God's Eternal Plan #20 Prophecy and the Gentiles

Psalm 2:1-12

For a number of weeks, in this prophetic series, we have been directing your attention to prophecies that dealt specifically with the Church and the church's program. In this study, I want to turn our attention from the prophetic program for the Church to the prophetic program for the Gentiles.

Up until the time of the call of Abraham, God had been dealing with all individuals, without any reference to their geographical or ethnic background. But with the call of Abraham, God made a distinction between Jews and Gentiles. And when God said to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed," He established in that covenant a program for Israel as a nation, and also a program for the Gentile nations. And the indication is there would be a "blessing" and a "cursing" for both Israel and the Gentile nations. While the vast part of the Old Testament is concerned with the nation Israel, yet within that great body of Scripture, there is a great line of revelation concerning God's program for the Gentile nations.

For example, when we mention such great themes as the revived Roman Empire," Armageddon," the "judgment of the sheep and goats," etc., we are bringing into focus the prophecies concerning the Gentiles. But before we can understand the specific programs within the prophecies of the Gentiles, it is necessary for us to have some idea of God's division of nations. So what I want to do is to show you the four great areas into which the Gentile world governments will be divided at the time of the Second Coming of Christ. And understanding of this revelation should allow us to see God's hand at work in our own day to fulfill these biblical truths.

Let me mention, first of all, that nations in the Word of God are divided on the bases of their relationship to the nation *Israel*. It is impossible for us to study the prophetic program for the Gentiles until we see first of all the relation of these Gentiles to Israel.

With that thought in mind, let me tell you that one of the most important events in the last 2,000 plus years was when the United Nations recognized Israel as a separate nation among the nations of the earth. The reason for the importance of that particular event is simply this: God's division of the nations at the end time, is a division on the bases of their

geographical location to the land of Israel, or the land of Palestine – north, south, east and west.

The first of these divisions is mentioned in Ezekiel 38. This has to do with the prophecy concerning God's judgment against "Gog, of the land of Magog," as seen in verses 1-4, "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords." In order to understand this prophecy we must understand the significance of the names have been mentioned in verse of Ezekiel's prophecy.

The first name that we encounter is the name "Gog" and points our attention to the Caucaus Mountains that run through the heart of Russia. The Caucasus Mountains are a mountain system situated in southeastern Europe that lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea of Russia. In the Oriental tongue, the word for Caucasus literally means, "Fort of Gog" or "Gog's last stand." If you were to ask a Russian, "What do you call the tops of the Caucasus Mountains?" He would answer, "The Gog."

Now look at the names of "Magog," "Meshech" and Tubal." Where did these names originate? The answer is found in Genesis 10:1-2, "Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood. The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras." These are the seven sons of Japeth, or grandsons of Noah. We know these followed the Gentile line of people to Asia Minor. Now look with me as we see where these people went from Asia Minor.

The first of these "Magog" left Asia Minor and settled in the Caucasus Mountains in Russia. We are told in Josephus' Book 1, chapter 6, that the Scythians who lived north of the Black Sea, and populated Russia were called "Magog" or Magogites."

The next name is "Meshech." The name "Meshech" occurs in Psalm 120:5, "Woe is me, that I dwell in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!" In the context of Psalm 120 the name "Meshech" occurs simply as a synonym for foreigners or barbarians. History tells us it seems probable that a large number of the tribe of "Meshech" crossed the Caucasus range and spread over the northern steppes, mingling with the Scythians. There they became known as "Masco's," and gave that name to the Russian nation and its ancient capital by which they are still generally known throughout the East as

"Muscovites."

The next name is "Tubal" who left Asia Minor with his tribe for the eastern part of Russia known as "Siberia." Southwest of Siberia is the eastern capital of Russia known today as "Tubalsk."

The next name is probably the most important of the names listed, "chief prince." If you had access to a Scofield Bible, you would find in verse 3 of Ezekiel 38 this same wording "chief prince." Right beside this word you would see a little "L" that refers us to the marginal notes. In the middle of that very same page you will find this note: "Prince of Rosh." If you were to read a Jewish newspaper today, the name for "Russia" would read "Rosh." For over 2500 years the Hebrew language has not changed the spelling of Russia! The "king of the North" is Russia.

The next of these divisions is mentioned in Daniel 11:40, "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through." Here we have another division, which is from the south. This king must be the head of some nation from the south of Palestine. Throughout the Old Testament, the nation Egypt was referred to as the "South." We will not spend any time here because we are going to do one entire lesson on the nation of Egypt.

The next of these division is mentioned in Revelation 16:12, "Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared." These kings that will come from beyond the Euphrates River will move against the Middle East from the direction of the east. We have seen the setting of the stage for the great power to develop on the eastern side of Palestine, as China continues to develop economically as well as militarily. The wording of this scripture indicates this eastern power will not invade Israel in conjunction with the kings from the north and south, but in opposition to them. So we see that China will make her move for world dominance independent of other nations as she moves against Israel.

The next of these divisions is mentioned in Daniel chapters 2 and 7, and we are told in Daniel 7:7-8, "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, and coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words." These prophecies refer to those nations that have merged out

of the old Roman Empire, on the west of Palestine. Who are some of these nations? To answer that question we must go to Europe. They are nations such as Italy, France, Spain, Britain, that constitute the United States of Europe, better known as the British Common Market, which on January 1, 1973 became a part of the European Common Market.

As we look at these divisions of Gentile nations, and as we watch the news broadcast that brings our attention to the political movements that are taking place in our world today, we cannot help but realize that we are living in the last days before the return of Jesus Christ.

I am reminded of the words of Paul in Romans 13:11-14, "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Paul says in verse 11, "...now it is high time to awake..." We are sleeping away precious time! The Church of the living Lord sits idle as we nod away the time. Our homes are filled with parents and young people that are nodding away the time.

Every prophecy leading to the rapture of the church has been fulfilled, and many of them during our very own generation. We cannot continue to sit idly by and do nothing.