

Does God <u>really</u> do this? YES.

- Many Scripture passages tell us that God does it. (We've already looked at some of them.)
- ➡ The majority of the passages are related to Israel and the nations surrounding Israel, because that specific part of the world is the Bible's focus.
 - But it's <u>not</u> just an "Israel phenomenon"; it can happen to <u>any</u> nation. (There are examples of this.)
- Even in matters that <u>don't</u> involve destroying and replacing nations, God uses <u>all that occurs</u> to accomplish his purposes – even when the people do not know him.
 - Example: God used a decree made in Rome, to control the lives of people who lived 1430 miles (2300 km) away ... in order to fulfil Scripture (Luke 2:1-7, compared to Micah 5:2).

<u>WHY</u> does God remove/replace people? <u>WHY</u> does God destroy people?

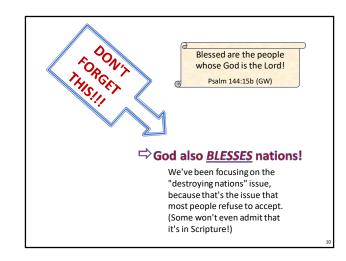
- Almost always, the reason has to do with the people's wickedness − especially if they know the truth and reject it.
 - Occasionally, there may be other factors at work, including random "time and chance."
 - Innocent people may have to suffer, because of the sins of the majority. (This is one of the horrible consequences of sin.) When this happens, the injustice will be dealt with at the final judgment. (If there are saved people, God will use the situation to accomplish good in their lives – Romans 8:28.)
 - We need to understand the <u>Bible's</u> view of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. These two concepts <u>work together</u>. (The world normally views them as being in conflict.)

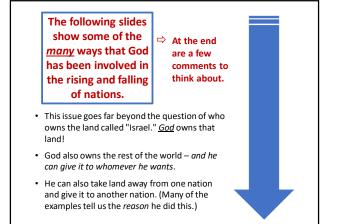
WHEN WE LOOK AT EXAMPLES

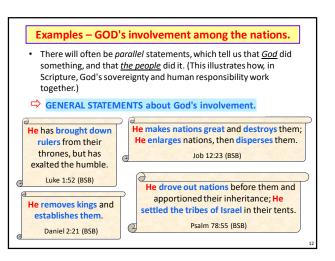
 Some passages will say <u>God</u> did it; others will say <u>people</u> (or something else) did it – all referring to the same event.

HOW does God remove/replace people? HOW does God destroy people?

- ➡ God can accomplish it through the direct actions of people (such as warfare).
 - He may use a <u>more</u>-wicked nation to punish a <u>less</u>-wicked nation, when that <u>less</u>-wicked nation has known the truth and rejected it.
 - He may use a weaker nation to destroy a stronger nation.
- ⇒ God can accomplish it in a variety of other ways.
 - He can use naturally-occurring phenomenon earthquakes, hail, etc.
 - He can use panic, or misunderstanding by the people.
 - He can use an unexpected combination of circumstances.
 - He can directly intervene.
- ⇒ God can use combinations of any of the above.





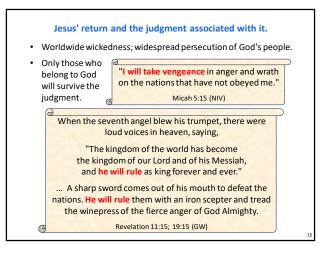


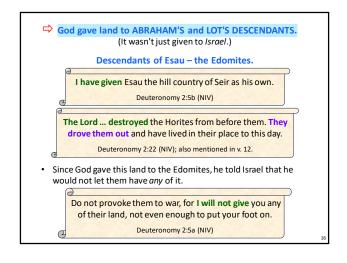
General statement: God has done it in the <u>PAST</u>... You have rebuked the nations; You have destroyed the wicked; You have erased their name forever and ever. The enemy has come to eternal ruin, and You have uprooted their cities; the very memory of them has vanished. Psalm 9:5-6 (BSB) General statement: God will do it in the <u>FUTURE</u>... ... I am about to shake the heavens and the earth: I will overturn royal thrones and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations. I will overturn chariots and their riders; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.

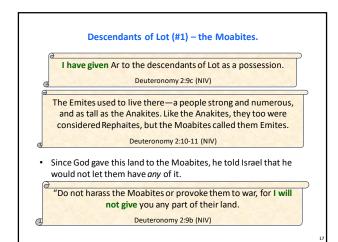
Haggai 2:21b-22 (BSB)

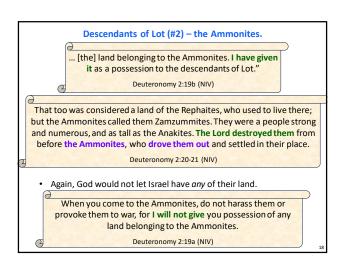
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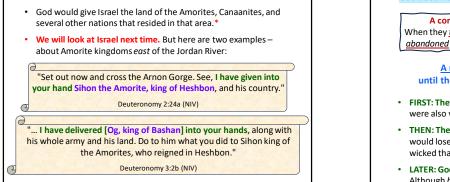






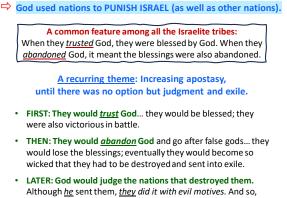






* (Scripture sometimes mentions *several* of these nations in a list; at other times, it mentions *one or two* of them, as *representing* the entire group.)

Descendants of Isaac and Jacob - the Israelites.



they also had to be judged.

(1) ASSYRIA judges (sends into exile) the northern tribes of ISRAEL. • FIRST, the 2½ tribes EAST of the Jordan River abandoned God, and went after false gods. God sent the Assyrians to remove them from the land. But they were unfaithful to the God of their ancestors and prostituted themselves to the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them. So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria (that is, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria), who took the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh into exile. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara and the river of Gozan, where they are to this day. 1 Chronicles 5:25-26 (NIV) LATER, God used the Assyrians to punish the other NORTHERN tribes of Israel (sending them into exile), as well as the SOUTHERN tribes (punished, but not sent into exile).



were evil, God raised up the Babylonians to punish them.

Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger; the staff in their hands is My wrath.

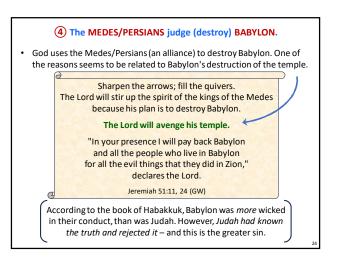
I will send him against a godless nation; I will dispatch him against a people destined for My rage, ... But this is not his intention; this is not his plan. For it is in his heart to destroy and cut off many nations. ...

So when the Lord has completed all His work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, He will say, "I will punish the king of Assyria for the fruit of his arrogant heart and the proud look in his eyes.

For he says: 'By the strength of my hand I have done this, and by my wisdom, for I am clever. I have removed the boundaries of nations and plundered their treasures; like a mighty one I subdued their rulers.

Isaiah 10:5-6a, 7, 12-13 (BSB)





	(5) The MEDES/PERSIANS encourage the Jews to return and rebuild the temple.
	Cyrus wouldn't be born for approximately 100 years after he was mentioned by name in these passages!
9	
-	ORD] says to Cyrus, " <mark>You are my shepherd. You will do what I</mark> You will say to Jerusalem, 'You will be rebuilt!' You will tell the Temple, 'Your foundations will be put in place!'"
your	what the LORD said to Cyrus, his chosen king: "I took you by right hand to help you defeat nations, to strip other kings of power, and to open city gates that will not be closed again
	right to give power to Cyrus, and I will make his work easy. He build my city, and he will set my people free without bribes or payment." The LORD All-Powerful said this.
	Isaiah 44:28-45:1, 13 (ERV)

GOD's a		ent in the affair rael/Judah).	rs of nations
Who	What God did	Why	Selected verses
Sodom & other cities	God rained down sulfur and fire on them.	Totally corrupt; not even 10 upright people remaining in the cities.	18:32; 19:24-
Amorites (also Moab)	Land to be given to "the people of the East."	They rejoiced in Jerusalem's destruction.	Ezekiel 21:31-32; 25:10
Who	What	God did	Selected verses
Canaanites	Told Abraham tha years before the wicked enough to		Genesis 15:13- 21

Who	What God d	lid	Wh	/	Selected verses
Egypt	God drowned Pharaoh and his army in the Red	-	Because the mistreated Is slaves. Resul would be ho	, srael as t: God	Exodus 14:18
Egypt	God would dest them by means civil war.	'	Ongoing ido snare to Isra		Isaiah 19:2
Who	What God did;	Judah	interferes	Selecte	d verses
Egypt vs. Babylon	God told Neco, king of Egypt, to fight against the Babylonians. *	Judah	n (king of I) interferes, vounded, **	25; vs. 21	cles 35:20- L-22 says it who gave mand.
Babylon	king of Egypt, to fight against the Babylonians. * eco probably cons	Judah was w dies. ¹ idered	i) interferes, vounded, **	25; vs. 21 was God the comr o be just c	L-22 says it who gave mand.

GOD's *active* involvement in the affairs of Israel/Judah.

• Examples, when Israel DID NOT trust God, but went after false gods.

Occasion	What God did	End result	Selected verses
In the wilderness; Israel turned to idolatry	God threatened to 100% destroy them.	Moses interceded; appealed to God's promises to their <i>ancestors</i> ; it did not happen.	Deuteronomy 9:13-14+
Totally evil under the leadership of King Manasseh	God would send them into exile.	They had reached "the point of no return"; judgment was inevitable.	2 Kings 21:9- 15

Occasion	What happened	End result	Selected verses
Tribes east of Jordan River; a battle against 4 nations	They trusted God and prayed for help.	God answered their prayer, and fought against their enemies.	1 Chronicles 5:19-20, 22
5 Amorite kings attack.	God promised to protect Israel	God threw the Amorites into confusion, and killed more of them with hailstones, than were killed by the sword.*	Joshua 10:8- 11

Occasion	What happened	End result	Selected verses
Gideon & 300 men vs. an alliance of 3 armies.	God told him to fight with only 300 men; Gideon obeyed.	God instilled panic among the armies. They started killing each other and ran away.	Judges 7:16- 22
Jonathan and his helper, vs. the Philistines	They trusted God and were able to kill 20 Philistine soldiers at an outpost.	The Philistines panic and flee. The ground quakes (whether from their panic or from an earthquake) – which probably intensifies their panic.	1 Samuel 14:14-15
David vs. Goliath	David trusts God, and kills Goliath.	The Philistines panic and flee.	1 Samuel 17:45-47, 51

David vs. end-result into God's v his son hands. a Absalom r r	God thwarted a wise person's good advice, so that David's enemies made a disastrous decision, and were defeated.	2 Samuel 15:25-26; 17:14
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, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	God killed 185,000 soldiers.	Isaiah 37:36
alliance of 3 armiestrusted God, who had promised that they wouldn't have toa a a	God caused the armies of the alliance to attack <i>each other</i> , instead of attacking Judah.	2 Chronicles 20:14-23

The book of DANIEL: God at work during times of "silence."

- There would be 400 years of "silence" between the Old and New Testaments. Daniel wrote down what God said would happen in that "silent" time... and it did happen.
- Based on this, <u>we</u> can be confident that God is actively involved in the affairs of people, even when he seems to be "silent."
- On several occasions in this period, God gave land controlled by one nation to another nation. (From the human perspective, it was a matter of one nation conquering another.)
- God also used the events that happened in this period to prepare for Jesus' first coming. (There are also "second-coming" implications in some of what Daniel wrote.)

The book of REVELATION: God uses "everything" to destroy evil.

 God will bring all things under his control, using famine, disease, war, earthquakes, meteors, celestial catastrophes, ecological disasters, heavenly hosts, etc. He will personally finish the job.

Summary

God has a *right* to judge or destroy nations – or to bless them.

- 1. God owns not just the land, but everything.
- 2. God has a right to remove wicked people (nations) from the land where they live.
- 3. God has the right to 100% *destroy* a nation or even the entire world if the people become exceedingly wicked.
- 4. Scripture gives plenty of evidence that God has destroyed nations in the past, and will continue to do so into the future.
- 5. According to Scripture, the two main reasons for God to destroy nations are:
 - They have become exceedingly wicked.
 - They have seriously mistreated Israel (Genesis 12:3).

How should a <u>NATION</u> respond to all this?

A nation that does <u>not</u> follow the God of Israel – the *true* God – will <u>not</u> agree with what Scripture says on this matter. But if they become wicked enough, their end result will <u>prove</u> that what Scripture says is true.

- Nations that promote wickedness (as <u>ours</u> does) cannot go on forever, without experiencing some form of judgment from God (even if it isn't total destruction).
- The only <u>right</u> way to respond is to submit to the God of the Bible, and to reject all other gods... and then to deal with any national wickedness that may be present.
- 3. We (individuals) who belong to God need to do what we can, to influence the "moral climate" of the nation. But regardless of the way the nation goes, our ultimate loyalty must be to the true God and his righteous ways (Matthew 6:33).

OUR MISSION:

- As the end-times draw to a close, unpleasant things will happen. The final outcome will result in God's glory and the resurrection of God's people. But there will be many catastrophes and trials before we get there.
- The book of Revelation represents "heaven's perspective" God will be pouring out judgments upon the wicked. Other Scripture passages present "earth's perspective" – such as "wars and rumors of wars"; and also the persecution of God's people.
- ★ OUR DUTY:
 - BE AWARE that God <u>does</u> work in this world, to bring all things to that final conclusion, where righteousness will reign supreme. He may even use *evil* people (and their sin) to move us in that direction.
 - TRUST GOD for the final outcome. The end will be good for <u>all</u> who are willing to trust him.

Credits

CRIPTURE

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Presentation - Dennis Hinks @ 2023.