

**“The Call of Abraham:
Blessed in Order to be a Blessing!”**

A Sweeping Survey of the Purposes of God in all of Scripture and History!

Genesis 12:1-20

February 23, 2020

Genesis 12:1 – 2 --- The Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Psalms 67:1 – 2 --- May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Habakkuk 2:14 --- For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Matthew 28:19 --- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all the I have commanded you.

Acts 1:8 --- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Revelation 7:9 – 10 --- I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, 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!’

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more...but worship abides forever.” —John Piper, Let the Nations be Glad

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Responding in Faith to God's Call on your life:

1. Means leaving something behind (12:1)
2. Brings greater blessing than you could achieve for yourself (11:4)
3. Makes your life a blessing to others; especially those different than you (12:2 – 9)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Based on this sweeping survey of God's purposes in all of history, how would you sum up what God is doing? Which of the Scriptures above helped to clarify this for you? How?
- ii. What do we learn from Galatians 3:7 – 9 about the intent of God's covenant with Abraham? Where does Jesus Christ fit into our understanding of this covenant?
- iii. When you compare the people of the Tower of Babel (Ch. 11) with Abraham (Ch. 12) what differences do we see? What lesson are we to learn from this contrast?
- iv. When you began to follow Christ, what did you leave behind? What is there to leave behind for those who grew up in Christian homes? Discuss.
- v. How have you been blessed in order to be a blessing to others?

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