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## **SHEEP NATIONS**

### **Robert Henderson**

Jesus' mandate to His apostles in Matthew 28:18-20 was very clear. They were to go forward with the authority He won on the cross, in the grave and by His resurrection to not only win individuals into a redemptive state, but to reclaim all of creation back under the rule of God:

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

The discipleship of nations is the ultimate job of the apostolically driven church that Jesus said to build. We have traditionally given this function away with a very narrow mindset that we are to simply "pluck" individuals out of this dark world and get them to heaven. But Jesus said His agenda was much greater than this. It was to not only get people born again, discipled and shaped for their function in the life to come, but to reclaim nations through the infiltration of society and its cultures as a whole. In other words, we are to alter life on the planet by impacting it with the authority that Jesus has commissioned us with as His representatives.

We find in Matthew 25:31-32 that Jesus is to separate the nations as sheep and goats. In this particular scripture, Jesus is clearly talking about nations being judged and evaluated as a whole in how they responded to the gospel of the kingdom rather than individuals before His throne of judgment:

*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.*

I believe that we as individuals will be judged at the throne of the Lord, but the nations will also be judged for their response to the gospel of the kingdom in their society and culture as a whole. This will determine whether they are a sheep or a goat nation. A sheep nation is a nation that has responded to the apostolic discipleship and has seen its society framed by the principles of the kingdom of God. A goat nation is a nation that has refused and refuted the claims of the kingdom within its culture and society. The determining factor will be how well the apostolic representative called the "church" within that nation did its job as commissioned by the Lord.

In my own eschatological training, I was convinced that the devil was going to "take over the world." Before the end of all things, the devil would be in absolute sovereign rule of the earth and the return of Jesus could reverse this and reclaim the earth. My question now to this viewpoint is - how can we have sheep nations that have been discipled by the Lord through His apostolic church if the devil is going to be in complete rulership prior to the Lord's return? It simply doesn't make sense. Furthermore, when John was revealing the glory of the New Jerusalem, that in my estimation will come into view at the second

coming of the Lord, he spoke of the nations and kings that will bring their “glory and honor” into this expression of the kingdom rule of God. Revelation 21:24-26 expresses these sentiments:

*And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.*

Only disciplined sheep nations have glory and honor to bring into the New Jerusalem. The nations and their leaders will come and deposit the glory and honor that has inhabited their sphere of authority. This will be the result of the apostolic influence of God’s people - called the church – upon individuals as well as nations and their leaders, cultures and society as a whole.

The practical outplaying of the discipleship of a nation is through the reforming of the seven mountains of society. Through these seven mountains a nation and its society are formed, fashioned and molded. To disciple a nation we must impact these seven spheres that literally determine what a nation looks like and reflects. These mountains or spheres are religion, family, education, government, business, arts & entertainment and media. As the apostolically driven church infiltrates, effects and impacts each of these mountains, a nation will be changed into a sheep nation. Just to be clear, a sheep nation is not a religious state. We are not attempting to make everything **Christian** in its expression. We are seeking to make everything **Kingdom** in its function. In other words - the morals, ethics, values, standards and principles of a society and therefore a nation become consistent with God’s laws and desires. Not everyone in a sheep nation will be a Christian, but they will be afforded the opportunity to live in a society that is blessed by the Christian’s God whose name is Jesus. Each individual will still have the right to accept or refuse a personal relationship with Jesus, but they will live under the canopy of the blessing of the Lord because of the effect of the kingdom upon the society they are a part of. Could this be why Jesus spoke of the blessing of the Father coming on the just and unjust, and on the evil and good? Matthew 5:44-45 says that as we are sons of our Father that people who don’t even know God get the benefit of His goodness:

*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Through the effect of God’s reformers in the earth who in reality are His sons and daughters, society is reformed through the power of His love. The result is clear: whether people know God or not, their lives are blessed because the society they live in has kingdom principles operating in its foundation.

In order for this to be a reality in any nation, the seven molders or mountains of society have to be reformed. The first step requires us to know what each of these mountains look like in a reformed state so that a nation can be disciplined. I share in my book, ***A Voice of Reformation: An Apostolic and Prophetic View of each of the Seven Mountains in a Reformed State*** and the CD series, ***Picturing Reformation: The Seven Mountains Reformed*** what these mountains look like in detail in a reformed state. These will help us develop vision, prayer strategies and raise reformers for each of these mountains, because we now know - at least somewhat - what they are to look like.

As this revelation came to me concerning the process of the reformation of each mountain for the disciplining of a nation, I designated descriptive terms or subtitles for each mountain. I want to briefly share these to help us understand the impact of each of these spheres on a society and a nation.

The Religion Mountain is the ***Impetus Mountain*** because from this mountain the inspiration of reformation and disciplining of a nation must flow. From the church in the Religion Mountain, a deep sense

of purpose, destiny and vision takes hold of people so that they are willing to give their life for God's desire in the earth. Without this motivation, reformation can never occur. This necessitates that the church begins to herald this message from an apostolic perspective so people are impregnated with this deep sense of passion and purpose.

The Family Mountain is the ***Values Mountain***. From this mountain the values of a nation are fashioned. This is why there is such an attack and an attempt to redefine what "family" is in today's world. The homosexual agenda is to get society and culture to depart from the traditional view of marriage and family. If they can redefine what family is, then the value system of a nation changes. But if the church in the Family Mountain can reestablish Judeo-Christian values back into society, then society will have a godly foundation from which to function and will dismantle many of the curses that presently operate because of dysfunctional families and their influence.

The Education Mountain is the ***Equipping Mountain***. Educational institutions not only impart information, they fashion the soul of a society. We must reclaim the mountain of education so that we are producing people with superior intellectual abilities that are partnered together with proper morality, ethics and the purpose. Otherwise we end up with people who do more damage than good because they through "wisdom did not know God." (I Corinthians 1:21) They end up being equipped for the devil's agenda in earth rather than God's.

The Government Mountain is the ***Empowering Mountain***. Government is not responsible for meeting the needs of people. Government should empower people to meet their own needs. One philosophy leads to government control and bigness while the other leads to individuality and the escaping of the intrusion of government upon people's lives. King Solomon's reign as king of Israel is the cleanest expression of proper government or "kingdom" government. Scripture says that in the days of His reign that every person "dwelt safely, each under his vine and fig tree." (I Kings 4:25) In other words, the government in Solomon's day provided safety or protection, peace and empowerment for enterprise. This is the purpose of government. Anything more than this ends up becoming perverted and warped. We must have reformers called statesmen, not politicians enter this mountain and reform it again into a kingdom expression.

The Business Mountain is the ***Finance Mountain***. From this mountain the finances for society and the endeavor of reformation shall be provided. This mountain in a reformed state will be freed from the spirit of greed that causes oppression and mistreatment and be replaced with a spirit of honor that esteems people more than profit and persons more than products. This will allow the blessing of the Lord that makes rich and adds no sorrow with it. (Proverbs 10: 22)

The Arts & Entertainment Mountain is the ***Prophetic Mountain***. The voice of the prophetic is used to shape whatever it is released toward. God Himself shaped a void and formless creation through the words He spoke. When arts and entertainment release their sound through movies, dance, sports and other creative venues, society takes on the message being proclaimed. The prophetic essence of this mountain is very powerful to fashion nations and its societies into that which is godly or ungodly.

The Media Mountain is the ***Watchman Mountain***. Through the media we get information, warnings, cautions and other communications designed to give direction to society. The problem is that the media has become an uncertain trumpet that gives information designed quite often to birth fear rather than logic for sound decision making. Whether economic, political or in other arenas, we need true and clear sounds coming without hidden agendas to fashion a society after their own prejudice and partiality. Only as reformers are raised to enter this mountain will media become a trumpet we can again trust and have confidence in.

The passion of the Lord is to disciple nations, reclaim society and alter life on the planet until it reflects the kingdom from nation to nation. As we do our job as the apostolically driven church, the nations of the earth will become sheep in their nature and provide a place of kingdom safety for its inhabitants and population. Let me be clear. We will not have a Utopia on earth before the Lord comes back. Just like there are to be sheep nations, there will also be goat nations. This means that not everything will be what God desires. The completion will happen at the coming of the Lord. I just understand that the earth and its societies will look more like heaven than hell at His coming. After all, His sacrifice demands it. Anything less than the discipleship of nations and the reformation of society is a gross mismanagement of the sacrifice and provision of His cross. May it not be so. May we accomplish the divine mandate of the Lord in today's world. Let us be the generation to see His kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.



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