
EASTER SUNDAY SCHOOL COURSE

10:10-10:50AM, SUNDAYS IN SUMNERS HALL

You Will Be a Blessing

Finding Ourselves in the Bible's Story of God's Mission

Session Three: April 25, 2021



Revelation 21.22-26

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

When vision fails
Direction is lost.

When direction is lost
Purpose may be forgotten.

When purpose is forgotten
Emotion rules alone.

When emotion rules alone
Destruction... destruction.



OCTAVIA BUTLER

- The Parable of the Talents

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM / GENESIS 12.1-3

- Now 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. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves."

What is the church?

“The definition of church: a body of people sent on a mission.”

– David Bosch, South African Missiologist

THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

FROM THE ONE TO ALL; FROM THE PARTICULAR TO THE UNIVERSAL

“God identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jesus **in order to be** the God of all people and the Lord of all things. Moreover, in the narrative world of the Bible the people of God is also given its identity and movement from the particular to the universal, an identity whose God-given dynamic we commonly sum up in the word ‘mission.’”

- Richard Bauckham, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*, page 13

LESSLIE NEWBIGIN



"[God] might have chosen others. In the nature of the case, he must choose someone. In the mystery of his will, he has chosen us, the weak and foolish and insignificant. That ought to leave in us no room for pride, but equally it ought to leave no room for disobedience"

- A Faith for this One World



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- One Family – Blessing
 - One Nation – Holy
 - One Sacred Site – Light

MISSIONAL THEMES IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

EXODUS 19:3-6 – A HOLY NATION

Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

ISAIAH 49:5-6

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

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- One Family – Blessing
 - One Nation – Holy
 - One Temple – Light

MISSIONAL THEMES IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES