

## **The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

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**Sermon Notes Outline  
July 11, 2021**

**T I T L E: DOES GOD INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF NATIONS?**

**T E X T: Psalm 66:7; 67:4**

- I. THE ONLY SOUND AND BIBLICAL REASON FOR CHRISTIANS TO REMAIN HOPEFUL AND/OR OPTIMISTIC IN LIGHT OF THE WORLDS PRESENT PROBLEMS IS THE BIBLICAL TRUTH THAT GOD CAN AND DOES INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF MAN BOTH NATIONALLY AND PERSONALLY.**

“He rules by His might forever...”

- A. God’s rule in the affairs of man is never antiquated.**

God’s work is never antiquated. It is all a revelation of eternal activities. What He has been, He is. What He did, He does. Therefore, faith may feed on all the records of old time and expect the repetition of all that they contain.

- B. God’s rule is always with two basic objectives in mind:  
(Cyrus)**

1. That the world may know that He is the Lord

Psalm 66:7 ---- He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; Let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

2. That those beneath the rule of governing officials may know that there is none like Him

Psalm 67:4 ----Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah.

**C. God's rule often begins in the heart of man. (Cyrus)**

The impact of God on Cyrus' life is in evidence within the halls of the United Nations. In the second-floor corridor between the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council is a copy of a document issued by Cyrus. The original may be viewed in the British Museum. Cyrus begins this document: I am Cyrus, King of the World, Great King, Mighty King, King of Babylon...King of the Four Quarters...He then proceeds to describe his takeover of Babylon: I, well disposed, entered Babylon and amidst public jubilation, sat on the royal throne...My numerous troops took over Babylon without molestation. I allowed no one to harass or terrorize the people...I concerned myself with the needs of Babylonians...to promote their well being. I freed the citizens of Babylonia from the yoke of servitude. I restored their dilapidated dwellings and redressed their grievances. Cyrus

describes himself as a compassionate ruler. That he, indeed, ruled in such a manner is supported by other historical evidence. This document testifies to a ruler being changed from the inside to sincerely care about the people. God picked up this man who did not initially acknowledge God and worked in his heart in such a way that he broke with the prevailing tradition of harsh, authoritarian rule. In fact, this document hanging in the U.N. is aptly entitled "The First Known Human Rights Declaration."

NEBUCHADNEZZAR — Daniel 4:34–37 ---- 34 "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?' 36 "At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me. 37 "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

## **II. THE LORD INVOLVES HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF NATIONS WITH EYES OF CONSTANT WATCH-CARE THAT HE MAY, AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY, MODERATE THE COUNSEL OF MEN**

## **THAT IT CAN BE MOLDED TO HIS DIVINE PURPOSE AND WILL.**

“His eyes keep watch on the nations..”

Job 42:1–2 ---- 1 Then Job answered the LORD and said, 2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

Psalm 33:10–11 ---- 10 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.

### **III. THE LORD INVOLVES HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF NATIONS SOMETIMES IN A SUPPORTIVE FASHION NOT BECAUSE ONE NATION MAY BE MORE RIGHTEOUS OR LESS EVIL THAN ANOTHER BUT BECAUSE HE IS PERFECTLY HOLY, ETHICAL, FAIR AND INDEPENDENT IN TERMS OF ONE NATION BEING MORE DESERVING OF HIS SUPPORT THAN ANOTHER.**

- A. **God is a righteous judge and a God who has indignation every day.** (Where does this leave America?)
- B. **It is biblically and theologically erroneous for America to think that God is on our side simply because our relationship with Him over the years has been more**

**friendly than hostile and more welcoming than rejecting.**

Erwin Lutzer — Is God on America's Side (Principles) (God does not judge on the lesser of two evils.)

1. God can both bless and curse a nation.
2. God judges nations based on the amount of light and opportunity they are given.
3. God sometimes uses exceedingly evil nations to judge those who are less evil.
4. When God judges a nation the righteous suffer with the wicked.
5. God's judgments take various forms.
6. In judgment, God's target is often His people, not just the pagans among them.
7. God sometimes reverses intended judgments.

**Conclusion:**