

BIBLE WEEK SELECTIONS 2025 (ENGLISH)

THE BIBLE AND UNITY FOR NATION BUILDING

INTRODUCTION

From the account of the books of Kings and Chronicles we read about the rise and fall of kingdoms. Some of the reasons attributed to the fall of these nations included factors such as disobedience to the Word of God (1 Kings 11:9-11), and bad/poor leadership which led to idol worship, injustice, corruption, divisions and strife (2 Chronicles 21:1-15, 1 Kings 12:1-33). On the other hand, nations which stood the test of time and grew united were those that kept faithfulness to God's Word (1 Kings 3:1-14; 2 Chronicles 31:20-21) and where righteousness, justice and good quality leadership prevailed (2 Chronicles 17:1-19).

As a nation, Ghana has emerged from another peaceful and successful national elections. However, beyond a peaceful and successful elections, the nation must drive towards oneness and the commitment to nation building. The role of leadership in this is key – a good leader must foster unity (irrespective of political orientation), a good leader must seek national development and a good leader must constantly seek God's face and be obedient to His Word. Those who are being led must do likewise.

The Church and other Religious Bodies are key stakeholders in fostering unity and nation building. Church leadership must depend on the Bible to guide them in bringing Christians and entire communities to seek national cohesion and development.

1. The Bible narrates the story of God’s sovereign purpose for all nations in bringing them together as a people

Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’

These are the clans of Noah’s sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood. (**Genesis 1:26-28, 10:32**)
[see also **Acts 17:26-28**]

2. Although the Tower of Babel account in Genesis 11:1-10 demonstrates the power behind unity of purpose, it also warns against the disastrous consequences of nation building without God.

3. God desires that all nations and kingdoms of the earth relate with Him to foster peace, stability and prosperity

In the last days

the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.’

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore. (**Isaiah 2:2-4**) [see also **Acts 17:26, Rev. 7:9-10; 21:22-24**]

4. Leadership is key for fostering national unity and development for a people.

a. Godly political leaders seek unity and development for their people.

Nehemiah – Nehemiah 2:11-20

Deborah - Judges 4:4-10

Hezekiah – 2 Kings 18:1-7a

[see also: Joseph - Genesis 41:14-42]

b. Wicked leadership causes divisions, strife and destruction

Saul – 1 Samuel 22:6-19

Herod – Matthew 2:16-18

[see also: Ahab – 1 Kings 21:1-19; Manasseh – 2 Kings 21:1-9]

5. The Bible admonishes persons to live together in harmony despite different political opinions

a. People who generate strife and conflict do not have a place in God’s kingdom

And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.’

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: ‘How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. **(Mark 3:22-26) [see also 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9]**

b. Unity and solidarity can exist even when people have different ethnic backgrounds and political dispositions

Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. **(Proverbs 10:12)**

Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **(Acts 2:41-47) [see also Acts 13:1-3, Colossians 3:5-11]**

c. Conflicts and divisions affect nation building adversely. We must uphold systems and channels for conflict resolution

‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, “Raca,” is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, “You fool!” will be in danger of the fire of hell.

‘Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:21-24) [see also Proverbs 17:14; Matthew 18:15-17]

6. The Bible teaches about planning, development and nation building

a. It is important for communities and people groups to plan for development and sustainability

Then I said to them, ‘You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.’ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, ‘Let us start rebuilding.’ So they began this good work. (Nehemiah 2:17-18) [see also Proverbs 24:3-4; Isaiah 61:4]

b. Nations or communities that fail to plan and build forfeit development and deprive the future generation

My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6a)

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling-place. But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the Lord’s temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. They set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfilment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah. (2 Chronicles 36:15-21) [see also: Rehoboam – 1 Kings 12]

7. As part of its Christian mission mandate, the Church in Ghana has always played a key role in nation building. This includes educational institutions, health care institutions, ministry to prisons, and many other positive interventions.

a. Jesus’ life and teachings addressed matters of nation building and care for our fellow human beings

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the poll-tax to Caesar or not?’

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, ‘You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.’ They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, ‘Whose image is this? And whose inscription?’ ‘Caesar’s,’ they replied. Then he said to them, ‘So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’ **(Matthew 22:15-21)** [see also **Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 10:25-37**]

b. The early Christians held on to apostolic teachings that fostered unity and nation building even under Roman rule

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **(Romans 12:16-18)** [see also **Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3**]

c. Unity and nation building that leads to holistic development require hard work and integrity on the part of all stakeholders

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. **(2 Thessalonians 3:6-11)** [see also **Ephesians 4:25-29**]

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