

“LIVING GODLY LIVES IN AN UNGODLY WORLD”

JUNE 17, 2020

DURING THE GREAT TIME OUT

“REVOLUTION OR TRANSFORMATION?”

PART 1: FOUNDATIONS OF RACISM

ACTS 17:26-27

Ac 17:26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (NKJV)

“It is most important for those of us who want revolutionary change to understand that revolution must be preceded by reformation. To assume that a political revolution can survive without the support base of a popular reformation is to ask for the impossible in politics.” Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals, Prologue

“A revolutionary organizer must shake up the prevailing patterns of their lives - agitate, create disenchantment and discontent with the current values, to produce, if not a passion for change, at least a passive, affirmative, non-challenging climate.” Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals, Prologue

“The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people, a change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obligations. ... This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution.” John Adams in a letter to H. Niles, 1818

“A revolution without a prior reformation would collapse or become a totalitarian tyranny.” Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals, Prologue

“A reformation means that masses of our people have reached the point of disillusionment with past ways and values. They don’t know what will work but they do know that the prevailing system is self-defeating, frustrating, and hopeless. They won’t act for change but won’t strongly oppose those who do. The time is then ripe for revolution.” Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals, Prologue

“Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgment to the every first radical: from all our legends, mythology, and history (and who is to

know where mythology leaves off and history begins – or which is which), the very first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom-Lucifer.” Saul Alinsky, Rules for Radicals, from the Acknowledgements page

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.” (NKJV)

I. MANAGING THE TERMS WITH WHICH WE WILL WORK

- A. Privilege - the advantage given one from birth over others who were not born in the same conditions. Its value will vary according to the importance of the situation for which one is looking.*
- B. Systemic - meaning that some condition can be found in some measure in the systems of a body, organization, institution, culture or nation*
- C. Institutionalized -states that a condition of the organization, culture etc has been deemed normal and approved by the leadership and accepted by the members of the organization whether stated in writing or not*
- D. Race - The Census Bureau defines **race** as a **person's** self-identification with one or more social groups; The Office of Management and Business (OMB) recognizes these race or ethnic divisions: 1) American Indian or Alaska Native; 2) Asian; 3) Black or African American; 4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; 5) White; 6) Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin; 7) Not Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin; the Bible recognizes 70 plus nations from the time of the time of the division at the Tower of Babel. Race is not a biblical word but nations or peoples or in Greek, ethnos, from which we get the English word, ethnic*
- E. Racism - prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized; the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.*
- F. Collectivism - the practice or principle of giving a group priority over each individual in it; Collectivism is a value that is characterized by emphasis on cohesiveness among individuals*

- and prioritization of the group over the self. We will identify it as the ideology of the Tower of Babel.*
- G. Individualism - the habit or principle of being independent and self-reliant; a social theory favoring freedom of action for individuals over collective or state control; the moral stance, political philosophy, ideology, or social outlook that emphasizes the moral worth of the individual.*
 - H. Identity - the fact of being who or what a person or thing is; a close similarity or affinity.*
 - I. Identify - sometimes confused with identity; associate (someone) closely with; regard (someone) as having strong links with. In modern popular language*
 - J. Identity politics - a collectivist system that refers to a political approach based on identifying the simultaneity of experiences such as sexism, racism, heterosexism, and classism; a tendency for people of a particular religion, race, social background, etc., to form exclusive political alliances, moving away from traditional broad-based party politics.*

II. THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF NATIONS

- A. He has made from one (blood) every nation of men...*
 - 1. Paul is appealing to the one true God over the gods of the Greeks found in the whole city of Athens whom they have called the unknown god. (17:23-24)*
 - 2. He is identifying the Unknown God as the Creator of all the earth and the heavens (17:24)*
 - 3. He is identifying Him as the source and sustainer of life for every living on the earth (17:25)*
 - 4. He is attributing the presence of all nations on earth back to the personal creation of one person or one blood. Of course, the Greeks were familiar with the variations in the skin colors, cultures, languages, etc as Athens was a multicultural center for the known world at that time.*
 - 5. Paul, previously a Pharisee, was steeped in the Torah where the identity of that one from whom all the nations of earth had come as Adam with His wife, Eve.*
 - 6. This passage is not a science treatise on the genetics of humanity but, based on what we understand of genetics today, Adam and Eve must have been a couple with every*

genetic potential combination within them to have all the nations come from them.

7. The name Adam is a descriptive one as are many of the names found in the Scriptures. It is a name which means "red" to describe Adam's appearance. He was made of the dust of the earth so he was the color of the dust. In our terms today, that was probably the term to describe the presence of melanin his skin. Since she was formed of the dust also, she too was dark-skinned. The children which came from them would have been dark-skinned but given the multiples of combinations that could be found in them they could have had lighter skinned children also. All the children of succeeding generations could have been a variety of skin color combinations. It is certain they were not Caucasian, with no melanin to contribute to the dark-skinned nations that would follow them.

8. The conclusion of this matter is that all nations have a single parental couple, the father and mother of us all, as their ascendant. Through this there is no claim to superiority or inferiority on the basis of parentage or familial background. This negates all white supremacy claims from creation.

B. ...to dwell on all the face of the earth...

1. From the beginning, God had ordained that humans were to fill the earth (Gen 1:26-28). Since Adam and Eve were living in the Garden that had been prepared for them and the Garden occupied a small part of the earth by comparison to its size, the assumption could be made that they were either to leave the Garden and do what they had been commanded or their offspring were to do that.

2. They had been commanded to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth so we also assume that their children would be leaving the Garden into the wilderness of the area outside the garden to till it and to subdue it.

3. It is my opinion that they were to make the wilderness areas into which they were to travel images of the Garden of Eden, the temple of God so that the whole earth is filled with His glory. This is reflected in the new heavens and the new earth of the kingdom of Isaiah and others of the prophets and in the book of the Revelation

4. *When Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden, they were put into the wilderness. Their task had not changed but certainly many of the conditions for getting it done had. They did have children and they did begin to spread out but even if they had organized themselves into nations they would have all been destroyed in the flood.*
 5. *After the flood, the three sons of Noah: Japheth, Ham and Shem, had children. Genesis 10 lists these sons of Noah's sons and their sons after them calling them the heads over nations. 70+ sons are named there and would have been varying shades of color and physical features. Each of those sons and their descendants were called nations by the Scriptures. We know that Acts 17:26 calls them nations.*
 6. *We do know they had one language and one speech at that time for they were all descended from the same family line. All other human beings outside of Noah's family had perished in the flood. There is no record of any language changes from the family of Adam and Eve.*
 7. *Genesis 11 records that those who had come from Noah's 3 sons did not scatter out all over the world as God had commanded (Gen 9:1). Instead, they gathered themselves in the plain of Shinar and determined to declare their independence from God and the angelic authorities with whom they had the trouble that led to the death of millions of people and a renovated earth. They would make for themselves a name, they would be united and they would not go anywhere else but be united as one people on the earth.*
 8. *The judgment which followed would be the first indication of the grounds of the division of nations and potential hostilities between them. It was the linguistic element that would break their unity and not permit them to understand each other. It would be the action of God in scattering them that would put them in different areas of the earth. This, I contend, is the foundation for ethnic prejudice, bias and hatred which is ultimately what we today call racism.*
- C. *...and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings...*
1. *According to Paul, God scattered them out and divided the nations. He had determined when they would be in their*

power and strength (preappointed times) since God raises up nations and puts them down.

- 2. But He also determined what would be the boundaries of those nations, where geographically they would be located. We know that the sons of Japheth would go north and west to form what we know as the European people groups; many of Ham's sons would go to Africa, but some would stay in the mideast and perhaps even go west toward India; the sons of Shem (from which we get the term Semitic) settled primarily in the mideast. This is the ground of all current rivalries and ancient hatreds. Missionally, we call this scattering and boundary-keeping, "people groups".*
- 3. Again, Paul is familiar with the Torah, is familiar with Deuteronomy 32:8-9 regarding the dividing of the nations. The sons of Adam were divided according to the Lord through Moses' song and given as their caretakers the sons of God, the bene Elohim.*
- 4. We see further in the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ in chapter 17, that a spirit of greed, murder, violence and abominations, personified as the whore, Babylon, seduced the kings of those nations to conquer one another, steal from one another, murder each other, enslave one another, despise one another, show prejudice toward each other, and seek vengeance on each other, that has been done at least since the days of Nimrod shortly after the time of the division at Babel. This is the outworking of what we know as racism.*
- 5. So the history of the world and its racism, ethnic hatred, from Babel to today is the history of the chaotic, destructive interaction of rebellious humans twisted away from God with aid and empowering from principalities and powers in the heavens against the Kingdom of God and its order (the Kingdom of God and His righteousness)*

NEXT TIME: WHY GOD DIVIDED THE NATIONS AND THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM