

GOD’S PROTECTION, THE REMNANT, RESTORING RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RESTORATION FOR NATIONS

GOD AND NATIONS Series, Part V

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Examples of God protecting and delivering His people as a nation:

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their wives and children: God protected and provided for them wherever they went, and no one successfully attacked or killed any one of them.
- Hebrew babies: many newborn sons were saved because “the midwives feared God” and disobeyed Pharaoh’s evil command. “So God was good to” them (Exodus 1:17-21).
- Nation of Israel when enslaved in Egypt: God protected them from every plague that He brought as judgments against Egypt, including the death of their firstborn which was His judgment for killing the newborn children of Israel (Exodus 7-12).
- Nation of Israel when departing Egypt: God destroyed the army of Egypt (Exodus 14).
- Nation of Israel when conspired against, attacked, or corrupted by enemies (Exodus 17:8-14; Numbers 21:1-3, 21-35; 22-23; 31:1-17;).
- Nation of Israel when they entered the land God promised to give them (the book of Joshua records Israel conquering 34 kings and kingdoms with no recorded loss of life, except during the first attack on Ai due to disobedience & presumption; Amos 2:9-10).
- Nation of Israel when they cried out to the LORD for deliverance, after He let their enemies conquer them because of their own sin and idolatry (book of Judges) – most notably when Gideon and 300 men, later joined by other warriors from the tribes of Israel, destroyed 120,000 Midianites in one battle (Judges 6-8).
- Nation of Israel when David killed the giant Goliath (I Samuel 17).
- Nation of Israel through King David, whose heart was after God, who conquered all his enemies and never lost a battle (II Samuel 5:17-25; 8:1-6, 13-14; 10; 22).
- Nation of Israel during the reign of King Solomon, who had no enemies or evil occurrence because God gave him “rest on every side” (I Kings 5:4).
- Nation of Judah when King Jehoshaphat prayed to the LORD to deliver them from three armies, and the LORD turned the armies against each other (II Chronicles 20:1-30).
- Nation of Judah when King Hezekiah sought the LORD for protection, and “the angel of the LORD ... struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians” (II Kings 18:17-19:37).
- Jews living as captives in Persia, yet 42,360 returned to Jerusalem (Ezra 2:64).
- Nehemiah and the Israelites as they rebuilt Jerusalem (Ezra 4-6; Nehemiah 3-4; 6).
- Queen Esther, Mordicai, and Jews when Haman plotted their annihilation (Esther 3-9).

Examples of God protecting the remnant of His people and disciples:

- Noah and his family – only 8 persons saved from the global flood – because “Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time” when all others were wicked (Genesis 6:8-9).
- Joseph: God protected, provided for, and blessed him, even though he was betrayed by his own brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned. Yet despite his circumstances, he always remained faithful to God (Genesis 37, 39-41).
- Job and his wife when Satan destroyed their children, servants, and property (Job 1-2).
- David whom God protected from a bear, lion, giants, King Saul, and enemies all his life.
- Elijah when Queen Jezebel declared she would have him killed (I Kings 19:1-18).
- Elijah when King Ahaziah sent a captain and soldiers to take him 3 times (II Kings 1).
- Elisha when the king of Aram sought to capture him (II Kings 6:8-23).
- Jeremiah the prophet, who was persecuted, imprisoned, and thrown into a pit.
- Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah when they refused to worship king’s image (Daniel 3).
- Daniel when he kept praying, disobeying the law to pray only to the king (Daniel 6).
- Jesus Christ: no one could take His life until He chose to lay it down (John 10:14-18).
- Peter and John when arrested for preaching about Jesus (Acts 4:1-31).
- The Apostle John whom no one could kill, and who wrote 5 books of the New Covenant.
- The Apostle Paul: God protected him from numerous attempts on his life until it was His timing for him to die, after he had written half the books of the New Covenant.

Those whom God promises to protect, rescue, and restore:

- God promised to be a shield of protection to those He chooses and who obey Him (Genesis 15:1; Deuteronomy 33:29; II Samuel 22:3, 31; Psalm 3:3; 5:12; 7:10; 18:2).
- Those who seek God and seek good, not evil, that they may live (Amos 5:4, 6, 14).
- Those who put their confidence in the LORD, “take courage,” “do not fear,” and do His will (Psalm 71; Proverbs 3:21-26; 14:26; Haggai 1:13-14; 2:4-5; Acts 4; Philippians 3:3); from the time forward that they start doing His will, He will bless them (Haggai 2:19).
- “Those who take refuge in Him,” trust His goodness “in the day of trouble” (Nahum 1:7).
- God promised to deliver His people from the oppressions and shackles of their enemies, and give them good news and His peace (Nahum 1:13, 15).
- “The LORD will restore the splendor” of His people and nation (Nahum 2:2).
- God promises to be a refuge for His people during “the day of the LORD” when He judges “all the nations”; many will escape; they will keep their land and possessions; Judah and Jerusalem “will be inhabited forever” (Joel 3:16-18, 20; Obadiah 1:17-18).
- The 144,000 “from every tribe of the sons of Israel,” 12,000 from each tribe (Rev. 7:4-8).
- Those who persevere, and “keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus,” He will empower them to not take the mark of the beast or worship him (Rev. 14:12).
- Those who “have the seal of God on their foreheads” during the final judgments of all nations (Revelation 9:4).

- The two witnesses (Moses and Elijah) for 1,260 days: “fire proceeds out of their mouths and devours their enemies” who try to harm them (Revelation 11:3-5).
- Some of those who overcome Satan “because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11).

Those whom God promises to save from hell and the second death:

- Every believer in Jesus Christ who is faithful to Him until death (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14).
- Believers in Jesus Christ “from every tribe and tongue and people and nation,” including those “who come out from the great tribulation” (Revelation 5:9; 7:9-17).
- Believers in Jesus who are martyred during the great tribulation (Revelation 20:4-6).

Those whom God chooses *not* to rescue, but to bring to Himself:

- The newborn Hebrew sons killed by the Egyptians (Exodus 1:22).
- Believers in God who were tortured, mocked, “destitute, afflicted, ill-treated,” scourged, imprisoned, stoned, “sawn in two ... put to death”; who refused to deny the LORD or compromise their faith in order to obtain release from pain or death; who fixed their hope on “a better resurrection” and “gained approval through their faith” (Hebrews 11:35-39; Revelation 2:10, 13; 12:11, 17).
- The 10 apostles of Jesus Christ who were martyred after a period of ministry.
- Believers in Jesus Christ who are “slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained” (Revelation 6:9).
- Two witnesses (Moses and Elijah) murdered, but then rose from death (Rev. 11:3-12).
- The saints whom God permits the anti-Christ to capture/overcome/kill (Rev. 13:7, 10).
- The saints who use weapons to kill other people, though possibly not those who do so in self-defense (Revelation 13:10).
- The saints who “die in the LORD” during the great tribulation; but it is these who will come back to life and reign “with Christ for a thousand years” (Rev. 14:13; 17:6; 20:4).

Restoring a right relationship with God, individually and nationally – ways to approach, obey, appeal or respond to, and touch His heart:

In compiling the list below, I became more acutely aware of how unrighteous and far from God's holiness I am, and how humanly impossible and unlikely it is for the whole of God's people in any nation, or the leaders of any nation, to do all of these actions. But this is God's standard, and what is impossible with man, is possible with God. Why not see how close we can get to obeying Him at every point, and see what He will do for us? Yet whatever good He does will be because of His grace, and not based on what we deserve in His eyes.

- Seek the LORD by reading the Bible, worshipping Him, praying, supplicating, interceding, and humbling yourself before Him, including by prostrating face down and kneeling before Him (Deuteronomy 4:29; II Chronicles 7:14; Nehemiah 1:4; Psalm 77:1-3; Isaiah 55:6; Daniel 9:2-4; Hosea 10:12; Zephaniah 2:3; Matthew 4:1-2; Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1; John 6:15; Philippians 4:4-8; James 4:4-10).
- Show “reverence for the LORD,” privately and publicly (Haggai 1:12).
- Declare the LORD’s name and who He is (I Kings 8:22-24, 33, 56; Malachi 1:11, 14).
- Clergy approach the LORD will reverential fear and obedience; teach the people how to do the same; teach the Word of God so all may know His character, commandments, and expectations, and how to obey Him in every area of life; and equip His people to accurately discern personal and national sins, and between holy and profane, good and evil, right and wrong, and between those who are true disciples of Christ Jesus and those who are not.
- Followers of Jesus Christ, including government leaders, read the Word of God personally and do the same as above (II Kings 22:8-13; 23:2).
- Clergy and prophets sound an alarm and give a clear warning, telling the people of God’s impending judgment for sin and iniquity (Joel 2:1, 15).
- Return to, trust in, rely on, and seek the LORD, not others (Isaiah 10:20-21; 26:1-4, 7-9).
- Identify, repent of, and renounce all personal sins, and generational sin patterns (iniquity) in your family; be specific (Exodus 20:5; I Kings 8:33-36, 47; Psalm 7:11-12; Daniel 9:20; Hosea 5:15; Matt. 4:17; 11:20; Acts 2:37-39; 3:19; 17:30-31; Romans 3:23; 6:23; I John 1:9).
- Mourn for personal and national sins (Nehemiah 1:4; Jeremiah 8:21; Matthew 5:4).
- Seek “the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to the truth” (Daniel 9:13).
- Consecrate a fast, hold an assembly, and bring together the leaders and families to the house of the LORD (Joel 1:14; 2:15-16). Publicly assemble and humble yourselves before the LORD and worship Him (I Kings 8). Clergy lead with weeping, lamenting and wailing before God (Joel 1:13; 2:17). All fast, weep, mourn, and render your hearts (Joel 2:12-13)
- Personally and corporately identify with and repent of all national sins, past and present (II Chronicles 6:36-39; 7:14; Nehemiah 1:3-9; Daniel 9:3-20).
- “Pray and make supplication to” the LORD (I Kings 8:33, 35, 38, 47-53).
- Call “on the name of the LORD” to “be delivered” (Joel 2:32).
- Seek the LORD for wisdom, knowledge, understanding, discernment, discretion, counsel, strength, and the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 1:1-7; 2:1-11; Isaiah 11:2-3).
- Listen to and obey “the voice of the LORD” through His prophets and priests (Haggai 1:12-15).
- Give thanks to the LORD publicly for His grace, salvation, deliverance, and blessings (Isaiah 12).

- Restore the knowledge of the LORD and His wonderful acts – in the Bible, in history, in own national history – and pass to future generations (Psalm 78:4; 96:3; 145:4-13; Isaiah 12:4).
- Restore honoring of the Sabbath or LORD’s Day (Nehemiah 13:15-22).
- Restore full tithing for all those failing to do so (Nehemiah 13:10-12; Malachi 3:8-11).
- Destroy any idols or forms of idolatry; do this first if you want the LORD’s help to overcome insurmountable obstacles or problems, or an enemy too powerful (Judges 6:11-34; I Kings 15:11-13; 18:17-40; II Kings 23:4-16, 19-20).
 - Destroy (not throw away), burn to ashes, and vocally renounce any occult books, videos, movies, materials, or beliefs that belong to you, or are in your home or office, and which you have the authority to destroy (including horoscopes, weegie boards, and whatever else opens a door to the demonic spiritual realm).
 - Identify what ideas, theories, and systems of thought you have believed that are in direct conflict with the Truth in Scripture; within the limits of your authority, renounce them and destroy any representation of them.
- Reinstitute feasts, festivals, community events that honor the LORD, and restore the practice of honoring Him at public events (II Kings 23:21-23).
- Care for the poor [from individuals, church, private sector], and ensure they receive justice when wronged [civil government duty] (Isaiah 11:3-4).
- Seek the counsel of those who fear God, understand the times, and know what the nation should do (I Chronicles 12:32).
- Do God’s will in God’s way (I Chronicles 13; 15).
- Fill the earth with “the knowledge of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:9).
- Lift up God’s Word and knowledge of His will as a standard to all nations, and the knowledge of His special purpose for Israel as a signal to them (Isaiah 11:10, 12; 13:1; 18:3; 31:9; 49:22; 62:10; Jeremiah 4:6, 21-22; 50:2; 51:12, 27).

Other proper attitudes and actions vital to restoring God’s blessing:

- “Hate evil, love good” (Amos 5:15).
- “Establish justice” in places of leadership and government (Amos 5:15).
- “Let justice roll down” and restore right relationships, instead of sacrifices, wailing, mourning, solemn assemblies, offerings, singing and worship (Amos 5:16-24).
- Remove all mediums and spiritists (II Kings 23:24-25).

To possibly reduce the severity of irrevocable judgment of God:

Follow the above steps.

The shedding of innocent blood that is not atoned for through justice (or repentance and atonement by the blood of Christ) brings the irrevocable judgment of God eventually.

Therefore, to reduce the severity of the judgment, stop all child sacrifice, prohibit any further elective abortions, and shut down all abortion clinics (II Kings 23:10).

God's promises of restoration to Israel:

- God promised restoration to His people if they humble themselves, confess His name, “confess their iniquity,” and pray (Leviticus 26:40-42; I Kings 8:33-40, 46-50; Hosea 6).
- God promised to restore His people, Israel, to the land He gave them, which He did in 1948 (Ezekiel 20:33-42; Zechariah 8:3-17).
- The LORD and His temple will become the desire of people from all nations – after the final judgments on the nations, and during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem:
 - They will “seek the LORD,” come to be taught “His ways,” and entreat His favor (Isaiah 2:2-3; Zechariah 8:20-23).
 - Jesus will “give peace” to them there (Haggai 2:9).

Does God promise to restore other nations?

There remains the question of whether God has promised to restore any nation in existence today other than Israel. That is difficult to ascertain and is a matter of deeper study.

What we do know from the past few centuries is that any people group or nation that turns to God in the ways delineated above will be blessed, and can be restored, until the Final Judgment. This was true of Great Britain, the pilgrims and United States, Australia, and other nations during certain periods. Therefore, though the outcome is uncertain, good will result when the followers of Jesus Christ in any nation pursue God passionately in the above ways.

What we do know:

- If the people of God of a nation humble themselves, God may reduce the judgment, deliver from enemies, bring peace, give blessings, and restore productivity, as He did in nations devoted to Him (Job 42:10-16; I Chronicles 7:14; Joel 1:14; 2:19-27).
- God said: “I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind” (Joel 2:28-29).
- There will be believers in Jesus Christ “from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” who will become “a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth” during the millennium; and “will come with the wealth of all nations” to Jerusalem (Haggai 2:7-8; Revelation 5:9-10).

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