

NOTE: Next week's GROWING IN GRACE LETTER-
the email edition will be sent out FRIDAY, 11/21/25

GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

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GIVING THANKS IN 2025! (Part 1)

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ALARMING! ALL OF THE HORRIBLE DEPRAVITY and the present tense WRATH OF GOD, set forth in Romans 1:18-32, is the RESULT, in large part, because of ingratitude, no THANKSGIVING to God (Rom. 1:21) LET US GIVE SPECIAL HEED to this and the next 2 articles, on GIVING THANKS IN 2025!

As others have said, history is **'His-Story!'** HIS-STORY: the unveiling of the grand workings of God in, among, though, (and in spite of!) the nations of the world! YES, for America and our world— there is a BIGGER picture **that most have never seen!**

This article's 'bigger picture' impacts every American citizen, but it is especially for those who are in Christ!

I. LET US START and REST HERE: Almighty God is in Sovereign control of all nations!

- 1. Psalm 22:28**— GOD is THE GOVERNOR among the nations;
- 2. Psalm 75:6, 7**— GOD is THE JUDGE and He puts one down and sets up another;
- 3. Psalm 103:19**— The LORD'S kingdom rules over all;
- 4. Psalm 115:3 / 135:6**— GOD has done whatsoever He pleased in heaven, in the earth, in the seas, and all the deep places;
- 5. Proverbs 16:9**— A man's heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps;
- 6. Proverbs 19:21**— The counsel of the LORD shall stand;
- 7. Proverbs 21:1**— The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the

rivers of water; HE turneth it whithersoever HE will; **8. Isaiah 43:13**— God: There is none who can deliver out of My hand; I work and none can reverse it; **9. Lamentations 3:37**— Who is he that saith, and it comes to pass, when the LORD commanded it not? **10. Daniel 2:20-21** — GOD: He removes kings and sets up kings; **11. Daniel 4:17; 4:34-35; 5:21**— The MOST HIGH GOD rules in the kingdom of men, and He appoints over it whomsoever He will.

A major point of all these Scriptures and many more is that Almighty God is in sovereign control of all nations— be they 'named' or unnamed nations. EXAMPLE and application OF A CURRENT REALITY: WE MAY BE SURPRISED AND IN FEAR AS TO THE RISE OF ISLAM — GOD IS NOT!

MOREOVER, LET US REMEMBER that a part of God's sovereign control is that He has ordained CONSEQUENCES— "sowing and reaping" (Galatians 6:7-8). Men and nations make choices, chart courses, reap consequences; and at the very same time God rules, and overrules— even as we see in Genesis 50:20 and Acts 4:26-28.

WAKE UP! This is not just true in ancient history— **Revelation 17 reveals** that there is yet coming a day when **TEN KINGS/Ten nations** - (who have previously been supportive of a worldwide apostate religious system) - **shall turn on**, attack, and destroy that same religious system! **Why will they do it? Because God places this task in their hearts!** (Revelation 17: 15-18)

YES, Almighty God is in Sovereign control of and over all nations! He is carefully working out His purposes and His agenda and not ours! Nothing nor no one can stop Him! Resting in this Biblical truth will energize us with peace, purpose, and boldness in the work of LORD!

II. God Works Through Chosen Instruments! Throughout history, sometimes God uniquely worked through chosen individuals like Abraham, Moses, Jacob, David, or one of the Prophets. At OTHER times in history, God raised up cruel pagans so as to chasten His own people: Isaiah 10:5; Habakkuk 1:6-7! GOD raised up Pharaoh for grand purposes: (Romans 9:14-23)

God also raised up His chosen people, Israel. And within the physical nation of Israel was a redeemed **remnant**, the saved of the Old Testament era: **Deut. 7:6-8.** Moreover, God continues to work with Israel and will do so in days ahead! (Revelation 7: 1-8)

III. GOD WORKS THROUGH ONE HOLY NATION!

In the New Testament era in which we live, **ABOVE ALL ELSE**, God is especially working **with and through ONE HOLY NATION**— NAMELY, ALL THOSE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB! **This unique Nation now spans the globe.**

This nation will ultimately be made up of a numberless multitude of JEWS and GENTILES out of every nation, kindred, tongue, tribe, and people. YES, this NATION will ultimately include all Old and New Testament saints, Jew and Gentile— this NATION is and will be called: THE BRIDE OF CHRIST! (Rev. 7: 9-17; Rev. 21: 9-23) **Christian, "YOU ARE a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, AN HOLY NATION, a peculiar people [A people claimed by God for His own]; that you should show forth the praises of Him who called you OUT OF DARKNESS into His marvelous light; ..." (1 Peter 2:9-**

10) BEWARE: There is a massive religious Harlot system, a false bride, with many daughters, who passes herself off as the Bride of Christ, but she is not! **WARNINGS: Matthew 7:21-28; 15:12-14; Revelation 17:1-18!**

1. In the Old Testament era, Israel was sovereignly chosen by God to be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. **They were to show to the world** what a people would be like whose God was the true and living God! (Deuteronomy 7:6-10; Exodus 19:4-6)

2. **Even so, at this present time, ALL THOSE WHO ARE REDEEMED by the blood of the LAMB have the same calling!** (1 Peter 2:9-10)

3. **Christian!** The LORD JESUS CHRIST has a specific and important word for all saints in **John 15:16; Eph 1:1-14; 2:1-10 and Titus 3:1-7**. As another has so well said: **"Out of the tragedy of the Cross and the glory of the empty tomb and the wonder of the indwelling Holy Spirit came the New Testament**

Church— A New and Holy Nation! (Ephesians 2:8-22; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

She has often been persecuted. **She has** often been obscured to the masses by clever and impressive counterfeits. **She has** been assumed and/or pronounced dead. **Nevertheless, Jesus continues to build HIS CHURCH and nothing nor no one will stop Him!"** ***This is all a great wonder!** God has chosen to span the GLOBE with the Good News of Saving Grace, through each and every person whom He has already saved! **Every born again Christian is motivated, empowered, and under orders to BE HIS WITNESSES, to GO TO ALL NATIONS making, marking and maturing Disciples of Jesus.** (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47)*

This supreme global enterprise will proceed, (regardless of whatever else is or is not happening on earth), until **the return of Christ!** (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20)

IV. A History Lesson and the Fulfilling of the Great

Commission! From the time that Jesus prophesied that the Gospel would go into all the world (Matthew 24:14) and from the time that He gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)— **Many centuries passed and the Gospel by no means went worldwide!** In fact, apostasy came; **and then** the Dark Ages followed; **at times it seemed** that the true church had been snuffed out.

HOWEVER, JESUS HAD CLEARLY STATED: "I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT!" (Matt. 16:18) THUS, IN DUE TIME,

1. Sovereign God began to raise up reformers such as John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, John Hus, Martin Luther, various Anabaptists, and

others. **2. During the same period of time**, God gave the wisdom for the invention of the printing press! **AND the true church began to be lifted up out of the darkness and bondage of Roman Catholicism.**

[Note: Here are two excellent resources so as to understand **the radical difference between Biblical Christianity and Roman Catholicism:**

<http://www.justforcatholics.org> // <http://www.pro-gospel.org>]

3. Moreover, in the perfect timing of God, there came another amazing orchestration— God began to raise up a "group of nations", the British Empire— literally an Empire upon which the sun did not set! **AND** from that empire sprang forth, (a nation which many say is the greatest nation on earth), the United States of America. Thus, here is,

V. SOME AMERICAN 'HIS-STORY!' which many have missed 1. In

1492, Pope Alexander VI, gave to Spain and Portugal all of North, Central and South America. However, the British and the French did not take too kindly to that gift! This matter climaxed in 1588, with Spain's mighty ships of **the invincible Spanish Armada** attacking Britain's puny little navy.

Shockingly, the British won! **How? Because of the WIND!** In fact, the British struck a commemorative metal which had inscribed, "**GOD BLEW AND THEY WERE SCATTERED!**" **Note:** Had the Spanish won, the United States would have become a nation dominated by Roman Catholicism.

2. On July 4th, 1776, thirteen colonies declared their independence from mighty England. Amazingly, the colonies not only won, but by 1783, they owned all of the land east of the Mississippi, except for

Florida! **Twenty years later, the USA purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon for about .84 cents per acre!**

3. Time marched onward and the **United States of America** became the richest and mightiest nation on earth. **As Abraham Lincoln once said, "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things."**

4. Moreover, in a fashion like no other, Almighty God gave to the entire English speaking world, (Great Britain and especially the USA) — four great gifts, simultaneously:

*** Wealth! * Power! * Freedom! and * Gospel Opportunity!**

As a result, from the English speaking world (**Far more than from anyone else**) God began to send forth the Gospel to the ends of the earth. **At long last, the Gospel** began to go to every continent, nation, tribe and tongue. **Frankly, there is no other foundational explanation for these and many other amazing facts of history (His-Story!) other than the sovereign purposes of Almighty God!**

Yes, in the midst of a dying, decaying world JESUS CHRIST is doing all of His good pleasure. He is working among the nations; and He is building His church, His Holy Nation! (1 Peter 2:9-10)

To be an American Christian **is to be doubly blessed!** For we have received the glorious gospel of grace in an earthly setting of **Wealth, Power, Freedom and Gospel Opportunity. BUT LET US REMEMBER: To whom much is given, much is required!** (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 4:2) **CHRISTIAN:** You and I have been CHOSEN to Show forth His

Praises, **to** Bear Fruit, **to** be Holy and Set Apart for God's Kingdom purposes, **to** be Zealous in Good Works so as to glorify God!

WE have been COMMISSIONED to live out and to TELL the gospel and to disciple converts. WE are members of the true Bride, (Christ's Church!), getting ready for the Bridegroom of all bridegrooms, our LORD JESUS CHRIST! ALL of the above truths make the following even more TRAGIC:

George Barna compared the lifestyles of Christians and non-Christians, using 131 different measures of attitudes, behaviors, values, and Beliefs— Barna's **tragic conclusion:**

"In the aspects of lifestyle where Christians can have their greatest impact on the lives of non-Christians, there are NO VISIBLE

DIFFERENCES between the two segments." *In the words of another, "Our gospel is canceled by the way we live!" (Yes, there are glorious exceptions to this evil; but let us heed: ROMANS 13:11-14)*

DEEP ALARM: Ancient Israel rejected their God given purpose, Deut. 7:6-8! GOD WAS NOT MOCKED. JUDGMENT CAME. JUDGMENT CONTINUES. **THERE IS CAUSE FOR DEEP ALARM:**

FOR WE, (the 'western world), WHO ARE so blessed with wealth, power, freedom, and the GOSPEL— WE HAVE to a great extent TURNED OUR BACKS ON GOD!

**** JUDGMENT IS UNFOLDING... MORE AND MORE...**

LET US HEAR GOD'S CALL: Romans 12:1-2!

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

TO ALL SAINTS IN CHRIST: Grace! Peace! THANKSGIVING! And Love!

James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday Services, NOVEMBER 16, 23, 30

**Sunday School @ 9:30am; classes all ages
WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:45am**

SPECIAL MEETINGS:

11/16- LORD'S SUPPER, after Morning Worship // HOME GROUPS

11/23- FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP- 5:00pm

EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am— Men's Bible Study (Doors open by 7:30am— Enjoy Coffee / Juice / Donuts / Hardee's Biscuits!) STUDY starts @ 8:00am— ROMANS 3

NEXT Ladies Bible Study; EARLY 2026

EVERY TUESDAY @ 10:00am – 10:30am LADIES PRAYER MEETING (Back door, first room on right)

TUESDAY EVENING, Teens, Young Adults— Bible Study, 'EXODUS!' ... 7:15pm @ Jaden & Rhi's home

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30pm— (Come in back double doors; ADULT MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

YOUNG FAMILIES— Study & Prayer Service

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD (by MAIL or by ONLINE GIVING) For Church Ministry and/or MISSIONS:

**SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) —
MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin,
TN 37066 / OR... TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING**

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>