Question: Whether God is not Angry with the Country for doing so little towards the Conversion of the Indians?

A SERMON BY SOLOMON STODDARD, 1723
Creature or Creation? That is the question...

Stoddard recognizes that there are two camps of interpretation of the Romans 8:19-21.

1. Those who understand The Greek word κτισις, should be understood to mean *creature* as it is rendered in the KJV...

2. ...and those who believe it should be understood to mean *creation*, including all of nature.
Stoddard believed creature was correct.

• The “frame of nature” is going to be destroyed at the Day of Judgment.

• Psalms 102:25-26. Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.

• 2 Peter 3:7. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved to fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
Stoddard believed creature was correct.

- Stoddard asserts that what is meant by creature, are the Gentiles.

- Mark 16:15. And he said to them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

“The period was coming when the gospel was to be preached to the Gentiles. They had been enslaved by Satan into a miserable state of ignorance and idolatry and vile courses [?] so that it seemed impossible that they should ever by happy.”
Doctrine: When the Jews rejected the Gospel, God sends it to the Gentiles, and they received it.

• This was foretold in the OT. Isaiah 53:1. Who hath believed our report?

• Compare Isaiah 65:2 (KJVEC) I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; with Romans 10:21. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gainsaying people.

• Psalm 2 and [?]
**Doctrine:** *When the Jews rejected the Gospel, God sends it to the Gentiles, and they received it.*

- Christ foretold it in His parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14:18. *And they all with one consent began to make excuse...*

- And in the parable of the Wedding Banquet in Matthew 22:5. *But they made light of it, and went, one to his farm, another to his merchandise. And the remnant took his servants, and treated them spitefully, and slew them.*
**Doctrine:** When the Jews rejected the Gospel, God sends it to the Gentiles, and they received it.

- God has given them to Christ.
- Psalms 2:8. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
- Romans 15:11-12. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.
Stoddard gives 3 reasons for this.

1. This is what God promised Abraham.
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1. This is what God promised Abraham.
   • Psalms 72:17. All nations shall call him blessed.

2. It was as much for the honor of Christ.
   • Revelation 5:9. For thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.
Stoddard gives 3 reasons for this.

1. This is what God promised Abraham.
2. It was as much for the honor of Christ.
3. There would not be one nation that God would withhold His mercy from.

• Romans 3:29. *Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also.*
Use 1. Of warning not to reject the Gospel.

The Jews rejected it on two counts:

1. A spirit of slumber. Worldly affections ate out their religion.
Use 1. Of warning not to reject the Gospel.

The Jews rejected it on two counts:

2. They were blinded. The Law blinded them to the need for a Redeemer.

Romans 10:3. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God.
Use 2. Of Examination.

• Whether God is not angry with this country for not preaching the Gospel to the heathen?

• Is this the reason for the 60 years of diseases and devourers that have been sent? We should ask why God is sending these, that show He is angry.

• England and papers reflect that there is little care for the Indians. Is this a reason for the fighting and the wars?
9 Reasons to bring the Gospel to the Indians

1. Christ commands it.
2. Honors Christ.
3. Ought to be done out of love for mankind.
4. It’s what we told the king we would do.
5. England was in the same position once.
9 Reasons to bring the Gospel to the Indians

6. We are being shamed by the example of the Germans and Danes in the East-Indies.

7. The “Papists” and Spanish are bringing Catholicism to the natives of Mexico and Peru. (And we can’t have that!)
9 Reasons to bring the Gospel to the Indians

8. If they embrace religion, they would live more comfortably in this world.

9. If they embrace it might provoke us to emulation.
Use 3. It is a desirable thing that the Indians be brought to faith.

• That will be far better than to only make peace. Hope of a durable peace.

• That will be much better than to destroy them. It is better to convert them: then they will do good, they will serve and glorify God, they will help to enlarge his Kingdom, and be a benefit to their Neighbors.
Questions

• What do you think of Stoddard’s understanding of Romans 8:19? Are you convinced?

• What do you think of Stoddard’s knowledge of world events and missions?

• What does this sermon from Solomon “The Pope” Stoddard tell us about the state of the church in early New England?