

Center Of The Nations

4-26-20

Ezekiel 5:5 (ESV)

Thus, says the Lord God: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

Mankind fell away from God, and God moves to spread HIS truth and salvation to the world. From divine viewpoint, we see God pick a spot in the Center of the Nations as the base for HIS operations. God says the Center of the Nations is Jerusalem which includes the Temple representing God's Presence. Also, Jerusalem represents the people and nation of Israel. As the Center of the Nations, Biblical revelation especially the revelation of Jesus and the redemption of man springs from Jerusalem. This is the OT center of the clash of good and evil. Therefore, from a clear panoramic view from Jerusalem we see all the nations. Here we see Satan clash with Jesus over who controls the world.

Matthew 4:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, **“All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”** ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan!”

World dominion has no middle ground. From Jerusalem, the Center of The Nations, Satan is claiming control over the rest of the world. Surprisingly, Jesus does not question Satan's ownership. However, it is from Jerusalem, the earthly base of God's operations that Jesus will establish HIMSELF to spiritually invade the rest of the world.

However, today the Temple is destroyed. Although Jerusalem and Israel will have End Times relevance, they currently serve little spiritual significance. **However, Satan is still at work.**

1 John 5:19 (ESV)

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

We see the continuing domination of the devil, but where is God's base of operations today? The world is a spiritually dangerous place to be. The two sides are delineated: we, the children of God, and the whole world, which lies in Satan's control. **Where is God's city, HIS temple, and HIS dwelling? Where is the Center of The Nations today?** God needs building material and a plan to rebuild HIS base of operation. 1 Peter shows us the building material and gives us the plan.

1 Peter 2:4–5 (ESV)

⁴As you come to Jesus, **a living stone** rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like **living stones** are being built up as a **spiritual house**, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

God's presence, HIS Temple, HIS people, are re-established through Jesus and HIS followers. The building material is Jesus, the living stone, and HIS followers, living stones, being built into a spiritual house.

God's house is made up of living stones which are God's chosen people who make up the HOLY nation.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people.

The church is the structure being joined together as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit; the Center Of the Nations!

Ephesians 2:19–22 (ESV)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**, ²⁰ built on **the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being **the cornerstone**, ²¹ in whom **the whole structure**, being joined together, grows into a holy **temple** in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being **built** together into a **dwelling place** for God by the Spirit.

Notice the physical terms for the spiritual reality of today's church: household, foundation, cornerstone, structure, temple, built, and dwelling place. The spiritual structure, the church, is the Center of the Nations!

Ezekiel 5:5 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord GOD: This is the Church. I have set the church in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

The church is set in the Center of the Nations and is essential for the operation and move of God in this world. You want to see God move? Don't declare Jesus' church non-essential! We have the power of the Holy Spirit living in us and guiding us. Jesus is saying, "I am essential!"

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Jesus and HIS followers, the church, is essential providing all that is necessary for life. As the Center of the Nations, we cry out with Jesus:

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Jesus and HIS followers, the church, the Center of the Nations, cries out with authority and power, "Come!"

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.