

Blessings and responsibilities, Part I

by Jeff Lewis

Week five

During this, the second section of God's Heart for the Nations, we will investigate two dominant themes in the Bible. Rooted in Genesis 1:28, these themes are developed throughout the Scriptures.

Two basic themes are stated in this verse: First, God desires to bless His creation (blessing). Second, in the context of blessing, we discover God's purpose and man's responsibility (purpose and responsibility). Before we move on, let's summarize what happened in the introduction of Scripture.

God creates the heavens and the earth and all living things including the crown of His creation, Adam and Eve. They sin and lose fellowship with God, resulting in the need for a blood sacrifice. This reveals that the shedding of blood is necessary for the covering of sin. Mankind continues to multiply, continuing to rebel against God. God becomes so grieved that He had to judge man through the flood. God's redemptive character is revealed as He delivers Noah's family from the flood. People then decide to build a great tower that they might not be "scattered abroad over the face of the earth." Consequently, God confuses their languages and "scatters them over the face of the whole earth." This is the backdrop from which God calls Abram to leave his country and declares His covenant to him. Read Genesis 9:1.

Read Genesis 12:1-3. List the phrases that relate to the theme of blessing.

Have a good week! And remember, we are blessed to be a blessing.