

WHAT GOD HOLDS NATIONS ACCOUNTABLE TO IN SCRIPTURE

By John C. Nugent

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Primeval Prologue

Genesis 1-11

- 1:26-28 Image and dominion over all creation is given to and shared with all humans
- 3:12 Human care for creation gives way to enmity between humans and animals
- 3:16 Shared dominion gives way to some humans lording over others
- 4:13-15 God protects Cain from humans who would organize against him to take his life
- 4:23-24 Lamech abuses God's protective revenge and claims it for himself and takes multiple wives for himself
- 6:1-14 Warlock take wives for themselves, hero warriors arise, and the earth fills with violence
- 9:5 All people (and animals) help accountable for taking the lives of humans—life for life limits escalating blood vengeance like we saw in Lamech
- 10:1-32 How the earth came to be filled with diverse family, languages, lands, and nations as the spread abroad the earth as God commanded
- 11:1-9 God confuses languages to break up the destructive potential of what would have happened if the human race united with one mind and purpose to make a great name for themselves by creating a central city with a prominent tower.

Primeval Prologue Principles

- * People taking the life of other people into their own hands is bad and when it happens needs to be dealt with in a decisive but limited fashion
- * A united centralized power center is someone God doesn't want and takes initiative to break up, which leads to a diversification of nations and language—which is presented as both punishment and strategic corrective to get them on a better path.

Patriarchs

Genesis 12-50

- 12:1-3 God forms his set apart people by taking them away from the cultural center most like Babel to form a unique nation from his descendants that he would use to bless all nations. Nations that bless Abraham's descendants will be blessed and those who curse them will be cursed.
- 12:10-20 God punishes the king of Egypt for taking another man's life – the king seems to agree that this was wrong to do, but Abram misled him
- 13:5-12 As Abraham and Lot's families and property grew it was necessary for them to agree upon distinct territories that each would be give inhabit separate from the other
- 13:13 People of Sodom “were wicked, great sinners against the LORD” – not details how
- 14:1-15:1 It is implied that God helps Abraham overcome a band of kings and nations from afar who raided the lands of others to pillage them of goods, provisions, men, and women
- 15:13-14 God will judge the Egyptians after they enslave and oppress Abram's descendants 400 years
- 15:16 God will not judge the Amorites until their iniquity is complete

15:18-21 The land of certain nations will be given to Abraham's descendants
 16:10 God vows to prosper Ishmael's descendants even though they will not remain a part of the chosen people of Abraham
 17:4-6 Many nations and kings will come from Abraham
 18:20-33 God plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the outcry that has come to him about them and because of their wickedness – though God shows a willingness to spare the city of there is a strong contingent of righteousness among them.
 19:4-13 God's angels destroy the inhabitants of Sodom since their attempt to gang rape his house guests showed them to be as wicked as the outcry that previously reached to God
 20:1-18 God closes the wombs of Philistine women because the king took Sarah into his house, no knowing she was Abraham's wife
 26:7-11 The Philistines wanted to take Isaac's wife from him thinking she was a sister and a not a wife. Even they viewed taking a man's wife as a sin
 26:16-17 Philistines want Isaac to move away because he is becoming too powerful, so Isaac settled elsewhere
 27:28-40 Note that Isaac blesses Jacob with Abraham's blessing. God will bless him and those who bless him will be blessed and those who curse hi will be cursed. By way of contract, Esau is not the chosen line of Abraham and will have to "live by the sword" – presumably, just like all the other nations.
 28:14 God reaffirms Jacob that all families will be blessed through his offspring
 31:29 God's instruction to Laban about fleeing Jacob: "Take heed that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

Isaiah

2:4 A future day when God arbitrates between nations, they will not raise swords against each other, or learn war any more
 10:5-19 God punishes Assyria for arrogant boasting (v. 12): about doing to Jerusalem what he has done to other kingdoms and their images, and about conquering nations by their own strength, wisdom, and understanding. Implied also that God is judging Assyria for seeking to destroy many nations (v. 7).
 13:11 God punishes the world (Babylon) for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity (using other nations—Medes); God puts an end to the pride of the arrogant and the insolence of tyrants
 13:5-11 Babylon: oppressor, insolence, wicked, struck down peoples in wrath, "your pomp has brought you down to Sheol" (v. 11)
 13:12-20 Babylon: desired to ascend to heaven, raise his throne above the stars, make himself like the Most High—to be cast away "because you have destroyed your land, you have killed your people"
 16:6-7 Moab: pride, arrogance, insolence, raisin cakes
 23:9 Tyre: God defiles the pride of all glory and shames all the honored of the earth; v. 18 storing and hoarding profits and merchandise implicitly critiqued
 25:10-11 Maob: pride will be laid low
 34:8 Edom: God will avenge Zion – so whatever Edom did against God's people
 37:29 Assyria/Sennacherib: "because you raged against me and your arrogance has come to my ears" (cf. 36:10, 15-20)
 47:8-11 Babylon: lover of pleasures, says "I am, and there is no one besides me," feeling secure in wickedness saying "No one sees me"

Jeremiah

46:10 Egypt: God punishes them as retribution and vindication
48:7 Moab: because you trusted in your strongholds and treasures
48:10 in the context of prophecy against Moab: “Accursed is the one who is slack in doing the work of the LORD; and accursed is the one who keep back the sword from bloodshed”
48:26-27 Moab: “he magnified himself against the LORD” and treated Israel as a laughingstock (perhaps in 2 Kgs 24:2 when they joined in raids on Judah)
48:28-30 Moab: pride, loftiness, arrogance, haughtiness, insolence, false boasts and deeds
48:42 Moab: “he magnified himself against the LORD” (cf. 48:26-27)
49:1-2 Ammon: disposed Gad and settled in its towns
49:4 Ammon: boast in strength, trust in treasures
50:14-15 Babylon: sinned against the LORD...God takes vengeance on her
50:17-18 God punishes Babylon, like he did Assyria, for what they did to God’s people
50:24 Babylon: because you challenged the LORD
50:28-29 Babylon: vengeance for God’s temple...repay her for her deeds...for she has arrogantly defied the LORD
51:6-11, 24, 36, 51, 56 Babylon: guilt, vengeance, repaying what is due her...vindication...vengeance for the LORD and his temple...what they did in Zion...vengeance for Israel...aliens have entered the holy place of the LORD’s house...recompense

Ezekiel

25:3, 6 Ammon: Because they gloated when the temple was profaned, Israel was made desolate, and Judah went into exile; because they rejoice at Israel’s misfortune
25:8 Moab: Because they said Judah was like all other nations
25:12 Edom: Because they took revenge against Judah
25:15 Philistia: Because of their unending hostilities and vengeance against Israel
26:2 Tyre: Because it gloated in Judah’s fall and planned to prosper from their demise
Ch. 27 Tyre: its implied that her pride in her beauty led to her demise
28:2, 6 Tyre: because your heart is proud and you said “I am a god’ I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas”; because you compare you mind to the mind of God, right after extol their wisdom in conducting profitable trade
28:16-18 Tyre: in the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned, your heart was proud because of your beauty, you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor, “by the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries”
28:24 nations neighboring Israel: treated Israel with contempt
29:6-7 Egypt: because you were a staff of reed to the house of Israel
29:3, 9 Egypt: because you said “the Nile is mine, and I made it”
29:16 Egypt: because they didn’t help Israel when they turned to them for aid
31:10 Assyria/Pharaoh: because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height
32:2 Pharaoh: you consider yourself a lion among the nations, but you are like a dragon in the seas
32:23 Assyria: spread terror in the land of the living
32:24, 25 Elam: spread terror in the land of the living

32:26, 27 Meshech and Tubal: spread terror in the land of the living
32:30 Sidonians: caused terror by their might
34:31 Pharaoh: spread terror in the land of the living
35:5, 6 Mount Seir: because you cherished an ancient enmity and gave over the people of Israel to the power of the sword at their time of calamity and punishment; since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you
35:10 Mount Seir: because you said “these two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will take possession of them” although the LORD was there
35:12-15 Mount Seir: you uttered abusive speech against Israel, saying, they are laid desolate, they are given us to devour and you magnified yourselves against me with your mouth and multiplied your words against me, rejoicing over the inheritance of the house of Israel because it was desolate

Daniel

4:25, 32; 5:21 Nebuchadnezzar was punished until he learned that “the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and gives it to whom he will”
4:30 Nebuchadnezzar’s punishment begins when he boasts of building a royal capital by his majestic power and for his glorious majesty
5:20 Nebuchadnezzar’s punishment is recalled because “his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he acted proudly”
5:22-23 Belshazzar struck dead because he did not humble his heart and he exalted himself against the Lord of heaven by drinking of Jerusalem’s sacred temple vessels
7:11, 25; 11:36 Beast representing Antiochus IV is killed because of his arrogant words, speaking against the Most High, wearing out his holy ones, attempting the change the sacred seasons and the laws; consider himself greater than any god, speak horrendous things against the God of gods

Joel

3:19 Egypt & Edom: for the violence they did to the people of Israel

Amos

1:3 Damascus: for threshing Gilead
1:6 Gaza: for exiling communities and handing them over to Edom
1:9 Tyre: delivered entire communities over to Edom and did not remember the covenant of kingship
1:11 Edom: pursued his brother with the sword, cast off all pity, maintained anger perpetually
1:13 Ammon: ripped open pregnant women in Gilead to enlarge their territory
2:1 Moab: because they burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom

Obadiah

* all against Edom
1:3 proud heart, who will bring me down to the ground
1:10 for the slaughter and violence done to your brother Jacob

1:11-14 stood aside and joined in when strangers carried away Israel's wealth and cast lots for Jerusalem, gloated/rejoiced/boasted over Jacob's calamity, looted Jacob's goods, cut off and hand over the surviving fugitives

Jonah

1:2 Nineveh: wickedness

Nahum

* all against Nineveh

1:9, 11 plots evil against the LORD

3:1 being a city of bloodshed

3:19 "for who has ever escaped your endless cruelty"

Habakkuk

* all against Babylon

2:4, 5 prideful spirit, wealth, arrogance, gathering nations for themselves and collecting all peoples as their own

2:6 heap up what is not theirs, load up on goods taken in pledge

2:8 plundered many nations, human bloodshed and violence to the earth, to cities, and to all who live in them

2:9-10 get evil gain for your house, setting your nest on high, cutting off many peoples

2:12 build a town by bloodshed and found a city on iniquity

2:15 make neighbors drunk on your wrath and then look on their nakedness

2:17 violence done to Lebanon, destruction of animals, human bloodshed and violence to the earth, to cities, and to all who live in them

2:18 not a cause for punishment, but woe to those who think an idol can help or teach them

Zephaniah

2:8, 10 Moab & Ammon: taunted God's people and boasted about their territory; pride, scoffing, and boasting against God's people

2:15 Assyria: said I am and there is no one else

Zechariah

9:2 Tyre: heaped up silver and gold

9:6, 7 Philistia: pride, blood in mouth, abominations between teeth

Preliminary Conclusions

Here are the top three indictments with over 25 references each (several other indictments got less than 10):

1. Pride in their accomplishments, wealth, and uniqueness (~27)

2. Violent military domination over other nations (~26)

3. Mistreatment of God's people, land, and temple (~25)

Others

* Hoarding and boasting in wealth (7)

* Iniquity in general (4)

* Idolatry (2)