

INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 24:46-47 each word = door to OT - v44. *Thus it is written* = context of the phrase *to all the nations*.
2. Our privilege & responsibility - worship & witness.
3. Last study: sons of Ab & Gn 11 - *the nations*; tower of Babel

1st: God Promised to Bless the Nations Through Abraham

1. Promise to bless nations given three times to Ab
 - i. Gn 12:1-3 *bless* [5x] Last time God *blessed*? Gn 1:28.
 - ii. Gn 18:18 - judge Sodom - bless nations
 - iii. Gn 22:18 Isaac rises from dead [type]: bless nations
2. Repeated to Isaac & Jacob
 - i. Gn 26:4-5 - Isaac at peace w/ Abimelech - *blessed of the Lord* [v29]
 - ii. Gn 28:14 - Jacob's ladder - Ab's blessing of the nations
3. Recall vocab of Gn 1:26-28 *be fruitful & multiply* - now given redemptive significance. What does *be fruitful & multiply* mean in a Gn 3 world of death & a Gn 11 world of idolatrous rebellion?
 - i. God fulfills original purposes for creation thru promises given to Ab.
 - ii. Ab's seed = family of Isaacs - children of promise
 - iii. Ab's land = *a better country, that is, a heavenly one* [Hb 11:16]
 - iv. Ab's *blessing* is life lived w/ Lord - Gn 17:1-8

2nd: Be Blessed and Bless - Gn 12:1-3

1. Structure of vss = 2 imperatives to Ab supported by promises.
 - i. 2 commands: v1 *go forth* & v2d *be a blessing* = be a blessing
 - ii. v2a,b,c = promises & v3b,c = promises. v3b = protection
 - iii. See continued enmity of the 2 seeds of Gn 3:15

2. v4a Ab goes forth to be blessed & to bless

3rd: Be Blessed

1. Ab's blessing: 1] land; 2] seed; 3] Lord as God. *Blessing* - life [Gn 1:28]. 2 kinds of life - physical [this age] & eschatological [age to come]
 - i. This age - physical lineage: Israel [Ishmael *blessed* 17:20 - 25:12].
 - ii. Age to come - land & seed pictures resurrection life - *blessing*.
 - a. Melchizedek - Gn 14:18-20 Heb 7 - Mel = picture of Jesus
 - b. Heb 11 Ab looked for eschat'al, heavenly land in age to come
 - c. Heb 11 - Isaac type of res. Circum - dual purpose - [Dt 30:4-6]
2. Gn 22:16-18 *it will be provided* or "seen" [Jn 8:56] Hb 11:17-19
 - i. Gn 22:16-18 Ab acts like his friend [Jms 2:23]: portrays gospel.
 - ii. Nations blessed b/c Ab *obeyed My voice*

4th: Bless Those Babylonians

1. Arrogant tower builders - Gn 11:4. 1] make name for self & 2] not *fill the earth* [Dominion Mandate] - not be scattered over *the whole earth*
2. Lord's call to Ab directly counters these 2 expressions of Babylonian sin.
 - i. 12:2 - *I will make your name great*.
 - ii. 12:3 - *all families of the earth will be blessed*. Gn 11:1; v4; v8; v9

5th: The Blessing of Abraham is Offered to You

1. Are you a Babylonian?
2. Here is a word of blessing from your Creator - blessing of Ab - Gal 3:9-14
 - i. Blessed w/ *Ab the believer* [v9]: gospel according to Ab: justification by grace alone, thru faith alone, in Christ alone.
 - ii. What is Ab's blessing given to us in this church-age? v14 *the Holy Spirit* - initial down-payment of eternal inheritance. How blessed are the sons of Ab!