

Blessed To Be A Blessing

Genesis 12:1-3

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Intro:

Main Thought:

“God chooses Abraham to establish His covenantal promise, by grace through faith, for all nations.”

I. GOD’S COVENANTAL PROMISE

A. Preparation & Calling of Abram

B. God’s Promise To Abram (12:1-3)

“It may truly be said without exaggeration that not only the rest of the Old Testament but the whole of the New Testament are on outworking of these promises of God.”
John Stott, Understanding Scripture, 1984, P. 51

Roberts Points Out Three Key Elements To The Promises:

People

Land

Blessing

Contrast Between Babel & Abraham

C. Challenges & Threats To The Promise

D. God’s Covenant Of Promise With Abraham (15:4-20)

1. *God restates the promise to specify*

2. *Nature Of God’s Covenant (9-20)*

“The Lord of the covenant does not require that his servant take to himself the self-maledictory oath. Only God himself passes between the pieces. By this action, God promises. The Lord assumes to Himself the full responsibility for seeing that every promise of the covenant shall be realized.” *O. Palmer Robertson, The Christ Of The Covenants, p.145*

- ◆ God's covenant to Abraham does not require our obedience, but God's faithfulness!
- ◆ Jesus Christ who gave himself up to die fulfills this covenant, establishing a "New Covenant in His blood"

E. The Covenant Promise Is Through Isaac (17:15-21)

F. Testing, Sacrifice, Substitution, & God's Solemn Oath (22:1-19)

"In Jesus Christ God fulfills His promise. In Him God is with us. He offers His own body and his own blood as victim of the covenantal curses. His flesh is torn that God's word to the patriarch might be fulfilled." *O. Palmer Robertson, p. 146*

II. BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

A. "A nation is chosen before a nation is born"

B. Faith Is God's Chosen Means Of Restoration To Him

Read Gal.3:6-14, 16, 26-29

We see this in Ephesians 1-2

III. FOR ALL NATIONS

A. God's Glory Spread Throughout The Earth By God's People

Comparison of commission to Adam & Abraham

Adam	Abraham
1. God blessed them	1. "I will greatly bless you
2. Be fruitful & multiply	2. "I will greatly multiply your offspring
3. Fill the earth	3. "in your offspring all nations will be blessed = fill the earth
4. Subdue the earth 5. rule over... all the earth	4-5. "your offspring will possess the gate of their enemies = subdue & rule

B. The means through which God is fulfilling his promise to Abraham is the church

Application:

1. Are there areas in your life where saying “I don’t understand,” or you’re asking “Why Lord?”
 - ◆ Like Abraham we’re called to live in the gap between promise & reality
 - ◆ We have seen God’s “Stubborn Mercy & Grace” at work in the 1st 2000 years & in the life of Abraham
 - ◆ God Himself has cut a covenant & sworn an oath to fulfill the promises He made to Abraham
 - ◆ God became a man in order to suffer & die in your place, taking your sins upon Himself, receiving the wrath of God you deserved for every sin
 - ◆ God calls you to believe & rest wholly on Him & His promises made to Abraham, yours in Christ Jesus
2. God worked throughout history to bring some of you here to hear about Jesus, God become man, who died for your sins to bring you to God!