

ABRAHAM AND THE MISSION OF GOD

Genesis 12:1-3



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, our heavenly Father, keep your household the Church continually in your true religion, that we who trust in the hope of your heavenly grace may always be defended by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen. (The Fifth Sunday of Epiphany)



SERMON OUTLINE

God's Mission, as revealed in Genesis 12:1-3, is a commission to Abraham that touches individual, national, and global levels. It has three key elements: Blessing, Curse, and People. The Blessing represents creation's full potential, and the Curse symbolizes humanity under God's wrath requiring redemption through Christ. The People, the Church, must balance their work for the common good with their conversion efforts, fulfilling God's Mission through persuasive, humble witnessing to attract others to God's ways and display the beauty of the Gospel. Although there may be objections to the nature and scope of God's Mission as a totalizing truth claim or cultural universalism, Christianity is known for its cultural diversity. By the end of the Life of Abraham sermon series, we will understand why the Mission of God is good news for all families.

“ By exploring God's Mission for Abraham, we can grasp the significance of the Mission of God and its positive impact on all communities.

The Blessing



- Five times the word blessing is used in verses 2-3.
- According to Genesis 1-12 (see Gen 1:22; 1:28), God's blessing carries a creational sense: blessing is creation at its full potential

The Curse



- In Genesis 3:17-19, God cursed the ground due to Adam's actions, causing pain and hardships in life. This is the same curse in Gen. 12:2-3, and it represents humanity under God's wrath and requires redemption through Christ.
 - Jesus is the blessing-bearer because Jesus is the curse-bearer. (Gal 3:13-14)
- The Church must hold together the work for the common good (creational blessing) with the work of conversion (redemptive blessing).

The People



- The blessing passes from Abraham to the World through a people, in the Old Testament Israel, in the New Testament the Church.
- A people gathered under God's name and living by God's ways is attractational, they are a light to the nations and display the beauty of the Gospel.
- God's people do God's Mission through witnessing, which is not coercive, but humble and persuasive



Further Study

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14 ESV)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can a testimony contribute positively to the proclamation of the Gospel despite our imperfections and failures? Does repentance factor into our testimony, displaying God's defeat of the curse and the blessing of the Gospel in our lives? How?
- How can you seamlessly blend the creational and redeeming aspects of God's mission into your witnessing of the Gospel? Are there times when you find God's mission overlooked in favor of other priorities?
- How can we actively participate in and embody, through our actions, the gospel message of hope and transformation brought through Jesus' death and resurrection?
- Why is it crucial to grasp the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection for experiencing the complete blessings of God's redemption? How can we regularly contemplate its influence in our daily lives and mission amidst all the other competing priorities?



Further Study

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/genesis/>