God’s Heart for the Nations

The Old Testament reveals God’s heart for the nations.

**For the sake of the nations—**

**1. God blessed *Abraham***

Genesis 12:1-3

**2. God plagued *Egypt***

Exodus 9:14-16

**3. God made Christ *a light***

Isaiah 42:1, 6-7; 49:5-6

**4. God delivered His *afflicted one***

Psalm 22:1, 22-28

**5. God had mercy on certain *gentiles***

The Widow of *Zarephath*

1 Kings 17:8-24; Luke 4:25-26

*Naaman*

2 Kings 5; Luke 4:27

*Nineveh*

Jonah 4:10-11; Matthew 12:38-41

**6. God commanded the ends of the earth to *repent***

Isaiah 45:21-23

**7. God promised equality with *Israel***

Isaiah 19:23-25; 56:3-8

**8. God provides for His *people***

Psalm 67

**Therefore....**

A. Examine your *heart* for the nations

B. Examine your *involvement* with the nations

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. World-wide missions is central also to the New Testament.

Luke 24:44-47. Where did Jesus say that forgiveness in His name would be preached?

Acts 1:8. What is your equivalent of Jerusalem and Judea? If you confine your concern to those nearby areas, do you have the same goal as Christ does? If you confine your concern to the ends of the earth, do you have the same goal as Christ does?

Acts 15:13-19. When leaders of the early church gathered at Jerusalem to discuss whether gentiles (non-Jews) could be saved without submitting Jewish circumcision, James clenched the case by quoting Amos 9:11-12. Why did the apostles, who were guided by the Holy Spirit (v. 28), need to have Scriptural backing to justify their mission to the gentiles?

Romans 15:18-21. What was the goal of the apostle Paul?

Romans 15:22-33. What did Paul hope the Roman Christians would do to further his ministry?

Revelation 7:9. Whom did John see standing around the throne?