

## Blessed to be a Blessing

Genesis 12:1-3

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Repent and believe the Gospel  
Share your faith

The only remedy for a lost and broken world is the gospel of Jesus Christ

\*Prayer for our nation

Kickoff *Here Am I* Missions series

Based on Isaiah 6:8

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

\*the US customs and border patrol recently used this verse out of context to recruit border agents...

-but what does Isaiah 6:8 truly mean?

Isaiah is being sent to the children of Israel to communicate a difficult message...

Context:

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

**4** And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

**6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

When we understand who God is, in all of His glory and majesty, AND what He has done for us, then the only proper way to respond to a call (or invitation) from God is to say:

"Here am I! Send me"

Abraham (Genesis 22:1, 11)

Jacob (Genesis 31:11, 46:2)

Moses (Exodus 3:4)

Samuel (I Samuel 3:4)

Ananias (Acts 9:10)

-these were all sent on mission for God

Genesis 1-3 - a missionary God (Garden of Eden, Incarnation of Christ)

**Focus for today:** Missions is rooted in God's covenant. He blesses us so we can bless others with God's message.

\*The Abrahamic Covenant - land, great nation/name, blessing

Genesis 12:1-3

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. **2** And 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. **3** I 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."

**Big Idea:** God's plan has always been global and begins with His call to Abraham.

Context: Background

Genesis 1, 9 - "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." (Noahic covenant)

Genesis 11:1-9 - Babel

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. **2** And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. **3** And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. **4** Then 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."

**7** Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." **8** So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. **9** Therefore 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.

-they had already been commanded to fill the earth, instead they disobeyed God so He did it for them...

Genesis 11:27-32 - the family of Abram

**27** Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. **28** Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. **29** And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. **30** Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

family tree of Abram - \*use visual

**31** Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. **32** The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

Abram's journey - \*show map

context - Ur of the Chaldeans, v. 31 (modern day Iraq)

Haran, northwestern Mesopotamia

New epoch - 25% of Genesis devoted to Abraham

Commentary:

Since the biblical genealogies indicate that Abram is the 10th generation from Shem, the son of Noah, it has been 10 generations since Yahweh spoke directly to anyone according to the biblical account.

Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Ge 12:1). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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Breakdown: what will he receive because of his obedience?

Verse

1. **Land** (for specifics see Genesis 15:18-21) leaving country - homeland (uprooting his life and household) kind of like a missionary
2. **Great nation and name** (nation - people or people group)
3. **Blessing** - *baruch* - bless in Hebrew (favor of God)

blessed to be a blessing

Abram is to be not only a recipient of the blessing, but also a channel through which this blessing may flow to others...

Hamilton, V. P. (1995). *Genesis*. In *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* (Vol. 3, p. 19). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

**Question 1:**

Do God's blessings in your life stop with you or do they flow through you?

**Question 2:**

Does God bless us so we can have more or so we can give more?

-Not only is blessing the favor of God but it is redemptive in nature

The history of redemption, like that of creation, begins with God speaking: this, in a nutshell, differentiates Abram's story from his father's. The call to forsake all and follow finds its nearest parallels in the Gospels.

Kidner, D. (1967). *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 124). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

**4** So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

\*Kishor Pandagade story - like Abraham (24:14 World)

Matthew 24:14 - Jesus' prophecy

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.

What does this mean?

**3b** and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

families - nations (peoples or people group)

Back to the story:

Genesis 15 - Abram nearing Canaan

**5** And He (God) brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." **6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.** **7** And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

Summarize Genesis 17 - at 99 years old, he is once again promised descendants and his name is also changed from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude of nations)

Genesis 18:18 - ...Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.

Genesis 22:15-18 - after being tested with Isaac

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** 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, **18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Genesis 26:4 - (to Isaac) I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **5** because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

Genesis 28:14 - (to Jacob) Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Q. Are you seeing the pattern here

-Abraham and his descendants are promised land, great nation/name, blessing  
-also promised that in them all the nations (families, peoples) of the earth will be blessed!

-Abraham mentioned no less than 75 in times in the NT

Acts 3:25 - Peter preaching

You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

Acts 7:2-4 - Stephen's speech mentions Abraham

Genesis 15 - Abram nearing Canaan

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-When Abraham was told to number the stars in Genesis 15, you and I were numbered in that count...how do we know this?

Galatians 3:29 - And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**Quote:** "If we are heirs of the promise, we are also heirs of the purpose." -Engage Global

\*Engage Global trip to Minneapolis, MN (share more at the end)

As followers of Christ, we are to:  
"Enjoy His Grace, Extend His Glory"

-we are seeking to fill the earth with worshippers

**\*The Bible is the story of God's plan to gather worshippers from all nations** (Edgewood is seeking to do this)

About 6 years ago, Pastor Dan and the missions committee began focusing Edgewood's efforts on global partners going to the unreached...

-this year we have doubled down on that effort, not only in our supporting capacity but our sending capacity

-we have a newly established missions team that is implementing new policies and concentrated effort for you, our people to be more involved in the missions efforts of Edgewood like:

1. Unreached prayer nights
2. Weekly go-team partner updates
3. A new missions display
4. Giving more often to missionary needs and projects as they arise (most recent of a motorcycle, with help from Amelia Masengarb, and a well for Riley and Debbie Shelton's ministry in India)
5. Go Con that we will be hosting in 2 weeks
6. A new giving metric recently approved by the deacons

\*Aaron and Amanda Langworthy are now at 100% and can go to Uganda this fall!

## **We serve a global God**

What's going on in the world? Both good and bad

-22% more Bibles were sold last year than the previous year!

-Gen Z is church attendance among 13-to 28-year-olds is now higher than all other generations. And young men are actually leading this movement.

\*The atrocities in Nigeria - over 7,000 Christians killed so far this year

Even in North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia there are Christians...

\*VOM podcast on Iran  
"Kind and loving Christians"

God's people are all over the world

Christian's in Gaza - a Baptist Church there

Is America somehow safer?  
safety is feeling more and more like an illusion today

-know people outside America who are afraid to come here

we idolize safety and comfort

\*Safety - Hiding Place quotes Corrie Ten Boom

"There are no ifs in God's world. And no places that are safer than other places. The center of His will is our only safety..."

on a recent podcast, a pastor said: "The west today is Nazareth"

seems like miracles everywhere but the west (Nazareth)

Matthew 13:58

And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:5-6

"And He could do no mighty work there."

\*healings, dreams, demonic oppression and deliverance (around the world)

-we must share the Gospel with people like never before, people today are so lost

One of the Great Commission passages:

Luke 24:46-47

"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 2 connection gives us a glimpse: "people from every nation under heaven"

-A reverse of Babel

\*Bible Reading Plan: Mission in the book of Acts...

Acts 17:26 - And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

-the nations are on our doorstep, the globalization of the world is part of God's plan

\*Liesl and the kids - refugee family story

A proud father moment - \*show pic

\*Engage Global recap: missions training, cultural simulation, study of world religions, Hmong market...

-Somali Muslim market encounter

-Nuri

-Muhammed

-Abdi

-call to prayer at the mosque

-meeting the imam

-incredible and memorable discussion

living on mission

What is your mission?

goer, sender, mobilizer

Beginning and ending - Genesis to Revelation

**\*The Bible is the story of God's plan to gather worshipers from all nations**

Revelation 7 - people from every tribe, tongue, people and language

Actions Steps/Application:

- Seek God deeply during this series (Here Am I)
  - Prayer and fasting - even this week
2. Understand calling - personal and corporate, as a member of the body of Christ ("Set apart for me Barnabas and Paul" in Acts 13)
    - Bobby Bechtel story - see latest podcast
  3. Write a "blank check" out to God

- Put everything on the table before God
4. Register for Go Con - Go Con preview and podcasts
    - Go Con booklets
    - Explanation of conference
    - Todd Ahrend books - The Abrahamic Revolution and In This Generation
  5. Share the Good News of the Gospel with someone this week

Hebrews 11 - looking for a better country

**8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **11** By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

**13** These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Closing Prayer

\*Engage Global interview - Kyle, Tom, Nick, Emma, Jace, Alijah, AJ, Hannah