies must be brought under the Lordship of Jesus. It means education, and farming and manufacture and ecology.

And for these things to happen we need people working together on a local level. God created a world where all needs can be met. The tragedy of the world system we now face is that it world order is falling apart. New nations must be formed, New alliances, new agendas new leadership.

A holy nation means a people set apart for God's purposes. This is what God told Abraham about His seed to come...

Gen. 15:13 "Abram know for a certainty that your seed shall be a stranger in a land not theirs and shall serve them and they shall be afflicted for four hundred years; and also that nation whom they serve will I judge and afterward they shall come out with great substance.

We the people of God for 400 years after the Great Reformation have been afflicted as strangers in a strange land serving politicians and bankers and nations with their own agendas. We obey laws, we pay taxes, but they waste our time and they waste our substance.

But hear the word of God...we are coming out to our own land and we are coming out with substance. There is an enormous wealth transfer coming to the people of God so that we can get on with God's Kingdom agenda.

We are the sheep nations of God in all nations of the world. We are going to see the rise of God's "ekklesias", City Churches of thousands of God's people of all denominations coming together to create wealth for the Kingdom, to save souls, feed the hungry, heal the sick, clothe the naked, house the homeless.

The world will be shocked. But they will flock to us from their failing institutions and failing economies built on debt and greed and say "teach us your ways'.