

Blessed To Be A Blessing Part 3 of 3

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Genesis 12:1-3 ¹The Lord and said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ²"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

These three verses are the most significant verses in the entire Old Testament. Why?

These verses identify the covenant of Yahweh with Abraham and his descendants. This is why both the Jews and the Moslems claim Abraham as their father.

Historically only the Jewish people could claim Abraham and the promises given to Abraham as their father. This verse was written around 2000 BC. Moslems did not exist until 2700 years later.

However the New Testament makes clear that being a descendant of Abraham is not a matter of biological lineage. It has everything to do with faith in Jesus Christ and doing his will to be a blessing to others.

With is this mind lets consider the time of Jesus and the Jews.

The Jewish nation, leaders, and people completely missed the point of these verses.

They believed they were chosen for a privilege.

However they were not chosen because they were a special race, they were chosen for a purpose, a mission, a task!

What purpose, what mission, what task?

To usher in the “messiah” of Yahweh.

To prepare the world for the coming of Jesus.

They made three mistakes:

#1: *Matt. 3:9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.*

They thought they were chosen because they were born Jews.

Jesus says NO to this thinking!

In fact St. Paul writes in **Romans 2: 28** *For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.*

What is the point? A man or woman is not a biblical Jew because he is born a Jew. A Jew is a Biblical Jew because they do the will of God the Father in Jesus Christ.

This is the first thing they missed. They presumed that they were chosen in order to receive the blessing of the Lord when in fact they were meant to be a blessing by ushering in the messiah.

#2: Luke 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

They missed Jesus! The primary purpose for which they existed they missed!

Although it was the will of God the Father to send the messiah Jesus through the Jewish people they would not receive or recognize or honor him as the messiah.

In fact they did more than miss him. They outright rejected him.

Here is the problem:

The Jews wanted a warrior king messiah like king David.

They wanted this king to crush the Romans.

They wanted this king to re-establish the glory of King David.

Instead they got Jesus and they said a resounding NO!

We need to be careful and learn from their mistakes today.

It has been said that in the beginning God made Adam and Eve in his image.

Ever since that day we have been trying to return the compliment. That is, we want to create God in our image!

The result is that most people who claim Jesus do not submit to the Jesus revealed in the bible.

They have created a Jesus of their expectations.

A Jesus who heals every one of their disease, keeps their bank account overflowing, answers their most trivial demands, and does not prick their conscious when they sin and hurt others.

THIS IS THE KIND OF MESSIAH THE JEWS HAD IN MIND, THE REAL JESUS WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT.

#3: John 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

They believed that their right standing with God was through knowing the scriptures.

They studied the scriptures and memorized it.

They did what seemed to be right but Jesus says “You are depending on the scriptures to grant eternal life when in fact the scriptures are like signposts pointing to me.”

Summarize: The Jews were blessed by the Lord in order to be a blessing to the nations as the vehicle for ushering in the Messiah.

They totally missed their calling.

They squandered their blessing capital on the wrong things.

Instead of becoming a blessing they have become their own curse.

We are often in danger of doing the same thing.

We have been chosen to be a blessing to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples.

Our resources and money are meant to be a blessing to enable that to happen and benefit us at the same time.

The job, income and savings you and I have are not meant to bless only us but to **primarily bless others.**

We have not chosen to be a special class of people.

The Jews thought they were the chosen people for a special privilege.

In fact they were chosen for a purpose.

Therefore It is all too easy to misunderstand God' Word because we are always thinking about ourselves, our needs, our lifestyle.

CHRISTIAN: YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE LORD TO BE A BLESSING. You have not been chosen for a privilege.

How you handle money, time, talents, opportunities is paramount to knowing the real Jesus.

We have been created to usher in the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and when we do we find the joy and power of the Gospel.

Our identity and marching order are found in I Peter 2:9

1Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Note the similarity of our marching orders with that of the nation of Israel.

Deut 14:2 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Note what Peter says about Believers in Jesus Christ

We are a chosen race! Race????

Christians are made up of all races!

That's the point.

Race does not mean ethnicity.

It means our identity as children of God in Jesus Christ.

A royal priesthood.

Only select men from the right lineage could be priests in Israel.

The role of a priest was to be a “go between” between Yahweh and the people.

Amazingly Peter now gives this same position and title to all believers both men, woman and children of faith in Jesus.

Our “go between” role is that of being “ambassadors of reconciliation” calling people to get right with the Lord Jesus.

We are a holy nation.

Again note that nation has nothing to do with local.

Nation is now the identity for all of God's people.

We are part of a new nation founded on the shed blood of Jesus.

We are a people for his own possession.

God the Father, God the Son-Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit claim believers, you and me, as belonging to the Lord, not as slaves but as his sons and daughters.

He loves you and love me as a treasured possession.

This is why it is so hard to see Christian preachers and teachers telling people that they need to cry out to the Lord, “Bless me Lord, bless me Jesus, bless my finances.”

Many churches got on the *Prayer of Jabez* bandwagon. Bruce Wilkerson.

1Chronicles 4:10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain”

This prayer makes perfect sense in Bangladesh, India, Africa, South America where they have virtually nothing but it a misguided and misused prayer in American UNLESS WE ADD THESE WORDS: **“so that I can use the greatest portion of your blessing to bless others.”**

This entire message culminates in this question:

What is your plan to use the greatest portion of your assets and resources to bless others in the name of Jesus Christ?

Good intentions are not enough.

Good prayers of what you would do if you had more won't work.

Promises to the Lord are insufficient.

What does work is to have a written plan.

I have often met with young business men and women.

Here is what I have said to many of them:

“Bill and Sue I believe the Lord’s hand is on you. I believe you will both be very successful. I want to ask you to do something by this same time next week. I want you to both sit down with a legal pad and write down what you will do with the greatest portion of your income in the future for the Lord Jesus as you become more and more successful.”

Many of them did just that. They came back to me with a written plan to use the majority of their money and time to advance the kingdom of God.

Some of those people made a plan ten, twenty, even thirty years ago. Today they are highly successfully wealthy men and women. The majority are still following their plan.

They live on much less but live comfortably.

They resources missionaries, para-church organization, local church and individuals in need to the tune of hundreds of thousand of dollars.

The Point: In order to be a blessing you need a plan.

Doesn’t matter where you are at in your life or your age. You can develop a plan today that will be a blessing to others and to the kingdom of God.

I urge you to write out your plan this week. If you desire I would be pleased to look it over with you.

OH, One more thing I asked these folks to do. Print the plan, frame it and hang it in your bedroom where you can see it every day.

At the top of that plan are these words:

“Lord Jesus, however you bless me with from this day forward I pledge before you that I will.....”

Yellow Card:

_____ I am committed to using all the resources of my life (money, talents, time, wisdom) to advance the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ.

_____ I will spend the next thirty days asking Jesus each day to make me into a blessing for others.

_____ I am determined and pledge before the Lord Jesus that all future giving will be done out of thankfulness for what he has done for me.