

WHAT MAKES A GREAT NATION?

The MARKS, BENEFITS, and PATHWAY of a GREAT NATION

Sermon Questions

1. What is sometimes thought to be the mark of a great nation?

2. List the three **marks** of a great nation from Deuteronomy 4:5–8:

i. A great nation honors _____.

What is one “wise and understanding law”? _____

ii. A great nation is near to _____.

What is vital for any nation that aspires greatness? _____

iii. A great nation _____ with God.

To call upon God can refer to _____ or _____.

3. The temporal and eternal benefits promised to Israel are only for Israel and no other nation. (Yes/No)

4. List the five **benefits** of a great nation:

i. _____ Order

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____ and Security

v. Leads souls to _____

5. List the **pathway** to a great nation:

i. Faithful _____ and hearing

ii. Reform of _____

iii. Reform of laws and _____

iv. Concern for the coming _____

Discussion Questions

1. Moses says the nations will look at Israel and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people” only when they actually keep God’s statutes (v. 6). Look honestly at our church, your home, and our society—which of God’s laws are we most obviously failing to keep right now that make outsiders shrug rather than marvel? What would need to change for them to say, “Only a wise and understanding people would live like this”?
2. The sermon insisted you cannot have the fruit of the second table of the law (love your neighbor) without the tree of the first table (love God). Can you think of a current issue in Canadian law, culture, or education where we’re trying to keep the fruit while cutting down the tree? How does the gospel of Christ produce both tables together in real life?
3. John Owen said the gospel is “the only interest of a nation; all other interests are but shadows.” If you had to convince a skeptical neighbor, co-worker, or politician that the gospel is more important than the economy, immigration, or healthcare, what evidence from Scripture, history or your own life would you point to?
4. Great nations start with great homes and great churches. On a scale of 1–10, how well does your home (or our church) currently display the three marks: (a) honoring God’s law in daily decisions, (b) nearness to God through the gospel, and (c) regular communion with God in prayer and worship? Pick one of the three marks and name one specific change you will make this week to move the needle even half a point higher.
5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. God told Israel that if they obeyed his rules, other countries would look at them and say, “Wow, those people are super wise and smart!” (Deut. 4:6). Imagine other children saw how you obey your parents, share your toys, tell the truth, and pray to Jesus. What do you think they would say about you? Would they want to know Jesus too? Why?
2. God says the happiest, safest, and strongest families and countries are the ones who love and obey him best. If you were the boss of Canada for one day, what rule from the Bible would you tell everyone to follow so our country could become “great” the way God wants? (Kids can pick things like “Love God first,” “Don’t steal,” “Forgive others,” “Honor your mom and dad,” etc.—and explain why!)