

Be a Blessing  
2015-10-18

Gen 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."*

Leave country, relatives, father's household (involved giving up economic security & inheritance) w/o visible certainty of future.

- When God calls a person, He always gives far more than He requires. [Gen 12:1-2](#), [Mk 10:29-30](#)
  - "bless" 5x= Gen 1-11, 5x in 12:1-3.
    - God intervenes to do good things both temporally & spiritually.

Personal promise "I will bless you" foundation for National & universal promises.

- Specific area of land become great nation (Israel).
  - Required faith: Abram old & wife Sarai barren. Gen 11:30, 15:5, [Ps 127](#)
- What God would do in/thru Abram would result in Abraham being long-remembered among men. [Gen 12:2](#), [11:4](#), [Jn 8:56](#), [Gal 3:6-7](#)
  - What Babel labored for & never achieved God freely gave to Abraham.
    - Great name: good reputation & secure identity.
  - known worldwide to millions of people 4,000 years after he lived.
    - Jews, Cxns have Abraham as father of their faith.
    - Islam: Abram 2<sup>nd</sup> to Mohammed, ref to Abraham 188x in Koran.
  - Abraham (not a NT person), example of life of faith.
    - 75 NT references to Abraham.

Greatest promise that Abraham personally needed most & world desperate for: thru descendant of Abram redemption come to all nationalities. Gen 3:15, 12:3, [Mt 1:1](#), [Gal 3:29](#), [Rom 4:16](#), [9:6-8](#)

- Messianic promise fulfilled in JC, true seed of Abram who brings salvation to the world.
  - "all blessed" not Universalism= everyone saved.
    - Every time someone responds to Gospel, this promise fulfilled.

Abram died w/o seeing fruition of most of these promises. [Heb. 11:12-16](#), [Rev 7:9-10](#)

- God was faithful & fulfilled every promise beyond Abraham's expectations.
  - Same promises true for Cxns: new home (heaven), new nationality (body of JC), secure identity (Cxn) & future w/lover of our soul, Messiah.

Ripple effect of being blessed by Lord is to be a blessing for the glory of JC. [Gen 12:2](#), [Lk 6:45](#), [1 Pet 3:9](#), [Mt 5:16](#).

- Command (Imperative) rather than prophetic statement.
  - Heb= "Be a blessing," not "you will be a blessing."
- Be a channel of Lord's blessing in practical ways: Eph 2:10,
  - Be an example, be Christ-like....in world but not of it. LAST WEEK
  - Serve others...especially those in need: poor, widows, orphans. Gal 6:2
  - Speak encouraging words. Prov 16:24, 1 Thess 5:11,
- Primary focus here is to be a spiritual blessing. Mt 28:19
  - Share Gospel w/local, regional & global neighbors.
  - Disciple people to maturity in their faith. Gal 6:1,
  - Pray for Cxns & lost. Eph 6:18, 1 Tim 2:1
- The call to be a blessing is for every believer both individually & corporately.