

## Blessed to be a Blessing 2017-03-26

### Genesis 12:1-3

*1 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."*

Ever since the Fall, God was at work building up a people for His own possession.

- To glorify His name, His people must be distinct from nations around them.
  - Jacob's family would inevitably inter-marry w/Canaanites & become morally & spiritually corrupt.
- So God places them in racist society to protect from spiritual adultery & give time/opportunity to multiply into millions. Gen 47:11-12, 27 & 12:2a, 43:32  
Goshen was the best pastureland in Egypt, located near Joseph's residence (45:10), isolated & insulated from Egyptian culture & religion.
- Next 400 years they become a distinct nation of more than 2 million set apart unto Lord.
  - Pharaoh's kindness was really God's providential kindness to His people.
    - Blessings not given through merit but only by grace.

God calls His people to be separated (holy) so they are blessed & will be a blessing.

- God, through his prophet Jacob, lays blessing upon the greatest pagan monarch of the day. 12:3, 47:7, 10, Heb 7:7
  - Implies Jacob is superior to Pharaoh.....Least & most faltering Christian stands before God on higher ground than lost presidents/kings.

Verses 11-27 record God fulfilling Jacob's blessing of Pharaoh through Joseph.

- Blessing? Lost \$>livestock>land>personal freedom>20% tax. 47:18-19, 25
  - People made these requests & were genuinely thankful with the outcome.
- Abraham's offspring Joseph was truly a blessing to all families of the earth at that time.

Abrahamic Covenant ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the true seed of Abram who brings salvation to world. Rom 4:16, Gen 12:2-3, Mt 1:1, Gal 3:29

- "all blessed" not everyone saved (Universalism) but all receive salvation.
  - Christians blessed with a new home (heaven), new nationality (body of Jesus Christ), secure identity (Christian) & future with lover of our soul, Messiah.

Ripple effect of being so blessed by the Lord is to be a blessing to others for glory of Jesus Christ. Gen 12:2-3, 1 Pet 3:9, Mt 5:16

- It is a command, not a prophetic statement: *Hebrew* "Be blessing," not "you will be a blessing."
- Bless in practical ways. Gal 6:2, Prov 16:24, 1 Thess 5:11
  - Serve/encourage others: especially those in need: poor, widows, orphans.
- But primary focus is to be spiritual blessing.

- Share Gospel, disciple others, pray for Christians & lost. Eph 6:18, 1 Tim 2:1

Like then, God calls His people to be distinct/separate from the world so they are blessed & will be a blessing. Jn 17:14-18, Rom 12:2, 1 Pet 2:11-12, Titus 2:11-12

- not through isolation but by being in the world but not of the world by pursuing holiness.
  - Become holy (separate, set apart) by God's grace & consistent time with God.....more Christ-like in all we say, do, think.
    - daily denying of self (maybe good things), put aside idols, sinful words, deeds & heart attitudes.
- As strangers & pilgrims, be distinct from our culture & live to please God.
  - If you do, you will be blessed by the Lord & used by Him as channel to bless lost/nations.