

**Sermon:** The Heart of God (Global Spotlight)

**Scripture:** Revelation 7:9-12

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Date:** February 26, 2023

**Revelation 7:9-12 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

<sup>10</sup> *and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

<sup>11</sup> *And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,*

<sup>12</sup> *saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*

We learn in the pages of Scripture that we are made in the image of God; and that our purpose in this life, in part, is to image Him in all the earth. To be like Him. Which is to say, to emulate Him ... copy Him ... long to be as He is, loving what He loves and hating what He hates.

**A thread from the beginning of the Bible to the end to illustrate and observe God's heart for the nations:**

1. **Genesis 12:3 (ESV)** - ... *in you [Abram] all the families [peoples, nations] of the earth shall be blessed.* (Quoted in Galatians 3:8)
2. **Genesis 17:5 (ESV)** - *Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.*
3. **Genesis 22:17-18 (ESV)** - *I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore ... and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*
4. **1 Kings 8:60 (ESV)** - ... *that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God, there is no other.*
5. **Isaiah 49:6 (ESV)** - *I will make you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.* (Quoted in Acts 13:47)
6. **Isaiah 56:6-7 (ESV)** - *And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*

7. **Matthew 28:19 (ESV)** - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
8. **Acts 1:8 (ESV)** - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
9. **Philippians 2:10-11 (ESV)** - *So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
10. **Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)** - *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'*

#### **Ways to be engaged with taking the good news of Jesus and His kingdom to the nations:**

1. **Go** (Where will you go?)
2. **Give** (How will you give?)
3. **Send** (Who will you send?)
4. **Pray** (When will you pray?)

#### **2022 Global Outreach Snapshot:**

- Perimeter gave over 1.5M in 2022 through Global Outreach.
- Perimeter impacted 27 countries in 2022 through Life on Life and Global Outreach.
- In 2022, we held 16 international life-on-life missional discipleship trainings (90 new churches being trained in Brazil alone).
- We currently support 50 missionary families or individuals.

#### **The need is great: (Snapshot)**

**Istanbul, Turkey** – once a thriving haven and even an epicenter of Christianity in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries...now, there are only 12 protestant churches in Istanbul.

Population of Istanbul: 14.8 million

**Buenos Aires, Argentina** – less than 6% of people in Buenos Aires identify as evangelical Christians. Population of Buenos Aires: 15.4 million

**Paris, France** – Paris, along with most of all of Europe, is now largely considered a secular city – although nearly 65% of French people identify as Christian (almost all identifying as Roman Catholic), less than 5% attend church. Population of Paris: 11 million

**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** – Population: 4.2 million. There are no public churches in Jeddah.

**Osaka, Japan** – 0.4% of the Japanese population identifies as evangelical Christians.  
Population of Osaka: 20.4 million

**Athens, Greece** – 0.28% of Greece's population identifies as evangelical Christians.  
Population of Athens: 3 million

### **Romans 10:14-15 (ESV)**

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news."*

We get to be a part of this unfolding and glorious journey towards the throne of Christ where the nations will gather! We don't have to go create it ... we get to discover it and walk in it. Praise be to God!

### **Jeff's Missions Letter**

Perimeter Family,

The work of God to establish and expand His kingdom globally is something that is near and dear to my heart, and I pray and hope that it is something that is near and dear to you as well.

As God's grand story of redemption unfolds through the pages of Scripture, we encounter a God whose heart beats for His glory to be known among the nations. From beginning to end, the Bible presents to us an ever-expanding covenant of grace between God and His people. We see Him call a pagan man unto Himself in Abraham and make him a father of many nations. We see Him call Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, to be a light to the nations that they may know the one true God. And then we see the Son of God Himself commission His followers to go and make disciples of all nations.

One of the ways we can develop a heart that beats with God's heart for the nations is to **GO** to the nations. I first went on an international missions project as a college student in the summer of 1999. Until that summer, I would have considered myself a Christian who wanted to see people of all nations know the Lord. However, I wasn't prepared for what God had planned to do in my heart once I was out of my bubble in America and in a foreign land. I began to see the nations in a whole new way through His eyes, and my heart swelled with passion to see His name and His gospel proclaimed among them.

My desire for our church family is that we would be wholly committed to **global missions**. Which means that we would be a people who are increasingly committed to going to the nations to be the light of Christ in word and in deed. We're committed to doing this by:

- Exporting our ***Life-on-Life Missional Discipleship*** curriculum and training to countries throughout the world.
- Taking the heart of God for His ***mercy and justice*** to be displayed in countries around the world.
- ***Partnering*** with churches and ministries around the globe to maximize our missional potential.

For various reasons and circumstances, not all people are able to go on a mission trip. However, there are other key ways to be involved in God's global work. Remember these four words:

***Go – Give – Send – Pray***

In addition to going, the Lord's global work is equally fueled by those who are committed to give, pray, and send.

Give generously.

Send specifically.

Pray fervently.

***Give*** to our church and other missionary organizations that you know are investing in God's Kingdom flourishing throughout the world.

***Send*** specifically. Prayerfully consider financially sponsoring individual missionaries engaged in global missions.

***Pray*** fervently and specifically for the work of God globally and for laborers to be sent into the harvest.

As your pastor, I am committed to these things, and I have great expectations of all the Lord will do in the years to come to expand His kingdom flourishing around the world through Perimeter Church! I hope you'll join me!

Jeff Norris