

Text: Gen. 10:1-11:9

Title: "God's will for strong nations" - Part Two

Time: 4/13/08 am

Place: NBBC

Introduction: There is something romantically attractive about the notion of world peace and a one-world government to go along with it.

Star Trek is a popular science fiction television and movie series that talks about Earth having its own united government. "The United Earth (UE) is the Earth's world government in the 'present' for all Star Trek series. It existed as early as 2067, unified all of Earth's nations by 2150, and still exists in the 24th century" [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth\\_governments\\_\(Star\\_Trek\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_governments_(Star_Trek))].

In part one under our theme for this passage, "God's will for strong nations," we notice that this table of the nations in Scripture gives important instruction regarding what makes a nation strong. Strong nations recognize the equality of all men, that family strength is foundational to national strength (with responsible fathers being especially significant), that they need to speak the same language, and that they must protect their borders. Strong sovereign nations are God's will for the earth. The UE of Star Trek is not.

So the Bible takes a very different view of aspirations for a global government than what is current throughout much of the world today. According to the teaching of this passage, globalism is a threat to strong nation states and therefore a threat to one of the three important social institutions God has ordained for mankind. In this second part of this message on God's will for strong nations, I want us to see specifically why it is that globalism is a threat to strong nations that we need to stand against in behalf of our own great country this morning.

We will note why globalism is a problem for man, and how it shall be no problem for God.

I. Globalism is a problem for man.

A. Globalism is a goal shared by the spirit of antichrist (11:4, "for ourselves").

Application: The spirit of antichrist is perhaps best defined as the desire for a Christless life and Christless world (1 John 4:1-6). This spirit can tolerate some reference to a watered-down Christ, but you cannot have the all-encompassing Jesus Christ of history and the Bible. The idea is simple: run the world as though there were no King of kings and Lord of lords.

In our Genesis passage, we read about the efforts of men to make a name for themselves (11:4). God's name and laws were simply no longer relevant (9:1). Ultimately, the antichrist of the future will set himself up as god and lead a global government into war against the returning Christ at Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-16). Antichrist will lose. The Bible is clear that God governs the world, and man's efforts to construct a global government will ultimately be taken over by the son of perdition who will lead the world into its final catastrophe.

B. Globalism relies on selling global crises (v. 4, "otherwise we shall be scattered abroad over the face of all the earth").

Illustration: Al Gore won the Nobel Peace prize last year for his alarmist movie regarding global warming called, "An Inconvenient Truth."

At one point in the same year the authorities ordered that the film be shown in the public schools of Great Britain. A British truck driver took the school system to court fearing that his kids were being subjected to blatant inaccuracies. The court ruled three things after hearing the case:

(1) The teachers guide had to make clear that the film is a political [not scientific] work that promotes only one side of a political argument; (2) failure to distinguish the film as a political work would put a teacher in breach of current law and guilty of political indoctrination; and (3) no less than 11 inaccuracies promoted by the film had to be specifically drawn to the attention of children before the film could be shown [[https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/FOS%20Essay/British\\_High\\_Court\\_Ruling\\_on\\_An\\_Inconvenient\\_Truth.html](https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/FOS%20Essay/British_High_Court_Ruling_on_An_Inconvenient_Truth.html); accessed April 2008].

Application: Selling global crises always leads to a call for greater global government. This is nothing new for those who have abandoned the truth that God providentially cares for His creation. In the days of Nimrod, the crisis sold was the threat that humanity would be irretrievably scattered over the face of the earth threatening everyone's survival. Today, salesmen of globalism are peddling global warming.

We saw a few weeks ago that God has promised in Genesis 8 that cold and heat, summer and winter, would not cease so long as the earth remains. Because man no longer sees God in charge of caring for the world in this way, he believes that he needs to somehow take over. Yet he always does a terrible job of this takeover, which leads to global tyranny.

Illustration: There was a big Bali, Indonesia conference on global warming that 10,000 delegates from all over the world flew in carbon-belching aircraft to get to. There were a number of media articles noting the irony of this. One claimed that the conference emitted more carbon than the country of Chad uses in a year [[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/342281\\_bali05.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/342281_bali05.html); accessed April 2008].

Application: Well, many of the leaders of the world have concluded that the promise of God's providence cannot be trusted, that we have a global crisis, and that we need more global

bureaucracy flying all over the world to deal with it. There is nothing new about this kind of sales job. Nimrod hoisted the same idea on those who followed him in Genesis 11. We need to resist the temptation to follow the crowd that is following the Nimrods of our day. We need to trust the Lord's providence to care for His creation. We need to be concerned for the protection of our national interests and not compromise our nation's well-being in order to buy what today's Nimrods are selling.

C. Globalism is led by powerful leaders (10:8-12). I want us to see two reasons powerful leaders like Nimrod are able to influence the world in the wrong direction.

1. These leaders are powerful because they are gifted, charismatic, and even religious.

Application: Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord (note that the dinosaurs may have still been around, which would not have been easily hunted). Not only is this skill; this is skill that has a spiritually superior hue to it.

Illustration: We are, of course, in the middle of a presidential election in our country. We still have three candidates in the race, two democrats and one republican. One of the three has experienced the fascinating phenomenon that people faint when he speaks. There is a charisma about this man that people have a hard time defining. The UK *Times* reported on this charisma by quoting some of those who are this candidate's followers:

One retired government official: "He will bring peace to the Middle East and anywhere in the world where there is tragedy."

Another man, age 55, said: "He will change everything—health care, no war, education. He can do anything."

A 21-year-old man is quoted as saying: “[He] has definitely got a better plan” for tracking global warming. When asked in what way the plan is better, the response was “I’m not sure about the specifics, I just think he’ll get more people involved.”

A 41-year-old woman said: “I really like his health care plan. And there’s another policy – it’s my favorite – ooh, I can’t remember right now.”

Application: These quotes say more about this candidate’s followers than they do him. Undoubtedly, they are not representative of all who will vote for him, but it is still troubling that the masses can be swayed so ably by someone desiring power over them.

This deceptive, hypnotic power is what the coming of the anti-christ will enjoy (2 Thes. 2:8-12). Notice the reference here to signs and false wonders or miracles. More often than not, there is always an intangible spiritual or supernatural element propelling powerful political leaders forward. Nimrod was not just a hunter, but one who claimed to represent the Lord.

2. These leaders are powerful because they centralize and consolidate political authority around themselves (10:10-14, Nimrod had his own kingdom).

Application: I get a lot of my political philosophy from my dad as well as the theology of the Bible. One adage my dad taught me was the idea that absolute power corrupts absolutely. This is a political doctrine that is founded on the Bible doctrine of the depravity of man, and the principle is expressed in two important political safeguards in our US Constitution:

(1) the principle of checks and balances – that governmental authority ought to be divided among co-equal branches (executive, legislative, judicial); and

(2) the principle of federalism – that governmental authority ought to be vested in institutions that are as local to the people governed as possible.

These ideas have made America great, and they are violated by charismatic political leaders who hold out the promise of taking care of you by consolidating power over your life around themselves. Antichrist will do so on a global scale. Globalism is a problem for man.

## II. Globalism is not a problem for God (11:5-9).

A. Because God is transcendent, man's pride against Him is in vain (man is trying to build a tower to the heavens, and God has had to come downward to see it, 11:5).

1. God's transcendence means that He is a personal, individual God who can and must be known personally.

He is not the impersonal force of nature; nor can we find Him in ourselves and everything else in nature. He is the Creator and Sustainer of nature, not nature. God's transcendence tells us that God cares for the birds; He is not the birds (Matt. 6:26). He cares for us too, but we are not Him. We can know Him.

2. God's transcendence means that He is higher than we are.

His height means He is better than we are, and so He is worthy of our humble reverence and prayer (Matt. 6:9). It also means that He is worthy of our humble trust, especially when we do not understand (Ps. 131). Recognizing His transcendence means recognizing the vanity of our pride. Nimrod's generation missed this truth. Ours has as well.

B. God is triune, perfect unity in diversity, but man's peace is fragile (note the contrast between man's "come let us" (11:3-4) and God's "come let Us" (11:9)).

Application: As the perfect unity of three persons in one essence, God's nature is the source of all true peace. We need peace from Him and peace with Him. Man has all kinds of substitutes for this: diplomacy, medication, recreation. But this passage makes very clear that man's "come let us" is feeble and weak and ultimately leads to the dictatorship of a Nimrod. The void in our lives that creates a lack of peace is God-shaped. Submission to the triune God of the Bible is the only source of true peace.

C. Because God is sovereign, man's global ambitions are rebellion.

Application: There are two places in the Bible where the phrase "nothing thought/imagined can be withheld" (11:6 and Job 42:2). The latter speaks of God's sovereignty, the former of the deity that rebellious man is seeking to achieve for himself in this passage.

Illustration: It is good for man's purposes to be limited. Modern man has come to understand his own propensity for self-destruction and extinction in a way previous less "advanced" generations did not. In their book *Rare Earth*, evolutionary scientists David Ward and Donald Brownlee list a number of types of planetary disasters in a chapter they call "Mass Extinctions and the Rare Earth Hypothesis." The last disaster they list is "the emergence of intelligent organisms."

They make their point this way: "There is abundant evidence that the emergence of humanity as a globally distributed species armed with technology has triggered a new episode of mass extinction on Earth. It can be argued that the emergence of any intelligent species co-opting a planet's resources in the service of advanced technology and agriculture will necessarily cause a planetary mass extinction."

Well, what we have here is something of a non-sequitur, the assertion that intelligence leads to destruction, but we can correct the point with Bible truth. It is not the intelligence of humanity that threatens man's survival, it is the propensity of humanity to rebel against God that does. That man is a sinner threatens his survival, and nothing could be worse for him than the possession of global power. Still, God is sovereign, and Jesus died on the cross that we might be forgiven of the rebellion of our sin, prepared for the future His death and resurrection have guaranteed the world will someday experience all over the globe.

Conclusion: Are you ready for that global future? Do you know the King of kings and Lord of lords? Are you at peace with the triune God? Do you see that He is the person who rules the world and must rule you as well?

“A man came – I think it was actually in Philadelphia – on one occasion to the great George Whitefield and asked if he might print his sermons. Whitefield gave this reply; he said, ‘Well, I have no inherent objection, if you like, but you will never be able to put on the printed page the lightning and the thunder.’ That is the distinction – the sermon, and the ‘lightning and the thunder.’ To Whitefield this was of very great importance, and it should be of very great importance to all preachers, as I hope to show. You can put the sermon into print, but not the lightning and the thunder. That comes into the act of preaching and cannot be conveyed by cold print. Indeed it almost baffles the descriptive powers of the best reporters.”

– David Martin Lloyd-Jones,

*Preachers and Preaching*