

Bless them that bless you, Curse him that curse you

GENESIS 12 VERSE 3

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

INFORMATION

The Bible contains thousands of God's promises. The above passage is just one of these promises. It is tied to a covenant that God made with Abraham. This is an often quoted promise and for good reason; it is unconditional. This promise still stands and will stand into eternity. Abraham is long dead but his descendants, the Israelites, remain till this day. Through Abraham's descendants this promise remains in effect. Through other passages in the Bible we see how God deals with individuals and nations that attempt to destroy and hamper this promise. Here, we see that God is always faithful.

With this promise God declared that Abraham and his descendants will be blessed. The world has ignored this promise. If we survey the Bible (and history), we find, instead, many nations and individuals that have chosen to curse Israel. Nations such as Babylon, the Philistines and the Amorites, and individuals such as Haman all tried to curse God's people; they were all destroyed. We also see that nations that blessed Israel were also blessed. Even Egypt, a nation that did enslave Israel, is remembered favorably by God (Isaiah 19). This may be because Egypt initially welcomed Jacob and his twelve sons and their families and provided them with land and provisions for many years. (Deuteronomy 23)

THERE IS MORE! Did you know that Christians are also considered children of Abraham? We have been grafted into the family of Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 11). This promise applies to Christians too! God certainly knew the extent of his promise when he made it but it is difficult to imagine that Abraham truly appreciated the scope of God's promise.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

There are quite a few lessons we can learn from this promise and we can't cover them all here. Clearly, we should pray for peace in Jerusalem and bless Israel through our giving and through our prayers. We should also bless other Christians as well by doing the same. Watch and see how God fulfills this promise, we can see it in our world today. Beyond this, we should not be ashamed to ask God to remember his promise. Are we blessing God's people through our lives? If so, we can pray to God and pray for remembrance of this promise. God is faithful.

Relevant Passages

1 Samuel 15:1-3

Samuel also said unto Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the Lord. 2 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. 3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

Psalms 83:16-18

Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O Lord. 17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth.

Isaiah 60:9-12

Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. 10 And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. 11 Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. 12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.