

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 3 – *I will bless you...and you shall be a blessing...and all the families of the earth shall be blessed!*

February 10, 2026

There were 70 nations! WHY was there the need for another nation? God’s sovereign choice! From where was this nation? GOD CREATED THE NATION OF Israel!

Isa. 43:1 – *But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.*

Gen. 12:1-3 – *Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that **I will** show you. ² **I will** make you a great nation; **I will** bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ **I will** bless those who bless you, and **I will** curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’*

To bless: to kneel; to bow. To Whom do we kneel before and bow? To GOD ALONE! God alone is worthy of all our praise. “Bless” in this context means divine favor.

God is speaking of those who bless Israel! What does it mean to “bless Israel”? And, Who is doing the “blessing”? GOD said, *I will bless you (Abram) and, make your name great and you shall be a blessing.* Abram would become a blessing to others. God is extending His divine favor through Abram to others *and all the families of the earth shall be blessed!* God will cause to prosper through His divine favor – which is His grace – those whom He chooses! In Gen. 12:1-3, God tells us that He chose to bless Abram for His, God’s purposes. God told Abram that He would make of Abram a great nation, and God promised to bless Abram and make his name great...so that Abram would be a blessing! How would Abram be a blessing? The action extends from Abram receiving the blessing from God to act outwardly to others. This initiates God’s “blessing program”...extending universal blessing through one family.

How would Israel become a blessing to all families of the earth?

- God chose Israel to receive the law...to live by the law which broadcasts that God is holy and man is sinful...and, after realizing this truth themselves, to share this truth with the Gentiles...as...

- God chose Israel to serve Him as witnesses to the nations/the peoples/the Gentiles...sharing the truth about the one true God of Israel.

- I Sam. 17:45-46 – When David approaches Goliath in battle, David proclaims, *I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

- Psa. 117:1 – *Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!*

- Josh. 4:23-24 – Joshua praised God for drying up the waters of the Jordan and the Red Sea *that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty....*

- I Kings 8:41-43 – *Moreover, concerning a foreigner, (a Gentile) who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name’s sake ⁴² (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, ⁴³ hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You,*

○ II Kings 19:19 – Hezekiah’s prayer – *Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his (Sennacherib, king of Assyria) hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone.*

Who is being exalted? GOD!

- God chose Israel to be the channel through whom the Messiah would come...through Whom salvation (deliverance; rescue) would come. Jesus’ Hebrew name is *Yeshua* which means salvation. John 4:22 – *Salvation is of the Jews.* (Isa. 7:14; Isa. 9:6....)

- God chose Israel to function as an instrument of blessing for the world (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18). Have we read in Scripture examples of how God has used Israel as an instrument of blessing for the world?

- Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brothers. Joseph was a faithful young man who interpreted Pharaoh’s dream re: an abundance of food in his country followed by a famine. Pharaoh appointed this young Jewish man to manage the abundance of food and the famine. In Gen. 50:20 – in speaking to his brothers, Joseph announced, *...you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*

- When God used Moses to deliver His people from bondage in Egypt along with Gentiles!? Ex.12:38 - A “mixed multitude” (numerous peoples from different nations) left Egypt with the children of Israel! From where did this mixed multitude materialize? As Egypt was a conquering country and took prisoners of war and enslaved them, this multitude from many Gentile nations were given freedom through the children of Israel’s departure from Egypt!

- As the children of Israel walked on dry ground when the Red Sea parted...and continued on through the wilderness...God provided everything they needed along the way...manna and water. The idol-worshiping nations, who feared their gods, watched the children of Israel in their trek across the wilderness and were mindful of how God provided. They also realized how God disciplined His people when they, the children of Israel, disobeyed.

- Following the golden calf episode, Moses pleaded with God to continue to bring them to the land of promise...Moses said, *If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.* ¹⁶ *For how then will it be known (by those nations watching) that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?* Moses conveyed that they, the children of Israel needed to be seen by the nations as separate and apart from the nations! *So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth* (Ex. 33:15-16). Moses clearly understood that without God’s presence they would not be a people set apart from other nations.

- And, when the two Hebrew spies were sent to Jericho to view the land before the battle against Jericho, the spies encountered Rahab who told them, *I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt* (which was 40 years prior to their meeting Rahab in Jericho)...*as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.* Rahab asked the two spies to deliver her and her family from death in the battle of Jericho (Josh. 2:9-13)...and they did! We read of Rahab in Jesus’ genealogy (Matt. 1:5).

Blessing Israel is asking God to pour His favor, His grace on Israel and we are bowing our knee to God in acknowledging His plan for Israel...because God has a purpose for Israel!

Isa. 62:1, 6-7 - *For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace,*

And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns.... I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord (prayer warriors), do not keep silent, ⁷ and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. God's plan for Israel blesses the WORLD. Thank Him for His plan! This is exalting God!

CONSIDER: Zech. 12:2-3 - *Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.* The context is end times. Those who heave it away will be cut in pieces? Heave it away/cursing means: treating lightly, despising, treating with contempt.

Consider how this one prophecy is so remarkable. Who could have imagined when the Hebrew Scriptures were written that all the nations of the world would be involved in deciding the fate of Israel?! And this involvement of all nations in dividing Israel has occurred exactly as prophesied and is still in the process of being implemented (Dave Hunt, The Berean Call – A Ministry of Biblical Discernment)

Zech. 2:8 - *For thus says the Lord of hosts (Jesus): He sent Me (Jesus) after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you (Israel) touches the apple of His eye (Deut. 32:10).*

How do we bless Israel!?

- See Israel from God's perspective!
 - Remember Israel's unique standing in redemptive history... entrusted with the covenants, promises, and the Messiah Himself (Rom. 9:4-5).
 - Affirm/agree that God has not rejected His people. There is at this moment a Jewish remnant chosen by grace (and there has always been a remnant [Isa. 1:9; Isa. 6:13; Rom. 11:1-5]).
 - Hold fast to the "mystery": Israel's hardening is partial and temporary until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. When will that occur? When the Church completes the work that God has given the Church [Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus]) to accomplish after which the Church will be raptured/caught up (I Thess. 4:15-18).
 - Remember that cursing Israel means treating Israel and God's plan for Israel...lightly...despising Israel and God's plan, treating Israel and God's plan with contempt.
 - Reading Romans chapters 9 through 11 and praying after each section to understand God's role for Israel in the past, present, and future.
 - "Blessing Israel" is exalting God! It is acknowledging God's sovereign choice of Israel. It is not taking them out of their place in God's plan. The focus is on God!
 - Recognize that Gentile believers are grafted into the root of the olive tree which represents the Abrahamic Covenant. The root of the olive tree is the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant – salvation (Gal. 3:14).

- Understand that it will be Jewish believers (physical Jewish people who have come to faith in Jesus – “the remnant”) who will inherit the land that God has promised Israel.
- Romans 11:5 - *Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*

Israel’s blessing is for the glory of God!

For God so loved the world!

QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

What are your questions?

Are you in agreement with this lesson?

Do you know people/friends w/ whom you can share this lesson?

How do you comprehend God’s blessing Israel with the “one story” of Scripture?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 3 with the Bible references.

Continue journaling re: the Holy Spirit giving you understanding re: the “one story” of Scripture.

Pray about sharing this lesson/part of this lesson with someone.

Read Week 4’s lesson when you receive it.