

God's Plan of Blessings

Genesis 27:1-4, 27-29

Psalms 73:1-17

Ephesians 1:3-14



11 December 2022

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our goals
- What are we doing to pursue our goals?
 - Catechism Questions and Meditation
 - Scripture Memorization and Meditation

What Have we Learned in Previous Weeks?

- The planning and choosing God

Jacob Chosen to Receive the Blessing Genesis 27

- The promise of blessings through Abraham was part of the Everlasting plan established in Genesis 1:27-28, seen through the son of Abraham, Isaac and then Jacob chosen by God.
- V1 Most importantly, we see the unfolding of God's everlasting plan "It came to pass"
- Isaac's time was "almost up", showing that we are mortal beings but God is immortal. He is eternal, dwells in eternity and His plan is everlasting - 1 Timothy 6:16, Isaiah 57:15, Acts 15:18
- V2 God knows everything perfectly. Because He is All-knowing - Job 14:5, Psalms 139:16
- V3-4 Isaac passes the blessing to his son based on the Abrahamic covenant " you shall be a blessing" - Genesis 12:2-3
- V28 Heaven's dew, earth's richness, an abundance of grain and wine are part of the blessing - Zechariah 8:12-13
- V29 Nations to serve and bow before you, be lord over your brothers. Isaac proclaimed prophecies and fulfillments - Genesis 25:23, Genesis 42:6, Isaiah 60:14, Revelation 19:16

God Is the Source of All Blessings

- Every good and perfect gift comes from God - James 1:17
- God is the one who choose because man has no capacity to choose, it is based on His sovereign will - 1 Samuel 16:7, Romans 9:10-13

- God's sovereign choice to bless is not necessarily through the firstborns - Deuteronomy 21:17
 - According to Isaac, Esau his **firstborn** did not receive the blessing, instead, JACOB received the blessing.
 - Abraham's **firstborn**, Ishmael, did not receive the blessing. instead, ISAAC, the son born through Sarah received the blessing - Genesis 25:11
 - Jacob's **firstborn** son, Reuben, did not receive the blessing. instead, JOSEPH received the blessing Genesis 49:26
 - Joseph's **firstborn** son, Manasseh, did not receive the blessing. instead, EPHRAIM received the blessing from the hand of Jacob - Genesis 48:17-19
- Balaam was paid by Balak to curse the people of God, but he said, "Behold, I have received a command to bless; GOD HAS BLESSED, and I cannot reverse it. **Whom God has blessed, no one can curse** - Numbers 23:19-20

What does It Mean to Be Blessed?

- God's blessing refers to God's doing above and beyond what human effort can produce or expect. It is experiencing God's divine kindness, mercy, or goodness. IT IS GRACE
- World's "blessings" promise and focus on happiness but deliver emptiness and pain - Psalms 73:3-12
- God's blessing is so much more because it entails not only the physical but also spiritual blessings -
- Physical blessings (prosperity, posterity, and success) should not only be considered as a sign of God's blessing **necessarily** - 2 Cor 8:9
- The greatest blessing in life is to know God Himself. Jesus said this in His prayer to the Father, "This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom, you have sent" - John 17:5
- You are blessed because you are/being saved from your sin. It's worth letting that word sink in-saved! Psalms 32:1-2
 - ★ Blessed life according to the word of God - Matthew 5:3-12, Psalms 65:4
 - ★ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - ★ Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 - ★ Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
 - ★ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 - ★ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

- ★ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- ★ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- ★ Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ★ Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account
- We don't deserve the blessings that God has given to us or manifested in us revealing that:-
 - He is gracious - Exodus 33:19
 - It is all dependent on Him - Colossians 1:17
 - It is for His own glory - 2 Peter 1:3

Christ Jesus Is the Blessing Ephesians 1:3-14

- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order **that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus...**" - Galatians 3:13-14
- It is only through Jesus Christ that God the Father gave us the right to be His children (John 1:12) because He:-
 - ☆ **Chose us** (v.4). We all should be overwhelmed with gratitude that God wants us to be His children. He wants us to be like His only begotten Son-holy and blameless, living our lives before Him in love.
 - ☆ **Adopted us** (v.5). Paul reminded the believers that God's eternal plan of salvation involved adopting us as His children through Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of His will.
 - ☆ **Accepted us** (v.6). God accepts believers unconditionally because we are in the Beloved.
 - ☆ **Redeemed us** (v.7). Salvation became possible through Christ's blood.
 - ☆ **Abounded grace to us** (vv.7-8). Paul described the "glory of His grace" and the "riches of His grace." God did not offer us a sample of grace to see if we would like it. In His wisdom and mercy, He poured out His grace.
 - ☆ **Included us in His inheritance** (v.11). God gives us a full inheritance in Christ Jesus for His own glory
 - ☆ **Sealed us with His Spirit** (vv.13-14). God's Spirit in-dwells believers to confirm that we are God's children.

Acceptable Response Because of His Blessings

Therefore,

- Give thanks for your blessings. His blessings should bring us into thanksgiving - Psalms 100:3-5
- Praise God, praise His holy name. His blessings ought to make us offer our praises to Him - Psalm 67:5-7
- If God is the source of blessings, we are to be a blessing to others in order to reach the world for Him. We are to be a channel of His blessings - Luke 6:28, Acts 20:35, Hebrews 13:16
- Trust in the Lord - Jeremiah 17:7, Job 1:21, Psalms 73:28
- Read, hear and keep God's word - Psalms 1, Revelation 1:1-3