

Blessed to Bless All the Families of the Earth

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New Life tag: An Equipping Ministry to Disciple the Church, A **Mission Base** to Send the Church

Mark 3:14 (ESV)

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach

The entire Bible is missional.

Genesis to Revelation is God's mission to glorify Himself by fulfilling His Kingdom on earth.

Think of yourself as a Missionary. A Blessed Missionary. God has invited us to be His partners to fulfill His Mission. He saved us for His Mission. He has blessed us, filled us, gifted us, empowered us for His Mission.

Last Week, Sam preached powerfully out of Gal. 3:14 that Jesus redeemed us from the curse so the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles by faith, and that blessing is the promised Holy Spirit.

As an introductory sermon, he focused on the first appearance of this blessing, which was to Adam (Gen. 1:26-28).

God blessed Adam and Eve:

1. Be fruitful.
2. Multiply.
3. Fill the earth.
4. Subdue.
5. Rule.

Blessing: "declaration of prospering and empowering to produce life"

As we connect these dots from Genesis to Revelation, you'll notice the cycle in God's mission from one man to group of people, back to one man to a group of people.

Adam failed, but he was still a multiplier; he multiplied sinners.

Genesis 6:6-8 (ESV)

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

After the flood, God started over with one man: Noah.

Genesis 9:1-2

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ²The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth..."

God is still on a Mission and still partnering with Man. God's word in Genesis 1:28 will not fail!

Noah and sons multiply, but within three generations, men like Nimrod are setting up their own kingdoms.

Genesis 11:1, 4-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words....⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." ⁵And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth."

This is the start of nations – unique people groups with different languages.

These nations multiply, and the earth is again filled with sinners who worship false gods.

The question at the end of Genesis 11: what will God do with the nations?

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him....

Abraham's blessing was not just about himself. It wasn't just about Israel.

Abraham was blessed to be a blessing.

Genesis 18:18 repeats it, "all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him."

After the almost-sacrifice of Abraham's son Isaac, God reaffirmed:

Genesis 22:17-18

"I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Genesis 25:11

After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son....

So it's growing from one man to a group of people.

Isaac had Jacob, and God reaffirmed the blessing of Abraham to Jacob:

Genesis 28:14

“...in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

Jacob, renamed Israel, had 12 sons who multiplied. Joseph, even through all the trials Sam highlighted last week, was truly blessed to bless all the families in that part of the earth during the famine.

The people of Israel ended up enslaved in Egypt, and God rescued them for His compassion and for His Mission. In Exodus 9:14 and 9:16, God said the reason for the Exodus was “so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth....so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”

God is on a Mission for His glory, and He blesses the offspring of Abraham, so that they will bless all the nations of the earth.

You know the whole of Israel struggled with so much unbelief, complaining, and idolatry right from the very beginning. Instead of blessing the nations, Israel mixed with the nations and joined in their evil (Psalm 106:35). Instead of blessing the nations, God had to use the nations to punish Israel, which was really highlighted in the period of the judges.

Israel had some high points with King David, and there were great prophecies about the Son of David. You think it might be Solomon, but Solomon crashes and Israel splits into two sinful kingdoms that fought and made unholy alliances.

The prophets ministered in these bad situations, reminding Israel of God’s mission. Because Israel knew their identity as a missional people. We see it in the Psalms that began during David’s time:

Psalm 96:10

“Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’”

Psalm 96:3

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!”

Psalm 67:2

“that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”

Psalm 22:27

“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.”

But Israel knew they were failing this mission.

Psalm 44:14

“You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples” because of their sin and judgment.

Isaiah 26:18 (as if Israel said...)

“We were pregnant, we writhed, but we have given birth to wind. We have accomplished no deliverance in the earth....”

Isaiah is so focused on the nations throughout the whole book. There’s the coming judgment of nations who refuse God’s gracious truth. But there’s also the salvation of nations – even enemy nations like Egypt and Assyria, according to Isaiah 19, will believe and worship the Savior and be called God’s people.

Isaiah 56:5 says Gentiles will be called "better than sons and daughters."

How? Isaiah has many "servant" passages that seem to describe Israel's partnership in God's mission, but here's a clear passage that reveals God is actually narrowing back down to one individual: the Messiah, the Christ.

Isaiah 49:1-3

"Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

So it sounds like national Israel is God's Servant here. But verse 5...

Isaiah 49:5

"And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him..."

This Servant "Israel" is actually one person in relationship to national Israel, who needs brought back to the Lord.

God is narrowing down to one blessed Servant.

Isaiah 49:5

[God] says: 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

The blessing to all nations will come through one Man, the Servant, the Christ.

And so the Son of God humbled Himself, took on the form of a Servant, and became a Man. God the Son became the Man Jesus.

Philippians 2:7

but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Luke 2:30-32

"My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles...."

Jesus is the Servant, the offspring of Abraham, to bless all the nations.

He died for the sins of the whole world. He was raised from the dead, exalted to the throne of God, and He reigns. He is coming again. Anyone in any nation who believes into Jesus is redeemed from the curse and blessed with the Holy Spirit, the presence of God inside them.

Galatians 3:7-9

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” – ¹⁴so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”

Galatians 3:16

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

Remember the word to Abraham, “in you and in your offspring” – blessing. The reality is “in Christ” you will be blessed.

If you feel cursed or like a failure, like you can't catch a break, like God is unhappy with you – stop it. You're blessed by God.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

I have tasted serious depression in a season of my life that I focused on my Self. I was focusing on all that was wrong and what I wanted to be and wasn't, and I was frustrated and depressed because I wasn't looking at the Blesser, the Blessing, Jesus Christ. And I wasn't looking at everyone around me that Jesus wanted to bless, too. It saved me to get outside of myself by looking at Christ and others.

I want you to know: you're not saved just to wait for heaven. You're saved for God's mission. You're saved to personally experience the blessing of the Spirit in the here and now and to take the blessing to your neighbors and to the nations.

This is the context of the Great Commission. “Go and make disciples of all nations...” (Mt. 28:18-20).

The cycle continues growing from one missionary Man, Christ Jesus, to a people in Him – us.

Jesus said the empowering of the Spirit on Pentecost was to make disciples His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Luke 24:45-49

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Who are the families who God placed around you specifically so you can bless them with Christ?

Everyone should be involved, at some level, in blessing the nations: praying, giving, going.

Matthew 24:14

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

This is a messed up age. I'm so sick of sin, sickness, Satan, and death. Let's get it over with. Let's take the gospel of the Kingdom and the blessing of Christ to all nations, and then the End will come.

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:22-24, 22:1-3

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk.... ^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed....

This is God's mission.

The whole Bible, start to finish, is a mission to glorify God by fulfilling His Kingdom on earth through blessed Image-bearers.

Right now there are 6,834 unreached people groups.
Over 2.7 billion people.
41% of the world's population.

Jesus is in heaven waiting for His Body to go tell them about His blessing, to tell them to repent of their sins and believe in His death and resurrection.

The Church is actually making exciting progress, but let's jump in on it.

Let's get outside of our Selves and learn together how to submit to the Lordship of Christ and experience the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Let's discover and activate our spiritual gifts.

And let's hear God's mission directions and go under the empowering of His Spirit.

You're blessed to bless all the families of the earth.