

III. The Blessing Remixed Again

G. K. Beale & Mitchell Kim: "A heart for mission grows out of a soul that finds satisfaction in God's presence.... Since the river of life flows from God's presence into the lands of nations, so our mission to the nations must flow from the life found in God's presence."

A. The Great Commission flows out of the blessing of God.

i. Luke 24:50-51

ii. Matthew 28:18-20

B. The Gospel transforms us into the image of Christ and enables us to once again walk in God's original blessing mandate.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- In what sense are the blessings of Noah and Abram both a remix of the blessing given to Adam and Eve?
- How does the NT connect the blessing of Abram to us?
- How does Genesis 18:18-19 describe Abraham's means of multiplying and filling the earth with images of God?
- Why is worship an essential part of fulfilling the call to multiply and fill the earth?
- In what way is the making disciples commission of Matthew 28 a remix of the original blessing of God in Genesis 1? How do they both call us to fulfill the purpose for which God made us?
- Why must making disciples not only include teaching people how to share the Gospel, but continue until we are replicating images of God? What might that look like?
- How does our living in the image and likeness of God provide access to God, and how does the Lord use it to make Himself accessible to others... to extend His rule through us to them?

Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 11)

Truth for Living in Our World

Jerry Cisar — December 13, 2015

Text: Genesis 12:1-9

Introduction: The Blessing (12:1-3)

A. This *blessing* is loaded with meaning.

i. Adam, Noah, now Abram.

J.R.R. Tolkien: "We all long for [Eden], and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, it's gentlest and most humane, is still soaked with a sense of 'exile.'"

ii. Jacob

iii. It is not merely an Old Testament fascination.

a) Luke 24:50-51

b) Acts 3:26

c) 1 Corinthians 10:16

d) Galatians 3:9-14

e) Ephesians 1:3

B. In order to understand what this blessing meant for Abram, and subsequently for us we must first understand what it meant to Adam.

I. The Blessing Remixed

A. Understanding the Original

i. The 7th Day and God's Enthronement in Eden

- ii. The fall was a rejection of God as God.
 - a) God restarted His purpose after the flood by restating the blessing.
 - b) God dwelling with man is the purpose for which He created the world, and God's purposes cannot be thwarted (Job 42:2)

B. "The Cultural Mandate?" (Genesis 1:26-28)

- i. God made man, *male and female*, in His **image** and blessed them so they can increase and fill the earth.
- ii. What were they/we commanded to fill the earth with?
 - a) Genesis 18:18-19
 - b) This is the blessing of Abraham which is ours in Christ... to be fruitful, to increase, and to multiply the image of God in the world.
- iii. What does it mean to fill the earth with images of God?
 - a) Functioning as an icon
 - b) *But when we properly image God, we provide access **both** for people to God, and for God to others. God makes Himself accessible **through us**. God provides benevolent care for humanity, through us. And, we provide a means of access to God, through the Gospel!*

II. The Blessing and Worship

A. Abraham's response to God's blessing is faith (12:4-8).

- i. The Canaanites were living in the land!
- ii. Abram believed God. He believed the promise.
 - a) He built an altar to the Lord and he worshiped.
 - b) Faith, true faith, always leads to worship.

- 12:6-7 Worships by the great **tree** in Schechem
- 12:8 Worships at Bethel (house of God)
 - 12:9 Goes to the Negev – the desert place
 - 12:10-20 Egypt (sin and prayer)
 - 13:1-2 Returns to the Negev – still a desert place, but now he is wealthy!
- 13:3-4 Worships at Bethel (house of God)
- 13:18 Worships by the great **trees** at Hebron

B. The garden of Eden was a place of worship!

- i. These little places of worship that Abram has are remixes of Eden in a fallen world.
 - ii. The tabernacle/temple were a remix of Eden.
 - iii. But now the church, saints being built together, serving one another in love, as we gather around the heavenly throne, the heavenly Mt. Zion, and worship, we are experiencing a remix of Eden in the fallen world.
- C. Worship is central to multiplying images of God and filling the earth. (2 Corinthians 3:18)