

## **“Blessed to Be a Blessing”** **Genesis 12:1-3**

**The Point: God blesses his faith-filled people so that they might be a blessing to all people.**  
We are blessed to be a blessing.

The story of the Bible is the story of the mission of God.  
The story of the mission of God is a story of redemption.  
This story of redemption a story of grace.  
This story of grace is directly tied to the story of our sin.  
The story of our sin finds its resolution in the story of Christ.  
The story of Christ ends with people from all over the world worshipping our great God.

Genesis 12:1-3 will begin to unpack all of that for us. Yes, in just these three short verses.

- Genesis 12:1-3 really serves as a hinge passage for the whole Bible... It is a primary, if not the primary text for grasping the mission of God. We will not understand the overarching story of the Bible, unless we understand God’s covenant with this man named Abraham.
- William Dumbrell says, “What is being written in these few verses is a theological blueprint for the redemptive history of the world.”

### **I. Respond to God’s missional call on your life (12:1).**

- John Stott rightfully said, “Our God is a missionary God.”
- In the first 12 chapters of the Bible you have three of the four major plot moves in the story of God’s redemptive mission: Creation, Fall, Redemption.
- **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15** As early as Genesis 3, God is pointing to our Savior, Jesus Christ. God is a missionary God.
- From beginning to end, God takes the initiative. Five times this passage highlights that with the words “I will.”
- God has a mission for every believer. Each of us has a particular vocation by which we live out this mission, but our mission is the same “make disciples.”

### **II. Receive the blessings that belong to God’s covenant people (12:2-3).**

#### **1. I will make you into a great nation (the people of God).**

- a. Abraham had to receive this by faith because as Gen 11:30 tells us “Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.” Added to that, we find out in Genesis 17 that Abraham and Sarai still have no child and Abraham is 99 years old!
- b. Abraham is the father of faith. Genesis 15:6 is one of the key verses in the Bible. It says, “And he [Abraham] believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” He is the ancestor of all Israelites, those who physically belong to ethnic Israel. Even more importantly, he is the father of all who have faith in Jesus, the true people of God. See **Romans 4:13-25**

#### **2. I will bless you**

#### **3. I will make your name great**

- a. Contrast Genesis 11:4

#### **4. I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonors you I will curse.**

If you belong to Christ, God's promises of blessing are for you. That is why Paul writes: **“And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”** (Galatians 3:29)

### **III. Resolve to be a blessing to [all people] or others and the nations (12:2-3).**

- When God says in Genesis 12:3 that “all the families of the earth shall be blessed,” he is saying that all the peoples of the world will be blessed through Abraham's seed referring to ethnolinguistic groups not geopolitical. This thread runs all throughout Scripture.
- “And the Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations [*panta ta ethne*] be blessed,” (Galatians 3:8)
- “All authority on heaven and earth has been . . . Go, make disciples of all nations. . . [*panta ta ethne*]” (Matthew 28:18-20)
- “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation [*panta ta ethne*], from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” what Greek words are used for “every nation”? (Revelation 7:9-10)
- The people of God are the instruments by which the mission of God is accomplished. God pursues people through people!
- **Matthew 10:7-8:** “**And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.**”
- **Freely you received, freely give!** This gospel motivates us to go and distribute the same blessings we have found in Christ. God puts no restrictions on the amount of love we should give away.
- This is the point Paul makes in Gal. 5:22-23 when he says, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”**

#### **Conclusion:**

**In conclusion, I want to challenge to do two things:**

- 1) Meditate on the blessings of the gospel.**
- 2) Ask God to show you how he wants you to bless others.**

Redemption Hill Church exists to glorify God by living out his mission as a community transformed by the gospel. We are never more like Jesus than when we take a towel and take the position of a servant. Jesus took a towel to perform an act reserved for the lowest in society, but he did much more than that. He took a cross and put it on his back, died a cruel death in our place, that you and I might receive life and might find every ounce of motivation to take the blessings he has given us and be a blessing to others.