

Who Needs a Blessing?

God’s heart – blessing for all

Genesis 12:2-3 “I will bless you... so that you will be a blessing... and in your all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”

What does “blessing” mean, anyway?

Pastor Brian’s definition: A blessing is where God intervenes in a person’s life to bring his goodness to bear upon them and through them to others. Compare to what a curse is.

Jacob with Pharaoh!

Where do you come in?

Patterns and Prophecy

Jacob assumes the role of prophet

Genesis 49:1 “Then Jacob called his sons and said, ‘Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.’”

Jacob understands that his life is about something much bigger than him.

The switched blessing

Manasseh, the older, gets the lesser blessing than Ephraim, the younger. Why?

Genesis 25:23 – “The older shall serve the younger” – We’re coming full circle...

Patterns and prophecy throughout Jacob’s story¹ - God’s plan for Jews and Gentiles

1. There patterns are all throughout Genesis (Abraham with Isaac, Joseph’s story, etc.)
2. Manasseh and Ephraim
 - a. Manasseh represents Jews – “A people” (vs. 19)
 - b. Ephraim represents the Gentiles – “A multitude of nations” (vs. 19)
3. Esau and Jacob
 - a. Esau represents Jews – The one who was due the birthright and the blessing
 - b. Jacob represents Gentiles – The one who receives it despite his waywardness and sin
 - c. Gen 33 – The happiest reunion when the two are reunited is a picture of the ingrafting of the Jews at the end of time.
4. The Prodigal Son
 - a. The older son represents the Jews – law keeping and diligent
 - b. The prodigal represents the Gentiles – lawless and sinful
 - c. Notice Gen 33:4 and Luke 15:20
 - i. When Jacob comes home, “Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him.”
 - ii. “But while [the prodigal] was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion and ran and embraced him and kissed him.”
 - d. Jesus has Jacob in mind when he tells the famous parable.
 - e. The older brother is jealous, as Paul picks up on in Romans 11:11 “So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.”
5. Adam and Christ
 - a. Adam is the older son, and Christ the younger.
 - b. Christ is of course the firstborn, but he is also called “The Second Adam.”
 - c. The younger receives the blessing.

These are all pictures of the Gospel

Questions for Personal Study

1. How have you been blessed, that you might be a blessing to others?
2. How do you fit into God’s epic story?
3. Why do ancient prophecies strengthen a Christian’s faith?
4. BONUS – Tell pastor Brian how you’re going to bless someone next week. (brian@hopefellowship.com)

¹ Credit to Charles Jones who preached on this in 2011 – he inspired me to look for these connections