



# WORLD SERVICE INGATHERING MISSIONS MOMENT

APRIL 2021

From the moment God called Abraham to be set apart as His holy nation, God called him and his descendants to be a blessing to all nations. We hear God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3

**1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.**

**2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;**

**I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.**

**3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."**

This isn't really a statement of fact, but rather a command. The original Hebrew text for verse 2 uses the command form, "BE a blessing!". Along with God's promises to Abraham, He clearly communicates that Abraham and his descendants were to BE a blessing, that ALL peoples on earth were to be blessed through Abraham.

Because of Jesus, we are counted as spiritual descendants of Abraham, as God's chosen people. Therefore, like Abraham, our calling from God includes the command to be a blessing to all nations. Continuing throughout both the Old and New Testament, we see God's story always including "the nations", in other words anyone outside of the Jewish faith.

*Please read the following verses to the congregation:*

David's Psalm of Thanks recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:23-24 includes a challenge.

Isaiah, in chapter 56 verses 6 and 7, promises that God will have followers from all nations.

In Acts 11:25-30, the disciples set the example in caring for fellow believers in need.

And in Philippians 4:14-19, Paul commends the church for remembering that an offering for others is an offering to the Lord.

Jesus himself is the fulfillment of this promise, that all peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham's descendants. Our part in this story is to be reflectors of Jesus love to all our neighbors, both near and far.

As we enter worship this morning, let's invite Jesus not just to be present in our midst, but that His love and light would fill our hearts so we may join our partners around the world to faithfully reflect Jesus in our thoughts, words and actions. May Jesus Christ be praised.

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