

For All Nations . . . Panta ta Ethne

You want to know where God is at work? Get a dart. Get a map. Don't hit water.

He is rescuing people from *all nations* . . .
panta ta ethne.

There is no place on the planet in which God is not up to his business of redeeming mankind – from every tongue, tribe and nation. And by nation he does not mean geopolitical nation, he is speaking of distinct people groups. Russia alone has more than 300 - India more than 3,000.

History reveals the passionate love story of an infinitely creative God reaching into the hearts of a stubborn and rebellious creation. And God will not be held at bay. It has been his plan from the beginning.

He says to Abraham, “through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.” The psalmist gives us His global purpose in Psalm 67, “that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.”

Isaiah tells us in 55:5, “Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you.” Even Haggai and Malachi get in on the action. Quoting our God they say, “I will shake the nations and the desired of that nations will come” (Hag 2:7) and “My name is to be feared among the nations.” (Mal 1:14)

When Jesus arrived on the scene it was D-day - part of His plan. God decided, at the fullness of time, to live as man and to die for the sins of the world. From there kingdom exploded. What started from one man to one nation moved as a blessing to all nations. When Jesus spoke in Matthew 28, he confirmed what God had put in motion since the dawn of time.

In 35 AD my ancestors were hanging out in northern Europe worshiping trees and howling at the moon . We had no clue of the kingdom. But God (the God of all nations) has rescued. We Gentiles call him Lord because of how he has worked. And he is not done.

Jesus describes the kingdom of God like a mustard seed. It started small, but it has grown to be huge. It is like a pea pushed off Everest. It starts small, but as it rolls and grows it envelopes all in its path. It is the ultimate sure thing. The future will reveal the culmination of his love for the nations.

When we stand together in Revelation 7:9, we will be

with men and women from every nation, tribe, people and language. God will bring it to pass and we will have the privilege of participation in his plan.

The question of our involvement in God's great plan is not a question of what we need to do. The question is how do we want to participate in what he is going to do. It is time to get on the bus. Our participation in the great commission is not an issue of obedience . . . it is an issue of sanity.

It is like a stock investment guaranteed to make you a fortune. Absolutely guaranteed. How much should you invest? Not \$100, \$1,000, or even \$100,000 - but all you have. You would be a fool if you didn't .

We can be secure in the fact that the fulfillment of the Great Commission is indeed a sure thing. In fact, the surest investment you can ever make. The most rock solid endeavor ever ventured upon.

Nonetheless, we are easily distracted from what is obvious to the Lord. We spend our passions and energy on less eternal things while actually believing them to be of greater significance. We can be sure that in the throne room of God people will not be excited because they had a killer job and a big house. When gold is synonymous with asphalt, no one is excited about their former possessions.

In the end, God wins. He will fulfill his Great Commission. He does not need me to participate, nor will he be slowed if I choose involvement in things less eternal. I can super glue myself to the chair and God would still accomplish what he desires. It is his business and he invites us to participate.

This is why we compiled these Letters for All Nations . . .
panta ta ethne. Articles that will help cultivate our passion for the God and his world.

We can be secure in the fact that the fulfillment of the Great Commission is indeed a sure thing.

God is going to all nations and he is inviting you along for the ride. It might not be the easiest ride in life, but surely it is of the greatest significance. He is going to all nations and he will lose none of his own. He has invited us to align our dreams with his reality - and take the ride of our life. There will be no regrets. There will be rejoicing in eternity looking at what God has done, but definitely no regrets.

It's time to saddle up and ride.