

GOD'S INTENTION FOR THE NATIONS

- Creation → disruption and conflict
- Tower of Babel → nations mired in cycles of empire-building and conflict
- Call of Abraham → “bless the nations”
- Jesus re-boots the people of God: the “Church”
- Pentecost reverses the curse of Babel
 - → the diversity of languages is meaningful
- Revelation: God's community descends to a renewed planet earth
 - → kings of the earth will bring “their splendour” into the Holy City (Rev. 21:24)
 - → the nations will bring in their “glory and honour” (Rev. 21:26).

‘WELCOMING THE STRANGER’

- “Israel” – a covenant-community; all are welcome
- “Do not mistrust or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” (Exodus 2:21)
- “You and the foreigner shall be the same before the LORD.” (Numbers 15:15)
- God “loves the foreigner residing among you” (Deuteronomy 10:18)
- “You are to love those who are foreigners” (Deuteronomy 10:19)
- Jesus’ disciples . . .

A SELF-CONCEPT PROBLEM