

How can nations be judged?

Scripture consistently identifies God as the God of Israel and that each of us must stand before God to give an account. If people are individually accountable before God, the judgment of nations as an entity does not deal with the people individually.

1. Where do we hear about the nations begin judged?

Matthew **25:31-33**

Revelation **11:17-18**

Acts **7:6-8**

At the end of time, we are told that God will gather all nations to be separated from one another. One will go away for punishment and the other for life. This can be understood by some that at a national level, the nations will receive the eternal judgment.

2. On what basis can an entire nation be judged?

Amos **1:3-8**; 2:4-8

Genesis **15:13-16**

Ezekiel **18:4**

Psalms 67:3-5

Proverbs **14:34**

Isaiah **1:4**

2 Chronicles **20:6**

Entire nations can be judged because of their general abuse toward people of other nations. Entire nations can be judged because, having known the Law of God and thus His expectations, they rejected God's commands as authoritative. Furthermore, every person and thus every national entity ultimately belongs to God and are therefore accountable to Him. In general the state of a nation is reflected in its leadership. The nation with wicked rulers is identified as a wicked nation. This would be especially true of a nation that has been given the responsibility to select its own rulers. The character of the rulers are a direct reflection on the character of those choosing the ruler.

3. What kind of judgments can be carried out against a nation?

Jeremiah **21:4-7**; 24:8-10; 27:8

Ezekiel **5:11-17**

Amos **8:11-13**

Judgment against a nation can include sending the people of the nation into captivity. God can also send a famine or pestilence into a land in order to bring destruction upon the nation. The people can be destroyed by invasion or by a destruction of the food or water supply. One of the worst judgments against a nation is the absence of the Word of God that can lead the people and the nation into a state of repentance and thus salvation.

4. What are the options for the definition of "nation"?

Genesis 10:5, 20, **31-32**; 15:13-14; 18:18

Exodus **9:24-25**

Deuteronomy 4:6-8

Joshua **3:17**

2 Samuel 22:42-44

Psalms 1:2; **18:43-44**; 94:10

Zephaniah **2:8-10**

Luke **12:28-31**

1 Peter **2:7-10**

The Hebrew word for nation is 'goy' which is generally translated as nation indicating a group of people bound by either a land or ancestry. It can also indicate the collective people outside of a specific nation or people group (such as unbelievers or believers).