

V. THE OFFSPRING OF ABRAHAM WILL BLESS ALL NATIONS: Genesis 22:15-18

INTRODUCTION.

Q. Where is the world headed?

Q2. What will the future look like?

Q3. What is Jesus going to do? What will the future look like for Christians?

Now, I do not have times and dates, because I am not a charlatan nor am I trying to build an End Times Prophecy Ministry to make false predictions and thereby fleece God's sheep and Satan's goats for my own financial gain. So, no times and dates, but I do have some promises from God Himself:

(i) **I can tell you for sure that Christ will reign until He has destroyed all His enemies, then the second coming, the judgement, and the eternal state will happen. 1 Corinthians 15:24** "He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet." "

(ii) **I can tell you for certain that the gospel of God will be successful and the great commission accomplished!**

Psalms 22:27 "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, a and all the families of the nations shall worship before you."

(A Psalm about the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Results of Christ's redemption)

(iii) **I can tell you for sure that the Law of God will be received and loved by the nations! Isaiah 42:4** "He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law."

(iv) **I can tell you for certain that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14** "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

(v) **I can tell you for certain that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. Revelation 12:10** "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

In short, I can tell you for certain that Christ will fill this earth with His image bearers; He will possess the gates of His enemies; and thereby Christ will bless all nations. That is actually exactly what the Lord promises in our text of Scripture for today. Look at Genesis 22:15-18 with me.

CONTEXT. Genesis 22:15-18

"15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, 'By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD [*note, everything the Lord promises here He is swearing by His own name and character*], because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.'"

POOLE: "Not that Abraham by this act did properly merit or purchase the following promises, as plainly appears, because the same things for substance had been freely promised to Abraham long before this time and action, Genesis 12:2, 13:16, only what before was promised is now confirmed by an oath, as a testimony of that singular respect which God had to Abraham, and to this heroic instance of faith and obedience." — **Poole, Matthew. English Annotations on the Holy Bible . E4 Group. Kindle Edition.**

Because of Abraham's faith which was demonstrated by His obedience to the Lord's command to offer up Isaac, the Lord swore an oath to bless the world through his offspring.

DOCTRINE. The Lord God has sworn that Christ will fill the earth with His image bearers, possess the gates of His enemies, and thereby *bless* all nations.

"A[16]. When God had created man, He entered into a covenant of works with him, upon condition of perfect obedience, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death. (Gen. 2:16,17; Gal. 3:12; Rom. 5:12).

A[17]. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God. (Gen. 3:6; Eccles. 7:29; Rom. 5:12)." — **The Baptist Catechism, Answers to Questions 16-17**

LOOK! You are worse than you think you are. Your sin is a real problem. Adam's sin and guilt, which you inherited is a real problem. You are in great need of the one true God—the God of the Bible; the triune God who eternal exists as Father, Son, and Spirit—to save you from Himself, by Himself, to Himself, for Himself, to Himself!

You need Jesus Christ to save you from His wrath, by His grace, to His possession, for His glory.

The good news is... As soon as Adam and Eve fell into sin, the LORD promised that He would send a Savior, even Jesus Christ. This is the *Protoeuangelion*—the first gospel proclamation. Then as history progresses, which is detailed in the

book of Genesis, the Lord reveals more and more about the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ!

In **Genesis 12** the Lord promised the Abrahamic Covenant to Abram.

In **Genesis 15** the Lord cut (formally established) the Abrahamic Covenant with Abram.

In **Genesis 17** the Lord clarified the Abrahamic Covenant to Abram (*exalted father*) and changed his name to Abraham (*father of many nations*).

The Abrahamic Covenant was established for two main purposes:

Purpose 1. To give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants so that they would be preserved until Christ came into the world through them (**Genesis 28:4, Genesis 35:12, Exodus 32:13, Deuteronomy 1:8, Joshua 1:6, Psalm 105:6–11, Jeremiah 11:2–5**).

Purpose 2. To further reveal the New Covenant of Grace which would be established in Christ Jesus. In the **protoeuangelion contained in Genesis 3:15**, God reveals that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent at great cost to Himself. In the Abrahamic Covenant God reveals that the seed will be, I) A descendant of Abraham according to the flesh, and that II) All the nations of the earth will be blessed in Him (Genesis 22:15-18).

Within the Abrahamic Covenant God reveals not only that Christ will be born as a descendant of Abraham, but also that Christ will bless the entire world!

QUESTION. Who is the offspring of Abraham?

ANSWER 1. Christ is the offspring of Abraham (Galatians 3:16).

- **Galatians 3:16** "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but referring to one, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ."

ANSWER 2. All who believe on Christ alone for salvation are the offspring of Abraham, only by virtue of being united to Christ, the true offspring (Galatians 3:29).

- **Galatians 3:29** "If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

OUTLINE. Three main points from our text, and then I want to ask a question to help us make more sense of the third point.

I. CHRIST WILL FILL THE EARTH WITH THOSE WHO BEAR HIS IMAGE (Gen. 22:17b).

Genesis 22:17b

". . . and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. . ."

- **QUESTION.** How can Christ has offspring, seeing He did not marry nor have children by ordinary generation?
 - **ANSWER.** Christ has spiritual offspring, which are those whom He bought on the cross and the Holy Spirit causes to be born again; i.e. Christians.
 - **Isaiah 53:10** "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."
 - **The goal of God the Father's plan of redemption is** "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (**Romans 8:29**).

BOYS AND GIRLS, have you ever been to the beach? Could you count all the sand at your beach? Have you ever seen the clear night sky, unencumbered by light from the city or your house? Could you count all the stars in the galaxy? That is how many Christians there will be.

Jesus is no loser. Jesus is the winner. He will have His prize. He will save sinners and sanctify His saints. He will fill this earth with His image bearers.

Christ is fulfilling, and will fulfill, the Creation Mandate (Genesis 1:28) through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The future is Christian.

TRANSITION. *"By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,"*

Christ will fill the earth with those who bear His image (Gen. 22:16, 17).

II. CHRIST WILL POSSESS THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES (Gen. 22:17c).

Genesis 22:17c

"And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,"

- **TRAPP:** *"Both their strength and government."* — **Trapp, John. John Trapp's Complete Bible Commentary (p. 366). Kindle Edition.**
 - **Revelation 12:10** "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."
 - **Psalms 132:18**

*"His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on him his crown will shine."*

Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and He will possess the

gates of His enemies. The future of civil government is Christian.
BOYS AND GIRLS, [repeat].

TRANSITION. *"By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,"*
Christ will possess the gate of His enemies (Gen. 22:16, 17).

III. CHRIST WILL BLESS ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH (Gen. 22:18a).

Genesis 22:18a

". . .and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. . ."

Though a stream of gracious water had trickled to Israel under the Old Covenant, now, in Christ crucified and risen, a fountain of grace has been opened in the New Covenant which has been gushing forth for nearly two thousand years, and has washed millions and millions clean from their curse of sin (Zechariah 13:1).

BOYS AND GIRLS, [repeat metaphor].

- **Zechariah 13:1** "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness."
- **Jeremiah 4:2** "If you swear, 'As the Lord lives,'
in truth, in justice, and in righteousness,
then nations shall bless themselves in him,
and in him shall they glory."

Psalms 72:17 "May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun!

May people be blessed in him,

all nations call him blessed!" **Though a stream of water had trickled to Israel under the Old Covenant, now, in Christ crucified and risen, a fountain has been opened** has been gushing forth for nearly two thousand years, and has washed millions millions and millions clean from their curse of sin (Zechariah 13:1).

TRANSITION. *"By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,"*
Christ will bless all the nations of the earth (Gen. 22:16, 18).

QUESTION. What are the blessings that Christ comes to pour out on the nations?

Let me give you Eleven answers.

I) Christ came to bless the nations with *Repentance* (Acts 3:26).

Acts 3:26 "God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

II) Christ came to bless the nations with *Forgiveness and Imputed Righteousness* (Romans 4:6-7, Revelation 22:14).

Romans 4:6-7 "6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;"

- **Revelation 22:14** "Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates."

BOYS AND GIRLS, [repeat].

III) Christ came to bless the nations with *the Holy Spirit* (Galatians 3:14).

Galatians 3:14 "In Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith."

- **1 Peter 4:14** "you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

IV) Christ came to bless the nations with *the face of the LORD* (Ps. 67:1).

Psalms 67:1 "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*" (Revelation Says, "they shall see his face, and His name shall be upon their foreheads.")

- **EZEKIEL HOPKINS:** "Heaven is where the unveiled glories of the Deity shall beat full upon us, and we forever sun ourselves in the smiles of God." — **Ezekiel Hopkins, A Puritan Golden Treasury**

That sunning ourselves begins now by faith in His promises and meditation on His Word!

V) Christ came to bless the nations with *belonging to His visible kingdom* (Ps. 128:5).

Psalms 128:5 "The Lord bless you from Zion!

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!"

- **Matthew 16:18** "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
 - **Hebrews 12:28-29** "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God

acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

VI) Christ came to bless the nations with *spiritual blessing in the heavenly places* (Eph. 1:3-14).

Ephesians 1:3-14 [every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places].

- (i) Election
- (ii) Holiness and Blamelessness
- (iii) Predestination
- (iv) Adoption
- (v) God's Kindness
- (vi) Redemption from sin
- (vii) Forgiveness of sin
- (viii) Richly Lavished Grace
- (ix) The Revelation of the Mystery of God's Will
- (x) A Heavenly Inheritance
- (xi) The Holy Spirit
- (xii) Security and Assurance

BOYS AND GIRLS, Christ came to bless the nations with every spiritual blessing. Everything you need is found in Christ, boys and girls. Everything.

VII) Christ came to bless the nations with *providential provision* (Ps. 107:38; Ps. 132:15).

Psalms 107:38 "By his blessing [the redeemed] multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish."

- **Psalms 132:15** "I will abundantly bless [Zion's] provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread."

VIII) Christ came to bless the nations with *happiness which comes from obedience to God's Law* (James 1:25).

James 1:25 "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

BOYS AND GIRLS, [repeat].

IX) Christ came to bless the nations with *the Marriage Supper of the Lamb* (Revelation 19:9).

Revelation 19:9 "And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God.'"

X) Christ came to bless the nations with *eternal rest from toilsome*

labors (Revelation 14:13).

Revelation 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"

XI) Christ came to bless the nations with *the New Heavens and the New Earth* (Matthew 25:34; Psalm 37:22).

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

- **Psalm 37:22** "Those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off."

BOYS AND GIRLS, [repeat].

Christ will bless all nations. The future of this world is Christian.

TRANSITION. "*By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,*"
Christ will bless all the nations of the earth (Gen. 22:16, 18).

USE FOR EXHORTATION

I. Q1. Do you want your household to be blessed by God?

Get Christ's imputed righteousness by faith in Him, and labor to live righteously for God's glory by the strength He supplies.

Proverbs 3:33 "The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous."

II. Q2. Do you want your life to matter?

Live by faith in God's promises, laboring for Christ's glory in all spheres of life, diligent in your vocational duties, confident that Christ will bless all nations and even use you to do it.

Proverbs 10:7 "The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot."

CONCLUSION.

USE FOR WARNING AND AWAKENING.

- **Jeremiah 17:5-6**
5 Thus says the Lord:
"Cursed is the man who trusts in man

and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the Lord.
6 He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.
He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land."

USE FOR CONSOLATION AND COMFORT.

– Jeremiah 17:7-8

"7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
8 He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."

STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduction and Promises

1. Based on the introduction, what are the three key questions posed about the future? How do the five promises from Scripture (from 1 Corinthians, Psalm 22, Isaiah 42, Habakkuk 2, and Revelation 11) address these questions from a Reformed Baptist perspective, emphasizing God's sovereign decree and the triumph of Christ's kingdom?
2. Discuss how the sermon's rejection of specific "times and dates" for end-times events aligns with the 1689 London Baptist Confession (Chapter 32: Of the Last Judgment), which warns against speculative predictions. Why is it important to focus on God's promises rather than timelines?

Context and Doctrine

3. In Genesis 22:15-18, why does God swear by Himself in confirming the promises to Abraham? How does Matthew Poole's commentary clarify that this is not merited by Abraham's works but is a confirmation of grace, reflecting the Reformed emphasis on sola fide (faith alone)?
4. The doctrine states: "The Lord God has sworn that Christ will fill the earth with His image bearers, possess the gates of His enemies, and thereby

bless all nations." How does this encapsulate the Abrahamic Covenant's fulfillment in Christ, as per Galatians 3:16 and 3:29? Discuss the covenantal continuity between the Old and New Testaments in Reformed theology.

5. Drawing from the Baptist Catechism (Questions 16-17) quoted in the notes, explain humanity's fall in Adam and the need for Christ. How does this underscore total depravity and the necessity of sovereign grace for salvation?
6. What are the two main purposes of the Abrahamic Covenant as outlined? How do they point forward to the New Covenant in Christ, and why is this progression important in understanding redemptive history from a Reformed Baptist viewpoint?

Who is the Offspring of Abraham?

7. According to Galatians 3:16 and 3:29, who is the "offspring" of Abraham? Discuss how this demonstrates union with Christ and the inclusion of Gentiles by faith, aligning with the 1689 Confession's teaching on effectual calling and justification (Chapters 10-11).

Outline Point I: Christ Will Fill the Earth with Those Who Bear His Image

8. In Genesis 22:17b, the promise to multiply offspring "as the stars of heaven and as the sand" is applied to Christ's spiritual offspring (Christians). How does Isaiah 53:10 support this, and what does it reveal about the efficacy of Christ's atonement in producing a vast number of redeemed image-bearers?
9. The notes connect this to the Creation Mandate (Genesis 1:28) being fulfilled through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Discuss how this reflects a postmillennial hope in Reformed eschatology, where Christ's kingdom expands gradually through gospel preaching.

Outline Point II: Christ Will Possess the Gate of His Enemies

10. What does "possess the gate of his enemies" mean, according to John Trapp's commentary? Using Revelation 11:15 and Psalm 132:18, how does this promise assure Christ's ultimate dominion over all authorities, including civil governments? From a 1689 perspective, how should this shape a Christian's view of cultural engagement without endorsing theonomy?

Outline Point III: Christ Will Bless All the Nations of the Earth

11. In Genesis 22:18a, how is the blessing to all nations fulfilled in Christ? Using Zechariah 13:1 and Jeremiah 4:2, discuss the shift from the Old Covenant "stream" to the New Covenant "fountain" of grace, emphasizing the outpouring of salvation to the Gentiles.

The Eleven Blessings

12. List and briefly explain the eleven blessings Christ brings to the nations (from repentance to the New Heavens and New Earth). Which of these most clearly illustrates the *ordo salutis* (order of salvation) in Reformed theology, such as in Ephesians 1:3-14?
13. Focusing on blessing III (the Holy Spirit, Galatians 3:14), how does this fulfill the Abrahamic promise for Gentiles? Discuss its connection to the 1689 Confession's chapter on the Holy Spirit (Chapter 1, Paragraph 10) and sanctification (Chapter 13).
14. For blessing VI (spiritual blessings in heavenly places, Ephesians 1:3-14), how do the twelve sub-points (election, adoption, etc.) demonstrate God's eternal decree? Why is this a source of assurance for believers in a Reformed Baptist framework?
15. Examine blessing VIII (happiness from obedience to God's Law, James 1:25). How does this align with the Reformed view of the law's role in the believer's life (1689 Confession, Chapter 19: Of the Law of God), promoting gratitude and obedience without legalism?

Use for Exhortation

16. In the first exhortation (Proverbs 3:33), how can households be blessed through Christ's imputed righteousness and righteous living? Discuss practical applications for family worship and discipleship in a Reformed Baptist church context.
17. The second exhortation (Proverbs 10:7) calls for living by faith in God's promises, making one's life matter for Christ's glory. How does this encourage diligence in vocations while trusting in God's sovereignty over history?

Overall Application and Discussion

18. The sermon repeatedly affirms "the future is Christian." From a 1689 Reformed Baptist perspective, how does this optimistic eschatology motivate evangelism and cultural influence without guaranteeing immediate success or denying persecution?
 19. How do the notes' addresses to "BOYS AND GIRLS" simplify complex truths? Create a similar child-friendly explanation for one of the main points, and discuss how this models catechizing the next generation as per the Baptist Catechism.
 20. Reflect on the entire sermon: How does Genesis 22:15-18 reveal God's oath-bound commitment to His covenant promises? In group discussion, share how this strengthens your faith in Christ's ultimate victory amid current world challenges.
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SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Brothers and sisters, friends and visitors, let me ask a few questions by way of introduction. Where is the world headed? Where is the world headed? What will the future look like? What is Jesus going to do? What will the future look like for Christians?

Now, I do not have times and dates for you concerning what is going to happen in the future because I am not a charlatan, nor am I trying to build an end times prophecy ministry to make false predictions and thereby fleece God's sheep and Satan's goats for my own financial gain. I am not writing a book on the end times or 88 reasons that Jesus is going to come back in 1988. You can find plenty of books like that. You can find plenty of prophecy conferences and all that kind of stuff. And not all study of the end times is like that at all. But that whole category is like saturated with people that have always got some new book about I have cracked the Omega code and now we know what's going to happen and they're preparing the red heifer and the third temple is about to be built. All that stuff. Here's what the future is going to look like. I do not have those kind of things. I do not have times and dates. But I do have some promises from God himself. I can tell you for sure that Christ will reign until he has put all of his enemies under his feet. Christ will reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. And then comes the end. Then comes the second coming, the judgment, and the eternal state. 1 Corinthians 15:24. He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. I can tell you that for certain. I can tell you for certain that the gospel of God will be successful and the great commission will be accomplished. Psalm 22 is the psalm that Jesus quotes while he's on the cross. It begins with, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And the whole point of Psalm 22 is the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the results of Christ's redemption. that is all of Psalm 22. it is first highlighting his crucifixion in predictive form. David wrote the psalm a thousand years before Christ, but it is predicting the crucifixion, then the resurrection, and then the results. And this is how the psalm ends. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. I can tell you that for certain. What's the future look like? All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord. I can tell you for sure that the law of God will be received by and loved by the nations. The law of God will be received by and loved by the nations. Isaiah 42:4. The Lord will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth and the coastlands wait for his law. The Lord will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth and the coastlands wait for his law. Isaiah 42:4. For sure, the law of God will be received and loved by the nations. I can tell you for certain that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. The knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover this entire earth like the

waters cover the sea. Boys and girls, is there any part of the sea, the ocean that is not covered in water? If it is not covered in water, it is not ocean, right? Is there any part that you would say, well, that part of the ocean's not wet. Like, no, that is the ocean. It is wet. Well, God promises that one day the knowledge of his glory will cover this earth as the waters cover the sea. That means completely and totally. I could tell you that for sure because that is what Habakkuk 2:14 says. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. I can tell you for certain that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever. I can tell you that for certain because I just quoted Revelation 12:10 to you. This is what God says.

In short, what does the future look like? What's going to happen? What should we expect? What's the future look like for Christians? All these things I've just told you. In short, I can tell you for certain that Christ will fill this earth with those who bear his image. He will possess the gates of his enemies and thereby Christ will bless all nations. He will fill this earth with his image bearers. He will possess the gates of his enemies. And thereby Christ will bless all nations, all the nations of the world. This is exactly what the Lord promises in our text of scripture for today in Genesis 22:15-18. Look at it with me. Genesis 22, start with verse 15, though we are focusing more on 17 and 18. And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven. I'll stop there. This is right after Abraham obeyed the Lord. When the Lord told him to go and offer up Isaac as a sacrifice, the angel of the Lord intercedes, stops Abraham from sacrificing Isaac. The angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Christ. This is Jesus who comes down. Definite article, the angel of the Lord. that is before Jesus became a man. that is the second person of the Trinity coming down and making what we could call like a cameo appearance. Christ stops Abraham and then he says to him a second time from heaven and said verse 16, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord." Now note everything the Lord promises here is swearing by his own name and character. The Lord is assuring Abraham of this promise and you as well by saying by myself I have sworn. I am swearing by my own name, by my own character. Because you have done this, read with me. Because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. and your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies. And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed my voice. Because of Abraham's faith, which demonstrated was demonstrated by his obedience to the Lord's command to offer up Isaac, the Lord responds to that by clarifying a promise he had already made. He already told Abram, "All the nations, all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you." Then Abraham obeys when it comes to Isaac, showing forth his faith. Faith always results in obedience. And the Lord then to further clarify to Abraham and to us the promise of this future offspring, Christ, he

goes into more detail and swears it with an oath to assure Abraham So what should we learn from this text of scripture? The Lord God has sworn that Christ will fill the earth with his image bearers, possess the gates of his enemies, and thereby bless all the nations. that is what you should learn from Genesis 22 15-18. The Lord God has sworn that Christ will fill the earth with his image bearers, possess the gates of his enemies, and thereby bless all the nations. Now, this is why this is one of the reasons why you need to properly understand covenant theology, which means the covenants that God entered into with man, with people throughout history. If you do not understand covenant theology, you are not going to understand the gospel as you should. If you do not understand covenant theology, you are not going to understand how we should function as a church. If you do not understand covenant theology, you are not properly going to understand what is going to happen in the future, what you and I should expect to happen in the future, because you are going to say stupid things like, "Well, the New Testament never said that.

that is a stupid thing to say. The New Testament didn't say that. Like, what does that mean? That this promise, which the New Testament says is about Christ. Galatians 3, Paul says this, the offspring, singular, is Christ who will bless the whole world. Does that do we need to have each one of these little things repeated in the New Testament for it to be true? No, in the Abrahamic covenant that God establishes with Abraham and his physical offspring to give them this land of Canaan so that their physical lineage would be preserved until Christ would be born from them within that covenant, the Abrahamic covenant. God gives promises to Abraham about what his offspring is going to do. Christ who is going to eventually be born through his physical descendants. So this is not the Abrahamic covenant, these promises, but these promises are revealed within the context of it. These promises are about the new covenant, but revealed to Abraham and to us through the scriptures so that we can know what to expect. What is Christ going to do? And you do not have to go, is something explicitly repeated in the New Testament for me to believe it? like no you you do not have to do that from Genesis to Revelation this is God's word we just need to properly understand it so we need to understand covenant theology to understand how the church should function to understand your everyday life to understand what's going to happen in the future and to just properly understand how to read your Bible how to read your Bible the Lord God has sworn that Christ will fill the earth with his image-bearers, possess the gates of his enemies, and thereby bless all nations. You have to understand this offspring that he's talking about that Paul clearly says in Galatians, this is Christ. He's talking about Christ. Okay, are we all there? Well, if you do not understand this promise in Genesis 22, you do not you possibly do not understand today how Christians should think and act concerning civil government. This promise has to do with civil government. So, if you miss this, you might be a little bit off with some other things. But if you see, no, no, no. the gates of his enemies. that is talking about the rule and authority of those who

were once opposed to Christ and now he possesses the gates of his enemies. That the gate is where jurisprudence was meted out in this time. The elders would gather at the gate. The elders of the city that is where judgments happened. that is the seat of the civil government. So in another way it would be like saying he will possess the state houses of his enemies. He will possess the white house of his enemy. That that is essentially what he's saying by the gates of his enemies. He might not understand the great commission. You might not understand the victory of Christ. You may not understand civil government if you do not understand these promises that are given to Abraham even within the context of the Abrahamic covenant which are promising what Christ will do. So we need to understand covenant theology and need to understand how to read our Bibles. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of works with him upon condition of perfect obedience, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil upon pain of death. Covenant of works with Adam. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will fell from the state wherein they were created by sinning against God. Adam broke the covenant of works and we all fell in him. Look, as we study covenant theology, you need to be reminded you are worse than you think you are. Every one of you, you are worse than you think you are. You might be really introspective and have morbid introspection and be what I call a naval gazer where you are always looking at me, me, me, me. Maybe terrible at that, self-deprecating all the time. You still do not know how bad you are. You still do not know how sinful you are. Your sin is a real problem. Adam's sin and guilt, which you inherited, is a real problem. You are in need of the one true God, the God of the Bible, the God who eternally exists as father, son, and spirit. You need him to save you from himself, by himself, to himself, for himself. You need Jesus Christ to save you from his wrath by his grace to his possession for his glory. And the good news is that right after our first parents even fell into sin, God promised to send his son in Genesis 3:15 to crush the head of the serpent even at great cost to himself, foreshadowing the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ by which all of us who believe on him will be saved. This is the Protoeangelion, the first gospel proclamation. Then as history unfolds and progresses, which is detailed here in the book of Genesis, the Lord reveals more and more about the savior of the world. And he reveals more about the savior of the world here in Genesis 22. Not just is Christ the one promised who will crush the head of the serpent and his heel will be bruised, but Christ is also the one who will bless the entire earth, fill the entire earth with those who bear his image and who will take over the rulership of his enemies. So we get Christ is a serpent crusher in Genesis 3. Then we get Christ is the world blesser in Genesis 22. Within the Abrahamic covenant, God reveals not only that Christ will be born as a descendant of Abraham, but also that Christ will bless the entire world. So the Abrahamic covenant, which we are still in the context of in our covenant theology series, the Abrahamic covenant has two main purposes. The first is to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants so that they would be preserved until Christ was born through their lineage. that is the first and primary purpose of the Abrahamic covenant. God makes a covenant

with Abraham to give them the land of Canaan so that their people would be preserved until Christ would be born according to the flesh as a descendant of Abraham. that is the first and primary purpose. The second purpose is to reveal aspects of the new covenant of grace in Christ. So there's promises sprinkled throughout and God's dealing with Abraham like that offspring that I am preserving you by giving your people this land. I am preserving you so that the offspring Christ will be born from your lineage. This is how awesome it is going to be when that Christ is born. And that is what we have in Genesis 22. This is more about this is how awesome it is going to be. This is why I am doing it. So again, I ask and answer who is the offspring of Abraham, namely Christ. And also all those who are connected to Christ through faith. Go read Genesis or Galatians chapter 3 if you need to. Again, Christ is the offspring. And then later in the chapter, Paul says, "And if you believe on Christ, you are the true offspring of Abraham." And that is what it means to have faith in Christ. You are united to Christ. So that all of his inheritance also belongs to you. So that is how Paul can say Christ is the offspring that will bless the world. And then in a secondary sense, you are like, "But you are also the offspring that will bless the world because Christ is united to you. you are united to him. you are now his helpmate and he works by you through the spirit to bless the whole world. So let's look now hopefully we under we are in a place where we can properly understand what's being said here in Genesis 22. And let me just show you three main points from our text and then ask and kind of rapid fire some of the ways that we can understand the third point. So the three main points from our text and then the third point we are really going to expand and look at how great it is. First notice in the second part of verse 17 where he says I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. What should you and I learn from that? Well, that Christ will fill the earth with those who bear his image. The true offspring of Abraham, if we are talking about the multiplicity of them, that is Christians. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven. See, that is speaking plurally. So, when you are speaking plurally of the offspring of Abraham, then you need to understand Galatians 3:29. If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. And what image do they bear? They bear the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ makes little copies of himself. Not in his divine nature, but that is literally what Christians mean, little Christs who bear Christ's image, whom God is transforming to be less like Adam and more like Christ, who have been given the spirit of Christ, and by Christ have been adopted into the father of Christ. I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. This is ultimately fulfilled in the multiplication of Christians coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ will fill the earth with those who bear his image. Now, how can Christ have offspring seeing he did not marry nor have children by ordinary generation? Well, Christ has spiritual offspring, which are those whom he bought on the cross, and then the Holy Spirit causes to be born again. The spiritual offspring of Christ,

Christians. The scripture speaks of this. Isaiah 53:10. Isaiah 53 is that famous passage of predicting 700 years before in vivid detail the crucifixion of Jesus. It was the will of the Lord to crush him. He has put him to grief. When his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring. He shall prolong his days. The will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. By Christ's death and resurrection, he will have spiritual offspring bearing his image who are bought by him on the cross and regenerated by his spirit as they hear the gospel. The goal of the father's plan of redemption is to take people who were once sinners to save them and then conform them to the image of his son. Romans 8:29. Those whom he foreknew he predestined to be conformed to the image of his son. So the offspring of Christ are spiritual offspring who bear his image who are like him. And this is the promise that is in Genesis 22:17. The offspring that will be multiplied as the stars of heaven as the sand that is on the seashore is not just fulfilled in the old covenant physical descendants of Abraham. it is ultimately about Christians. it is ultimately about the true offspring of Abraham, which are those who believe on Christ. Boys and girls, look up here at me. Have you ever been to the beach? Any beach? What if you got to the beach and your dad said, "Okay, I have one job for you before you can go play. I want you to count how many grains of sand are on this beach. Once you do that, then you can go play and do whatever you want to do. How's that sound? Does that sound good or miserable? Why does it sound miserable? Because there's millions. that is good. Too many to count, right? Grains of sand on a seashore. Well, God promises that Christ will make so many Christians that we will not even be able to count the number. Just like we cannot count the grains of sand on the seashore, that is how many Christians there will be. that is how many people the Lord Jesus Christ will save. A number that no one can even count. Go read Revelation 5. Read Revelation 7 and see the number. It says it is a I saw a multitude, a number beyond what anyone could count of the redeemed. that is what is promised to the offspring of Abraham, which is Christ, that his image-bears will fill this earth and their number will be so great that we say it is too high to even count. Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ will save a vast number of people. And it will be not simply a small remnant. do not buy into this remnant theology that tries to take when the Lord talks about a remnant and say that is talking about the church in all ages. that is not what he's talking about. it is not talking about there will only be ever a remnant. No, he says there will be more than the stars of heaven and the sand on the seashore. In Revelation, he says a number so high no one could even count. Jesus saves billions and billions and billions of people. Praise the Lord. Boys and girls, have you ever been outside? it is pitch black and you are away from the city and you are away from any lights and you can just look up and see stars, stars, stars. A lot of you live where there is light pollution it is called. So you cannot see the sky as clearly as you could. you are just way out, no light from a house or anything. And have you been out there? Have you seen a ridiculous amount of stars? What if dad said, "Hey, I know we are camping and this is great. You can make some s'mores right after you count all the stars. Does that sound fun?" you are never getting s'mores because you cannot count all the stars

in our galaxy, can you? it is a number greater than we could count. And that is how many Christians there will be because Jesus is victorious. that is what he promises. Boys and girls, Jesus is no loser in any way. Jesus is the winner. Jesus will have his prize. He will save sinners and sanctify his saints. He will fill this earth with those who bear his image, who've been saved from their sin and reconciled to God. Adults, Christ is fulfilling and will fulfill the creation mandate through the great commission. that is what he's doing and will do. The creation mandate, multiply, fill the earth, take dominion. Christ is the one who fulfills that and he does it. Now having fallen into sin, Christ is doing that through the great commission. As you go out and proclaim the law and the gospel and God saves people, he is filling the earth, multiplying, taking dominion, making disciples of all nations as he commanded us to do. He's doing that through us believers. You need to just see at this point the future is Christian. The future is Christian. Get on board with that. By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord. that is what he said in Genesis 22. By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord. I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. Christ will fill the earth with those who bear his image. Look secondly at the next part of verse 17. Here's the other promise about the offspring which is Christ. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies. Possess the gate of his enemies. Possess the gate. This is metaphorical for the rule and role of civil government. The jurisprudence, the judgment, the leadership of any city of any area happens at the gate. Under the old covenant, if you have a rebellious son who continues to rebel against their parents and the son will not listen to his parents, you know what the parents were supposed to do? bring him to the gate and the elders will put him to death. This is where judgment, justice happens. The gate, he will possess the gate of his enemies. it is not only that his enemies have a fortified city and the gate will be open so Christ can come in. it is more than that. it is he will possess the gate; it will belong to him. Of course, he can get in. But the point is, he will rule where once his enemies ruled. He will rule where once his enemies ruled. Both their strength and their government is what John Trap points out. Both their strength, his enemies, and their government. This is what Revelation 12:10 promises. The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. and he shall reign forever and ever. Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Amen. He's the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He will possess the gates of his enemies. The future of civil government is Christian. The future of civil government is Christian. Get on board with that; think like that; labor like that. He is the king of kings and lord of lords. And Christ is not content to simply be the king of kings without those smaller kings actually submitting to him as king. This is why we are told he's the king of kings, the lord of lords. Revelation 1 says he's the ruler of kings on the earth. Romans 13 says he claims all those in civil government as his servants, his deacons which are accountable to him and must obey him. And the promise here of he shall possess the gate of his enemies is and one day the civil government is going to act like it. Get on board with that. This is why we need

and should have Christians who actually do run for political office. Christians who do run for city council, who run to be senators or house representatives, who run to be governor, who run to be president. We should have Christians in that. it is like, well, Christ is king of kings, lord of lords. So, I want him to be honored in civil government. I want him to be honored in church government. I want him to be honored in self-government. I want him to be honored in household government, all spheres of sovereignty. Christ is king over all. And so Christians should say, I want Christ to be honored in all those spheres and then have this promise. Your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies.

The future of civil government is Christian. We should act like it. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords will be honored and we should get in line with it. By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord. Christ will possess the gate of his enemies. Now look next at the beginning of verse 18. And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. How many nations? How many? all in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. So it is like under the old covenant there was a little creek of gracious water flowing to Abraham's descendants according to the flesh, the people of Israel. God's grace is flowing like in a little creek and it is just flowing one place and it is going to these people and even those who weren't Israelites had to convert and become like Israelites if they wanted to get in. that is what it was like under the old covenant. But this promise is that there will not be a creek going to one little people. There will be a massive stream of water that branches out and goes into all nations to give the grace of God and salvation to all the nations of the world. All the nations of the earth shall be blessed. A stream of gracious water had trickled to Israel. Now in Christ, a fountain of grace has been opened in the new covenant, which has been gushing forth for nearly 2,000 years and has washed billions and billions clean from the curse of sin.

Jeremiah 4:2 says, "If you swear as the Lord lives in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, then nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." Nations shall bless themselves in Christ, and in him shall they glory. Psalm 72:17, "May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun. May people be blessed in him, and all nations call him blessed. The nations shall bless themselves in the Christ, they will be blessed in the Christ, and all nations shall call him blessed." Christ will bless all the nations of the earth. Now, in our time remaining, what I want to do is show you how Christ came to bless the nations. All of these, all of these apply to you if you are a Christian. But I want you to see that the promise here in Genesis 22 is that you should not just expect that God is going to just interact with old covenant Israel and that is going to be it. it is like, no, no, no. They exist for a time to foreshadow the gospel of Christ. They exist to be this people in this place so that Christ will be born from their descendants and then nations, the whole earth will be blessed. But you need to see this and how crazy this is compared to the old covenant. a small group of people in a very very small nation state at that time. Palestine is like the size of New Jersey. And that was it

right there. And now we there are more people in this building today than there were Christians when Christ descended. There were 120 in the upper room. there are more of us and we are like 7,000 miles away from that little nation where it was. So, it is there and then it is boom. And this is always the plan that even from Genesis 22 is that all the nations, all the nations are going to be blessed. So, if you are a Christian, all these things are absolutely true for you. If you are not a Christian, all these things can be true for you. If you will turn from your sin, trust in Jesus alone for your salvation. All these will be true for you. This is what I am offering to you unbelievers and this is what I am saying. This is yours believers. And think how amazing it is that Christ blesses the nations, even you and me in these ways. First, Christ came to bless the nations with repentance. Repentance is a turning from sin to faith in Jesus Christ. Turning from sin to faith in Jesus Christ. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of heart that leads to a change of action. it is first of all change of mind. I am wrong leads to a change of heart. I do not want to keep doing what is wrong and offending God. And it leads to a change of action where I am going to walk in the opposite direction. First of all, a change of mind. It leads to a change of heart and results in a change of action. Christ came to bless the nations with that. Acts 3:26, God having raised up his servant Jesus sent him to you first—talking of the Jews—He sent him to you first to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness. Repentance is a gift that Christ gives. Repentance is something you must do and you cannot do because of your love for your sin. You cannot do without Christ blessing you with it. So Christ came to bless the nations with repentance. that is why you and I are here right now. We are part of the nations. we are not descended from Abraham and living in Israel. No, we are the nations that the gospel goes to. And Christ came to make the blessing of repentance flow even to us so that we would say, I've sinned against God. I need to turn from that. I am turning from that and trusting in Christ. Christ came to bless the nations with repentance. Secondly, Christ came to bless the nations with forgiveness of sin and imputed righteousness. He came to bless the nations. What does he mean? In you all the nations of the earth will be blessed. What does that mean? Repentance first and then forgiveness and imputed righteousness. This is the theological term justification. You need to learn that word justified. Justified. Justification. all those words that go with it. Justification means forgiveness of sin and Christ's righteousness that he worked is given to you and you have it. it is credited to you. He came to bless the nations with that to take away our sins by his cross and to give us his righteousness through our faith in him. Romans 4:6 and 7. Just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works, blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Blessed are those David speaks of the blessing who gives the spiritual blessings. it is Christ who gives forgiveness. it is Christ through his death. Who gives imputed righteousness? it is Christ through his perfect life, obeying the law as you and I have not done. Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they

may enter the city by the gates. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. We wash our robes clean in the blood of Christ through faith in Christ. This is what he came to bless the nations with. This is what you have if you belong to Christ with a simple faith. Every single one of your sins is as far as the east is from the west. Boys and girls, how far is the east from the west?

Does it even make sense to talk like that? Like how far is as far right as you can go from as far left as you can go? Like uh far is that the answer? God says he has removed your sins as far as the east is from the west. Just keeps going. Keeps going. Your sins have been removed from you. If you have faith in Christ Jesus, you are totally forgiven. That means Christians, the sins that you cannot stop beating yourself up over, God has promised to not remember because Christ came to bless the nations with forgiveness and imputed righteousness. And if your faith is in the Lord Jesus, the father sees you. Your standing is holy and blameless before him. that is your justified standing before the Lord. Hallelujah. Christ thirdly also came to bless the nations with the Holy Spirit. Not only repentance, turning from sin, not only forgiveness and imputed righteousness, but also to give the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:14, "In Christ Jesus, the blessing of Abraham comes to the Gentiles so that we might receive the promised spirit through faith." The blessing of Abraham comes to the Gentiles so that we might receive the promised spirit. that is the Holy Spirit. Through faith. 1 Peter 4:14 says, "You are blessed because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." You are blessed because the spirit and the glory of God rests upon you. The way I think most Christians live is, and if you are not a fan of this, you'll just have to forgive the metaphor and I'll explain it to you later. The way most Christians live is like in the Fellowship of the Ring by Tolkien. The way Frodo lives on his journey, uh, when he's at a specific place, his uncle gives him this little coat of arms, this little shirt that he's supposed to wear under his normal shirt, and he just thinks it is something to protect him. it is like little bitty pieces of chain mail. And it is this substance, come to find out, that is like the most glorious substance that exists in this entire world. And he said the he finds out that how much this little shirt is worth is more worth more than the entire country that it comes from. Like that wealth the wealth of this it is like taking the wealthiest thing in the world and making a shirt out of a million little bitty rings of it. And he does not realize that he's just wearing it under everything and has no idea. And then hears someone else talk about it. He's like, "Yeah, his uncle had this shirt and it is like the wealthiest thing that you could ever have." And he's just like, "Who?" Later he gets stabbed and it protects him from getting stabbed. Then he realizes the blessing that he's got. that is how most Christians live, I think, and do not realize the blessing of God the Holy Spirit that has been given to them. God the Holy Spirit is who helps you understand the Bible. When was the last time you read something and you are like just the simple thing it is like, I understand what God is saying. That happens all the time, does not it? There's probably plenty of times that you are like, I do not quite understand what God is saying, but if you

weigh them like, I understand far more than I am like, I am not quite sure what he means there. You know why? Because God, the Holy Spirit, is at work within you to illumine the scriptures and to help you understand what God is clearly saying, but he illumines it so that you say, "I see what God is saying." The Holy Spirit is who convicts you of sin. That is a blessing. What if your conscience was just so hard that you can sin and you do not care about it at all and you do not even acknowledge it at all. You can blow up at somebody and be angry with somebody and cut someone with your words and just have zero problem with it and do not even think maybe I should not have cut them.

You can look at pornography and not even think this is wrong or just be so callous that you do not feel guilt over it or do not feel shame or do not want to repent from it. You can steal and just not really feel remorse about it or feel that I've just broken the eighth commandment against my neighbor and against God. do not even think about it. do not even feel about it. But it is God, the Holy Spirit who convicts you of sin so that you know, hey, I should not have said that. Hey, I should not have done that. Hey, I should not have looked at that. That was wrong. Confess it to the Lord. turn from it. What a gift is conviction of sin so that we do not blindly keep walking in the mud disgracing our Lord, but we realize, hey, I need to confess that, turn from that, get back on the path and follow Christ. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives you spiritual gifts so that you can serve your brothers and sisters in Christ and be an encouragement to them to help build up the body of Christ. God the Holy Spirit is who produces fruit in you. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Those things come from you because that is what God the Holy Spirit is doing in you. The Holy Spirit has sealed you for the day of redemption. You believe on Christ today and you will tomorrow because the spirit has put his seal on you and is preserving you all the way to glory. You wouldn't make it one day without God the Holy Spirit.

He does not, his ministry is not just to make us excited and flamboyant and speak new words of prophecy or speak in gibberish or roll around on the floor. His ministry is to equip the saints so that we would build one another up so we'd be convicted of sin. We'd be convicted of the righteousness of Christ. We'd be convicted that Satan has been thrown down and Christ is going to win. We'd be fruitful in the fruit of the spirit. We'd be sealed. We would have assurance. Romans 5 says God the Holy Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts. Romans 8 says he gives us this assurance that we are sons of God. So any assurance that you have that I do belong to Jesus. The father has adopted me. that is God. The Holy Spirit is work within you. What a blessing it is to be given God the Holy Spirit that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles so that we might receive the promised spirit through faith. You can see why Peter says you are blessed because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. believers, especially reformed believers, you need to probably take more time to meditate upon and thank God for the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in your life. What a blessing God the Holy

Spirit is. do not take his work in your life for granted. Christ came to give that blessing. Fourthly, Christ came to bless the nations with the face of the Lord. Christ came to bless the nations with the face of the Lord that we would behold his face. Psalm 67:1 may God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. Say law. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. Say law. And the end of Revelation says, "They shall see his face and his name shall be upon their foreheads. You will see the face of the Lord." This is the beatific vision. This is the vision of God that you will get to see. And you cannot comprehend it and I cannot comprehend it. But when you see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face, you will be happier than you could ever imagine and it will never go away.

Christ came to bless the nations with that with the face of the Lord. Fifth, Christ came to bless the nations with belonging to Christ's visible kingdom. That they get to be brought out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Christ. That the nations would no longer be walking in idolatry, but having repentance granted, forgiveness, and imputed righteousness. The Holy Spirit, the face of the Lord, they're brought into the kingdom of Christ. Psalm 128:5, "The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life." Jerusalem is this metaphor for the church, the kingdom of Christ. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. The Lord bless you from Zion. Matthew 16:18, I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Do you believe that Christ meant that? Did he mean it? I think he meant it. I will build my church and nothing, not even the gates of hell, shall prevail against it. Hebrews 12:28-29 says, "Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. And thus let us offer to God acceptable worship with reverence and awe for our God is a consuming fire. If you belong to Christ, you are part of his visible kingdom, his mediatorial kingdom on the earth. And Christ came to bless the nations with that. Sixth, Christ came to bless the nations with spiritual blessings in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1 3-14 is the longest sentence in your Bible. Longest sentence in the Bible and it is all about the spiritual blessings that God gives through the Lord Jesus Christ to all of his people. believers, you have the blessing of election, of holiness and blamelessness, predestination, adoption, God's kindness, redemption from sin, forgiveness of sin, richly lavished grace, the revelation of the mystery of God's will, a heavenly inheritance, the Holy Spirit, security and assurance. You have all of these spiritual blessings in Christ. And Christ came to bless the nations with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Christ came seventh to bless the nations with providential provision with providing for us providentially. Psalm 107:38 by his blessing the redeemed multiply greatly and he does not let their livestock diminish. By his blessing, the redeemed multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish. Psalm 132:15, I will abundantly bless Zion's provisions. I will satisfy her poor with bread. The Lord has promised to bless the nations with providential provision. Eighth, Christ came to bless the nations with happiness, which comes from obedience to God's law.

Christ came to bless the nations with happiness, which comes from obedience to God's law. James 1:25, "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets, but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. He will be happy in his doing." James 1:25, the whole point is if you look into the perfect law of God and you obey, that produces happiness. Obedience is not the killjoy. Sin is the killjoy. The law of God is perfect. And when you and I live in accordance with God's law and persevere, being no hearer who forgets, but a doer who acts, you'll be happy. You'll be happy in your doing. Boys and girls, look up here at me. People will try to tell you that being very careful to obey all of God's commands will lead to a miserable life. Being very careful to obey God's law will lead to a miserable life. that is what people will try to tell you. Christians will even try to tell you things like that and they're wrong. If you want to be happy, conform your life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to the commands of God in the scripture. Obedience produces happiness. Disobedience to God's commands in the scripture produces unhappiness and shame. You want to be happy? Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for your salvation and conform your life to the standard of God's law. You will be blessed in your doing. Many Christians are miserable because they're trying to fight against the clear commands of God in the scripture and find loopholes to where they do not have to obey certain things and they live at variance with God's law. they will not be happy in it. God loves you too much to let you be happy and blessed when you are defying him. Boys and girls, obedience to God's law does not produce unhappiness. In fact, God says those he saves, he will cause them to be very careful to obey all of his commands in Ezekiel 36. Very careful to obey his commands. Obedience to God's perfect law produces happiness. And Christ came to bless the nations with that with happiness which comes from obedience to God's law. He changes us so that we desire to obey God's law. He empowers us by his spirit so that we walk in accordance with God's law. Though we all stumble in many ways. Ninth, Christ came to bless the nations with the marriage supper of the lamb. with the marriage supper of the lamb. Revelation 19:9. And the angel said to me, "Write this, blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the lamb." And he said to me, these are the true words of God. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Now, what is the marriage supper of the lamb? it is the Lord's supper. You may disagree. that is okay. you are wrong. The marriage supper of the lamb is the Lord's supper. Now, you may disagree and like some and say, "Well, the Lord's supper is like a foretaste of the marriage supper of the lamb." I am cool with that. You might believe that. that is fine. I am cool with that. Let's at least get on the it is a foretaste or it is. I think it is. The rest of Revelation 19 is not something that is future. it is something that is happening now. So the beginning of Revelation 19 and the marriage supper of the lamb like what kind of marriage supper of the lamb do we have? What kind do we have anything like that in our life? Yes. The Lord's supper. Regardless whether you think this is a foreshadowing of it or it is it I believe it is it. Blessed are those who are invited to it. the marriage supper of the

lamb wherein we come to the table and together as a local body affirming one another's profession of faith in covenant together commune with one another and with Christ at the table as we remember by physical token his body that was given for us. As we remember by physical token his blood that was shed for us as we drink the cup and take the bread. What a blessing to be invited to the marriage supper of the lamb. Christ came to bless the nations with that we would get to commune with Christ and with his people in particular churches every Lord's day. What a blessing that we get to proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. that we have this very sober time to remind us to examine ourselves as well to confess any unrepentant sin to turn from any unrepentant sin every bit of the Lord's supper of the marriage supper is a blessing and Christ came to give that to the nations 10th Christ came to bless the nations with eternal rest from toilsome labors revelation 14:13 I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them. They may rest from their labors." Believers, the sun is shining. The labor is before us. But one day we will have rest from all of our toilsome labors. We will have rest in Christ. And Christ came to bless the nations with that. Lastly, Christ came to bless the nations with the new heavens and the new earth. Not only blessings in this life, but in the eternal state wherein he will perfect the world. Rid it of all sin. Rid us of all sin. raise us up and we will reign with him forever and ever. Christ came to bless the nations with the new heavens and the new earth. Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. Psalm 37:22, "Those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off." Christ will bless all nations. The future of this world is Christian. By myself, I have sworn, declares the Lord. So, let me just end with this exhortation. two exhortations. You want your household to be blessed by God. You want your household to be blessed. Well, then lift up Christ constantly in your household. Point to Christ's law. Point to Christ's gospel. Point to his promises. Point to his promised provision for us. Always exalt Christ in your house through family worship. In the morning, at lunch, in the evening, all day. Exalt Christ. He's the nation blesser. You want your house to be blessed? Exalt Christ. Then make sure that you are actually obeying Christ. You want your house to be blessed, then obey the nation blesser. Obey him. You want your life to matter? Live by faith in God's promises. Labor for Christ's glory in all spheres of life. Diligent in your vocational duties, your duties, not someone else's, your duties. And be confident that Christ will bless all nations. And even use you to do it. If you want your household to be blessed, you want to be blessed, exalt Christ. Look to Christ, focus on Christ, and obey Christ. He's the nation blesser. All who believe in him will never be put to shame. We have great promises, beloved, march forward in faith, confident that the future is Christ's. Let's pray. Our Father, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us understand and apply it and live in light of these great promises. We thank you for all the blessings that you've given us in Christ through faith. We ask you to save

those who are not yet united to Jesus. Sanctify those of us who are. Purify your church. Receive all of these things that we do now for Christ's sake, for your glory. In his name, amen.