

NATIONAL TRUTH KEEPERS

In Isa. 26:2, there is a righteous nation that 'keeps the truth'.

Before we get there, let's see the

MAKING OF THAT GREAT NATION

God began a special nation from one man, Abram, whose name He later changed to Abraham. God repeatedly called that one nation 'GREAT.'

Gen 12:1-2 Now the LORD had said unto Abram,

- Get thee out of thy country, • and from thy kindred, • and from thy father's house, • unto a land that I will shew thee:

- 2 And I will make of thee a GREAT nation,
and I will bless thee,
and • make thy name great;
and • thou shalt be a blessing:

God would plant this great nation in a land which He had promised to give them.

Let's read Deut. 4:5-8, where we will see that God gave LAWS to His great nation:

Deut 4:5-8 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

They were to live by God's laws in their promised land:

- 6 Keep therefore and do them;
for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations,
which shall hear all these statutes, and say,
Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

God Himself was NEAR to this great nation:

- 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them,
as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

No other nation, except the great nation, had the special PRIVILEGE of having God's laws:

- 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Yes, Israel was the one nation that was made by God to be HIS peculiar people:

Deut 14:2 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God,
and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself,
above all the nations that are upon the earth.

They were the one nation --- unlike any other:

2 Sam 7:23-24 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.

But Israel had problems with spiritual whoredom.

They would often defile themselves by worshipping false gods.

God even thought, at one time, to wipe them out and start over with Moses:

Exo 32:7-14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them:

they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it,
and have sacrificed thereunto, and said,

These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

9 And the LORD said unto Moses,

I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

10 **Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them**: and **I will make of thee a great nation**.

11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said,

LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, **to whom thou swarest by thine own self**, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

At another time, the Lord left the rebels to die out - and He restarted with a fresh group:

Num 32:10-13 And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time,
and he sware, saying,

11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt,
from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto
Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite,
and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.

13 And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in
the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the
LORD, was consumed.

Yes, Israel had problems with UNBELIEF:

Heb 3:17 But with whom was he grieved forty years?
was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest,
but to them that believed not?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

**Sometimes, God's ONE 'GREAT' nation ... SPLIT into 2 divisions of:
A SINFUL nation ---- and A REMNANT that was a RIGHTEOUS nation:**

Isa 1:4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children
that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of
Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

But the true believers of Israel would always be preserved:

Isa 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant,
we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

2 Kings 19:31 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant,
and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

God will gather His elect back to Himself:

Isa 10:20-21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and
such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that
smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.
21 The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

God will collect His elect from where they had been scattered:

Jer 23:3-6 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

One day, Israel will be God's righteous nation.

They will be NATIONAL 'TRUTH-KEEPERS':

Isa 26:1-3 In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah;

We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

2 Open ye the gates,

that **the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.**

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

God will take that **RIGHTEOUS** nation through His holy gates:

Psa 118:19-23 Open to me the gates of righteousness:

I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:

20 **This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.**

21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

22 **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.**

23 This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

Jesus made a **distinction between the APOSTATE Israel and the BELIEVING Israel:**

Matt 21:42-44 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, **The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner:** this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

43 Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken:

but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

The physical descendants of Abraham made their claim as 'God's people'

they were children of SEED all right ---

but it was necessary that they be children of FAITH as well:

Deut 32:20-21 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, **children in whom is no faith.**

21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; **I will provoke them to anger with a FOOLISH nation.**

There was actually a nation of FAITH --- **WITHIN** the nation that was the physical seed:

Gal 3:9 So then **they which be of faith** are blessed with faithful Abraham.

God would use the believers of Israel to anger the unbelievers of Israel:

John 8:37-39 **I know that ye are Abraham's seed;**

but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father:

and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, **Abraham is our father.** Jesus saith unto them, **If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**

Jesus Christ was a 'Truth Teller' and they got quite mad about it:

John 8:44-45 **Ye are of your father the devil,** and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because **I tell you the truth,** ye believe me not.

God will separate the faithful from the unfaithful in Israel, when He cleanses the land:

Ezek 20:38 And **I will purge out from among you the rebels,** and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and **they shall not enter into the land of Israel:** and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Joel 3:17 So shall ye know that **I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion,** my holy mountain: then shall **Jerusalem be holy,** and **there shall no strangers pass through her any more.**

Then the PSALMS will come to pass:

Psa 147:2 **The LORD doth build up Jerusalem:**
he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.

Psa 102:16 When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

God intends to do some building there:

Zech 1:16-17 Therefore thus saith the LORD;

I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it,
 saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.

(that's what you do before you dig on the property

you 'stake off' the building site and tie a string around the stakes to make a line)

17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts;

My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad;

and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

God selected the city and picked out His lot. He will build His house on it and live there

Psa 132:13-14 For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

14 This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

Folks will want to go to it:

Isa 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye,

and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob;

and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths:

for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Everything will be centered there:

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

The Lord God Almighty will rule the earth then:

Isa 33:5-6 The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high:

he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times,

and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

The governments are corrupted now, but THEN the Son of God will control it:

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus Christ will take the reins of this planet:

Rev 19:15-16 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and **he shall rule them with a rod of iron**: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

God's rule will ultimately be established on the earth:

Psa 145:11-13 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;
12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts,
and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.
13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Then DANIEL's prophecy will be fulfilled. Get 2 passages in Daniel, chapters 2 & 7:

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the **God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and **it shall stand for ever.**

Dan 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold,
one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,
and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.
14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,
that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him:
his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and **all dominions shall serve and obey him.**

No nation serves God now, not even America!

But then, they ALL will:

Psa 72:8, 11 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,
and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: **all nations shall serve him.**

Let's put it like this any nation that doesn't won't be around very long:

Isa 60:12, 14 **For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.**

14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee;
and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet;
and they shall call thee, **The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**

Our conference theme is focusing on 'The TRUTH' which is what God's city will be:

Zech 8:3 Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion,
and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem:
and **Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth;**
and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Then skip down to verse 8 God's 'RIGHTEOUS nation' will live there with Him:

Zech 8:8 And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem:
and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, **in truth** and in righteousness.

In closing, let me remind you again, that in the future the Ages to Come

Israel will go through the gates and be the National TRUTH-Keepers for God:

Psa 118:19-20 Open to me the gates of righteousness:
I will go into them, and I will praise the LORD:
20 This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter.

Let's close with our text verse:

Isa 26:2 Open ye the gates,
that **the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.**

This is David Dowell, saying "Think about it!"