

Blessings and responsibilities, Part II

by Jeff Lewis

Week seven

God continually confirmed His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the restatements of the covenant God clarified the theme of blessing and purpose/responsibility. Read the following verses, and write down your reflections. Notice how the analogies are used to communicate Israel's role in God's global purpose.

- Genesis 22:15-18
- Genesis 26:3-5
- Genesis 28:14

As we journey through the Scripture we will discover the parallel nature of the two themes of blessing and God's purpose and man's responsibility. The danger is failing to keep these two themes in their parallel tension. Our tendency is to see God's blessings disconnected from His purpose. That perspective will create an egocentric faith.

To see this point, answer the following questions:

1. Why did God part the Red Sea? (Exodus 14:5-31)
2. Why did God give Solomon wisdom? (I Kings 3:1-15)
3. Why did God deliver Daniel from the lion's den? (Daniel 6)
4. Finish the following verse from memory. "Be still and know ..." (Psalm 46:10)

Reflect on your answers and determine which of the two themes your answers relates to. Put a "B" next to the answers that relate to the theme of blessing and a "P" next to the answers that relate to God's purpose.

Which theme did your answers most relate to?

Meditation: Write down what God has been teaching you through your meditation on Genesis 12:1-3.