

AS I GO 25.10.2020am

Abraham, as father to missions, was promised descendants as many as the stars of the sky in multitude, innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. Hebrews 11:13. Jesus came to claim His inheritance – from all people groups under the sun: - ‘Missions’ – God’s heart for a great sea of people, the multitude. We are all called to be part of mission to the lost and the promise of God is that one day we will all be together, under Him. This call: calling, is not only local, but to ‘Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.’ To fulfil the call to missions, we need a mission’s mind as we are all on a missions journey. Missions is not an attached ministry to the Church but the heartbeat of God and our corporate primary call – to attend to the heart of God by attending to the ‘peoples’ within our own relationships: in Church, our streets, workplaces, schools, shops, parks – attending to those in our path.

1. Blessed to be a blessing.

God’s plan of salvation for the nations came through Abraham who would be a blessing to all nations. God changed his name from Abram (Father) to Abraham (Father of many (refers to ‘all’ nations). Genesis 17:5. We, the Church, are Abraham’s offspring and therefore blessed to bless. Genesis 12:3 – through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Revelation 7:9 ‘After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

The role of Israel was as first born of the nations. Exodus 4:22; not the whole to come in, but first fruits, the first to come in, Jeremiah 2:3. The Church is now the special children of Abraham, redeemed by Jesus to bring the message to all nations.

2. God blessed Abraham and his tribe for purpose. Blessed (vertically) to bless (horizontally) every tribe and nation.

See Abraham, Genesis 12:3; to Isaac Genesis 26:4; to Jacob Genesis 28:14. Psalm 67:1-2: ‘God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, Selah. That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among the nations.’ Blessing comes for a reason – to be given away; freely we have received salvation, freely we give the message. See Galatians 3:7-9.

As I go on my missionary journey, what am I doing with the blessing God has given?

3. God’s blessing to the nations through Abraham’s seed comes through the work Jesus accomplished – through His death and resurrection – sins forgiven, sickness healed, creation restored..... riches brought to us through the Cross – so much greater than any worldly treasure.

4. Bringing God’s blessing to the nations means bringing not only salvation, but to make disciples. Matthew 28:18-20.

As I go on my missionary journey – I can disciple those I am in relationship with – through the words I speak, the prayers I pray, the things I do.

See Matthew 24:14. The end of the age is connected directly with the nations hearing the gospel – nations – to the ends of the earth. God’s timetable is related to this task. Approximately 9,600 different ethnic groups are reached with the gospel; there may be as many as 7,000 remaining –

with no vibrant church ... we are also called to the edges, the hard places; our passions aligned with Jesus' passions, heart – for all nations.

As I go; am I fulfilling God's promise to Abraham?

As I go:

1. I understand God's plan for all nations to be blessed.
2. I understand I am blessed to be a blessing.
3. I understand the blessing is rooted in what Jesus did – to share this message.
4. I bring the blessing not only of evangelism but of discipleship – to read and to pray with fellow believers requires intentionality – purpose to connect with Jesus' command

Two questions of eternal importance for every person:

- A. I must ask myself – have I made my peace with God; have I given my life to Jesus Christ; have I received the blessing?
- B. Am I ready to bring His blessing – to walk out my missionary journey? Am I ready to go where He is calling?