

Blessing to the Nations

Genesis 12:1-3

Pastor Dave Bennett

Introduction – Blessed to be a blessing

We believe that God wants people from every nation, every people group and every social condition to know and embrace the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that all followers of Jesus have an obligation to take their part in making disciples of all nations, including faithful prayer, giving and sending people and resources, especially to those places where vibrant churches are not yet established.

- The Statue of Liberty – a symbol of sharing America's blessings
 - Two kinds of nations
 - God's promises to Abraham
 - God's heart for the nationsMatthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

What does a **blessed** nation look like?

Deuteronomy 28: 1-13; Psalm 144:12-15

What does a **cursed** nation look like?

Deuteronomy 28:65-67; 30:15-20

How could Israel be a blessing to other nations?

- A. People from other nations coming to Israel for blessings Micah 4:2; Zechariah 8:22; Leviticus 19:34
- B. People from Israel taking the blessing out
Psalm 96:3; Isaiah 12:4

IV. What kept the blessing flowing into the nation of Israel?

- A. The grace of God
Deuteronomy 8:17,18; I Chronicles 29:14,16
- B. The continuing faith and obedience of the people
II Chronicles 7:14

V. What keeps the blessing flowing to the nations?

- A. The willingness to welcome strangers
- B. The willingness to take the message beyond its borders

VI. Implications for Us

- A. Within our borders
- B. Beyond our borders
 - 1. Praying
 - 2. Giving
 - 3. Sending
 - 4. Going

Daily Bible Readings

July 6-12

Follow-Throughs

Monday Deuteronomy 28:1-14

What are the blessings that God promised to Israel if they would follow God's commands? What are some contemporary equivalents of these blessings? In what ways have we experienced God's blessings in America? Give thanks to the Lord for his grace toward our country.

Tuesday Deuteronomy 28:15 -68

What disasters would befall Israel if they turned away from God's commands? In what ways are God's commands being violated in our nation today? Pray for the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, for spiritual awakening in our country, and for a broad-based calling out to God for mercy.

Wednesday Deuteronomy 30:1-10

In these verses Moses encourages the people that even after suffering God's punishments for their disobedience, they can experience a fresh start if they will return to the Lord with all their heart. Is there any area in which you need to make a fresh start with God today? Pray for revival in our country— a nationwide fresh start!

Thursday Leviticus 19:33,34; Deuteronomy 10:18,19; 24:19-21

How did God want his people to treat those who came to Israel from other nations? How many years or generations ago did your own family come to this country? Ask the Lord for an opportunity today to show kindness to someone from another country.

Friday II Chronicles 6:32-33

Solomon anticipated the day when even foreigners would come to the temple in Jerusalem to seek the God of Israel and to pray. Who are some of the foreign-born people you know in your community, at your workplace, in the places you do business, or among your friends or extended family? Pray that their hearts would begin to hunger for God, and that you would have an opportunity to introduce them to the good news of Jesus.

Saturday Micah 4:1-5

What promises does the prophet make concerning the nation of Israel, and concerning the other nations? Ask the Lord to open ways for those who come to our country to learn about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for the salvation of someone you know who has come to America from another country?

Sunday Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-4; 14:26-28

What evidence do you see in the Antioch church of a heart for outreach— both local and regional/global, and evangelistic and as well as service-oriented? Pray for the outreach impact of our congregation.