

The Biblical Storyline of God’s Blessing

The key words of this blessing trace the entire development of the blessing through Israel’s Scriptures, so that the entire story focuses on the messianic realization of the blessing promised to humanity. God’s universal blessing and commission of the humans (Gen 1) is forfeited through rebellion, so Abraham and his “seed” now bear the responsibility of covenant faithfulness as the family through which God will restore his blessing. Israel itself experiences God’s blessing (Exod 1) and is commissioned to represent God’s holiness to the nations. As the nations fail, the seed of David is commissioned as the next carrier of that blessing (2 Sam 7), so that the original plan of God’s blessing for the nations can be fulfilled (Psalm 72). This narrative arc is the core significance of Jesus’ “incorporative messiah-ship.” “In Christ” people are invited to discover their identity as the new humanity in the family of Abraham. What is true of him is now true of them.

Humanity	<p>Gen. 1:28 God <u>blessed</u> them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”</p>
Abraham	<p>Gen. 12:1-3 ¶ The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will <u>bless</u> you; I will make your name great, and you will be a <u>blessing</u>. I will bless those who <u>bless</u> you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and <u>all peoples on earth</u> will be <u>blessed through you</u>.”</p> <p>Gen. 22:17-18 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and <u>through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed</u>, because you have obeyed me.”</p>
Israel	<p>Exodus 1:1, 7 These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household:... But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.</p>

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<p>David's Messianic Line</p>	<p>2Sam. 7:12-14 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.</p> <p>2Sam. 7:29 Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."</p>
	<p>Psa. 72:17 May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.</p>
<p>The Risen Jesus and the Spirit</p>	<p><i>The risen Jesus + exaltation to rule Heaven and Earth + the gift of the Spirit + God's blessing through Abraham to the nations</i></p> <p>Acts 2:14-36 Acts 3:12-26</p>