

Theme: The basis of mission is God's desire for the nations, which is a driving concern throughout all Scripture.

I. Intro - Scott Harrison and charity:water

- A. Began promoting night clubs in college
- B. Lavish parties for MTV, VH1, Bacardi, and Elle; drugs
- C. Vacation in Uruguay led to crisis of conscience
- D. Now heads charity:water! Did God change like that?

II. God's Call To Abraham - And Us

A. God's covenantal promises to Abraham

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:1-3

- 1. Posterity - I will increase your numbers
- 2. Provision - I will bless you with all you need
- 3. Protection - I will guard and keep you
- 4. What more could be needed or desired??

B. The purpose for covenantal promises & blessings

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:1-3

- 1. Abraham is blessed - so he can be a blessing! (v2)
- 2. Not just for his family - all peoples on earth (v3)
- 3. Abraham is God's pipeline to bless others
- 4. Abraham must not hoard the blessings - he must pass them on

C. The ultimate blessing is the Gospel

- 1. Blessing is given to Abraham by grace not works
- 2. Abraham has done nothing to earn God's favor - his obedience will flow from these covenantal promises
- 3. Paul specifically tells us this is the Gospel!
The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Gal 3:8-9
 - a. God would bless the Gentiles - the nations - by faith
 - b. The Gospel is announced to Abraham
 - c. Paul quotes Genesis 12:3 - all nations blessed...
 - d. Those with faith blessed with Abraham who had faith
 - e. The primary blessing given to Abraham and us is the Gospel - and we are to be a channel of blessing to the nations
 - 1. Abraham was certainly given physical prosperity as well - but it was to enable him to bless others and to spread the faith, not live in luxury
 - 2. Believers today are given physical blessings, but these are given so that we might bless others and spread the Gospel to all nations.

III. God's Heart To Reach and Bless the Nations

A. God's call for Israel - and the Church, the new Israel

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Exodus 19:5-6

1. Israel is a priestly nation to the nations
2. She was to represent God & intercede for nations
3. Call repeated for the Church, the fulfillment of Israel
But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9
 - a. **Uses same titles as Exodus 19:5-6 LXX**
 - b. The reason - so that we may declare His praises!
 - c. Peter then shows how we do this in our land of exile
 - d. God's people are called as priests to declare God's praise and intercede for nations

B. God's promises to Israel's King - the Messiah

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. Psalms 2:8

he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." Isaiah 49:6

1. God promises the Davidic King/Messiah the nations
2. He will be Messiah of Jews and Gentiles!

C. The nations will flood to Yahweh!

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Micah 4:1-2

1. God will exalt His Temple and people will come
2. The nations will flood to Yahweh to be His people
3. This is happening in the Church today - we are His temple, and the nations are flooding in!

D. The New Testament shows the full flowering as the Gentiles come in and the church is sent forth on mission!

1. Jesus says He will bring in the Gentiles
I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:16
2. The OT spoke of this - and it is coming true
Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:45-47
3. The book of Revelation resounds with the vision of the nations gathering to God

And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.** Revelation 5:9

After this I looked and there before me was **a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.** They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9–10

4. Summary - God’s heart for the nations in all Scripture
 - a. It is in the Law as God’s call to Abraham and Israel
 - b. It is in the writings as God’s promise to Messiah and the longing of God’s people
 - c. It is in the Prophets as the vision of how Messiah will bring the nations to the worship of yahweh
 - d. In the Gospels Jesus sends the church on world wide mission. In Acts we see the mission unfold and the Gentiles gathered in.
 - e. In the Epistles we see letters to the burgeoning worldwide church, comprised of Jews and Gentiles from around the world.
 - f. In Revelation we see the vision of the full church, comprised of Jews and Gentiles from every nation, language and time, join in united worship to the God Who has loved and saved them from the dawn of time.

IV. The Mission: Applying the Word

- A. Do we see God’s heart for the nations in all Scripture?
 1. This is not a “New Testament” idea
 2. This is not restricted to a few bible passages
 3. The heart of God for us to bless the nations with the Gospel is a driving concern from Genesis to Revelation
 4. Do we really see that our God is on mission?
- B. Does my heart burn to be on mission with God?
 1. John Stott on Our Missionary God
“Now we are Abraham’s seed by faith, and the earth’s families will be blessed only if we go to them with the Gospel. That is God’s plain purpose. I pray that these words ‘all the families of the earth’ may be written on our hearts. It is this expression more than any other which reveals the living God of the Bible to be a missionary God...We need to become global Christians with a global vision, for we have a global God.” John Stott, *The Living God is A Missionary God, in Worldwide Perspectives*, 1-19.
 2. Does that describe my own heart and passion?
 3. Am I a global Christian on mission with God?
 - a. Are most of my prayers for me and my family - or God’s work here and around the globe?
 - b. Is my time restricted to my own affairs - or does it include time for God’s ongoing mission?
 - c. Do my finances show a passion for God’s mission - or just for my own needs and comfort?

C. The Table of Grace

1. We come to the Table of grace - the Gospel visible
2. Come to give thanks - we have received grace!
3. Come to receive grace & forgiveness for not being on mission
4. Come to receive grace to change us so we will begin to join God on mission
5. Come and cry to God to have mercy on the nations
6. How Sweet and Aweful Is the Place

The Basis For Mission: God's Heart for the Nations

Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:8-9

September 18, 2016

Communion

Psalm 67

Teaching keywords: Evangelism & missions; great commission; blessing

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, ² that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. ³ May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Psalms 67:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:1-3

The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:8-9

How sweet and awful is the place
With Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays
The choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs
Join to admire the feast,
Each of us cry, with thankful tongues,
"Lord, why was I a guest?"

"Why was I made to hear thy voice,
And enter while there's room,
When thousands make a wretched choice,
And rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast
That sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste,
And perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,
Constrain the earth to come;
Send thy victorious Word abroad,
And bring the strangers home.

We long to see thy churches full,
That all the chosen race
May, with one voice and heart and soul,
Sing thy redeeming grace.