

Going: Understanding God's Heart for the Nations

When we look at the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we discover a major theme running throughout: God's redemptive plan for mankind. Many people approach Scripture looking for random promises, wisdom, or personal treasures. But we must not get distracted from the main purpose.

What Is God's Original Intention for His People?

In Genesis 12:1-3, we read God's words to Abraham:

"The Lord said to Abraham, 'Go from your country, your people, your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you. Whoever curses you, I will curse. And all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you.'"

This has always been God's intention - that through a group of people He calls His own, the world would be blessed. This is still why we exist as the church today. We have been blessed so that we can impact the nations of the world.

Who Is the Ultimate Blessing to the World?

Ultimately, Jesus is the one who has blessed the world. He came to His own creation, died on a cross so that we could have life, redemption, and know the King of Kings. That is the purpose God has created for every one of us.

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Praise be to God our Father and of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

The privilege we have is taking Jesus to the nations of the earth. That's why we exist. The church exists for what's outside these four walls. We are not just a community - we are a community on mission.

What Does It Mean to Be Chosen by God?

Ephesians 1:4 tells us, "He chose us before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

To be holy means to be set apart for the purposes of God. To be blameless means to be set apart for sacrifice - like the lambs without blemish in the Old Testament. God has called us to die to ourselves and no longer live for what benefits us, but to ask, "How can I be a blessing to the nations of the earth? How can I use what God has given me to impact people out there?"

Why Have We Received God's Blessings?

The pattern throughout Scripture is clear: we receive so that we can give. We've received salvation so we can bring salvation to others. We've received healing so we can reach out and heal. We've received mercy so we can give mercy.

Many people embrace a consumerist Christianity where they just keep receiving. But from the beginning, God's design was that we receive so we can go and impact others.

What Is Our Inheritance as Believers?

Ephesians 1:14 speaks of "a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession." What's fascinating is that our inheritance is wrapped up in Jesus' inheritance - and Jesus' inheritance is the nations.

Psalm 2:8 says, "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance." This was spoken to Jesus. The inheritance has already been paid for. Our job is to go to the world and make sure Jesus receives what He has already been given by the Father.

How Does John 3:16 Connect to Our Mission?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not die but have everlasting life."

When we unpack this verse, we see that God - the maker of heaven and earth - so loved (not tolerated) the world (not just our local church or city). We have the privilege of taking this message to the entire world.

Looking around, I see people from different walks of life, different nations, different backgrounds. Each of you can impact the world in ways others cannot. There are church planters in this room. There are huge calls on your lives.

What Is the Great Commission Calling Us To?

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

When you go, you grow. When you go, you see things you've never seen before - miracles that cannot be explained. The authority has already been given to Jesus, and when we go in His name, incredible things happen.

How do we make disciples? Not just by sitting in meetings, but by going and doing it. And the promise is that Jesus is with us to the very end of the age. I've experienced more of God's Spirit when I've been out doing His work than at any other time.

Life Application

My challenge to you is simple: Start the way you want to finish. Establish who God has called you to be and live accordingly. Don't fake it. Don't add on. Be who God has called you to be.

There's a difference between career and calling. Many focus on career, but our job is to do what God has called us to do, regardless of what others think or whether we get recognized.

Ask yourself these questions this week:

- Am I living with the understanding that I've been blessed to be a blessing?
- What specific ways is God calling me to "go" right now in my life?
- Am I building my life around my career or my calling?
- What would it look like for me to start living today the way I want to finish my life?

Remember, obedience is what matters. How do you know you're living in God's will? What was the last thing He told you to do? If you love Him, you'll obey Him. Be a person sold out to being obedient to Jesus, no matter what it costs.