

# Genesis 12:1-3

THE CALL AND THE TRUE  
NATURE OF BLESSING



# GENESIS 12:1–3 — THE CALL AND THE TRUE NATURE OF BLESSING

- 12:1 — Separation before blessing
- 12:2 — God defines blessing (identity, empowerment, purpose)
- 12:3 — Blessing flows outward and carries covenant weight

# How God often works.

- God does not fix Babel—He calls Abram out of it.
- This is how God works:  
He doesn't reform broken systems—He calls people out of them.
- Abram is not chosen because he is great—he is chosen because he responds.
- God is not adding blessing to Abram's old life—He is replacing the foundation of it.
- Will you leave the identity men build for you so God can form the identity He promises you?

# Blessing?

- Do you want God's blessing for comfort—or are you willing to carry it for His purpose?

# GENESIS 12:1

- לך-לך— (LEK leh-KHA)  
Meaning: “Go yourself” / “Go for yourself”
- it is not just “go,” it is “go for yourself,” meaning God is calling Abram into something that will redefine him.
- BUT Notice what God removes first: country, family, father’s house.
- That is system, influence, and identity.
- Before God builds anything in Abram, He strips away what previously defined him.

# This is a consistent biblical pattern

- This does not mean that God will strip everything away first
- He redefines identity first, then removes what conflicts with it.
- It's not destruction—it's preparation
- You can't carry a new calling while anchored to an old identity.
- God didn't remove everything:
- Abram still had wealth, skills, leadership ability
- What remained was **repurposed**, not discarded

# This still applies today

- But not the same way every time.
- Think of Ephesians 4:22–24 — “put off... be renewed... put on”
- Put off (old identity)
- Renew (mind)
- Put on (new identity)
- Some of us are still holding on to things in the past that God said leave behind.

# Why is this important?

- God disrupts false foundations
- You cant build on the old weak foundations.
- God preserves what aligns
- God will still use thing from your past as long as they Alien with His purpose.
- God rebuilds on truth.
- I once was... but now I am....

## GENESIS 12:2–3

- בָּרַךְ (bah-RAHK) → to bless, empower
- God promises identity—He does not let Abram build it.
- He does it. He empowers Abram
- The word *barakh* shows that blessing is not just provision—it is empowerment for purpose
- When God calls us, He will bless us or Empower us for the calling.

# Barakh

- ב(Bet) — *House / family / inside*
- ר(Resh) — *Head / person / authority*
- כ(Kaf) — *Palm / hand / to cover / to open*
- When combined, a strong conceptual reading is:
  - **“The hand (kaf) of authority/person (resh) working within the house (bet)”**
  - Also reads “The open hand of God bringing provision and favor into the household”
  - Lets look at the root of the word.
- The root idea of **barakh** is not just “speaking good words.”
- **Kneeling** (submission, receiving position)
- **Giving / bestowing** (from a greater to a lesser)
- So pictographically, you get a powerful picture:
  - **An open hand extended from authority into your life—something given, not earned.**

# Genesis 12:2 — “I will bless you...”

- This is not:
- Positive thinking
- General favor
- This is:  
**God extending His hand into Abram’s life to establish something that could not exist naturally**
- The same root **barakh** (bless) is closely tied to **berek** בָּרַךְ *kneel*
- To **ble**ss and to **kneel** share the same root concept
- Blessing is both:
  - **Given by God**
  - **Received in humility**

# Blessing

- **What “blessing” is not**
- When people say:
- “That blessed me” = *that made me happy / I liked it*
- That reduces blessing to:
- emotion
- comfort
- preference
- That is **not the primary biblical meaning** of blessing.

# What “blessing” actually is (biblically)

- The Hebrew idea behind blessing ( בָּרַךְ / *barakh*) is:
- something **given by God**
- something that **empowers, establishes, or aligns**
- something that often has **purpose attached**
- It can include joy—but **joy is the byproduct, not the definition.**

# Biblical tension

- Look at Genesis 12:
- God says:
- “I will bless you”
- But what immediately follows?
- leaving home
- uncertainty
- testing
- That doesn't look like “comfort”  
But it **is blessing**, because it is **God's hand establishing His purpose**

# What about let me bless you with

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- **Casual / modern use (common)**
- “Let me bless you with \_\_\_\_” =
- give you something
- do something nice
- share something they think you’ll like
- Example:
- “Let me bless you with lunch”
- “Let me bless you with this tool”
- **Issue:**  
This reduces “blessing” to **a nice gesture or gift**
- Not wrong in intent—but **shallow in meaning**

# Biblical pattern (stronger meaning)

- In Scripture, blessing is tied to:
- **authority or stewardship**
- **alignment with God's will**
- **something imparted that has purpose**
- Examples:
- Parents blessing children
- Leaders speaking over people
- God blessing Abram (Genesis 12)

- Cross reference:
- Numbers 6:24–26 — priestly blessing
- That's not:
- “Here's something nice”
- That is:
- **speaking and establishing something under God's authority**
- Giving ≠ Blessing

# When the phrase is appropriate

- “Let me bless you with \_\_\_\_\_” is **closer to a biblical blessing** when:
  - it genuinely helps align someone with God’s purpose
  - it meets a real need
  - it’s done as stewardship, not ego
  - Example:
    - helping someone in need
    - providing something that strengthens their walk
    - speaking truth that builds them up

# How you can bless someone.

- You do not create blessing.
- You pronounce, steward, and align people under God's blessing.
- God establishes blessing; leaders **speaking it in alignment with Him.**
- Numbers 6:23–27 — priests are told *“you shall bless... and I will bless them”*
- Ephesians 1:3 — God is the source of every spiritual blessing

# How to...

- **Speak God's truth over people**
- Not personal wishes— BUT biblical alignment
- Examples:
  - Their identity in Christ
  - Their calling and purpose
  - Giving encouragement rooted in Scripture

# Pray in alignment with God's will

- We do not declaring outcomes—we are **submitting people to God's hand**
- Example:
- Your protection
- Your growth
- Your obedience
- Your endurance

# Lead them into obedience (this is often missed)

- In Scripture, blessing is tied to:
- walking with God
- Coming into God's alignment
- Deuteronomy 28 — blessing connected to obedience
- **So part of blessing people is:**
- correcting them
- warning them
- directing them
- Not just encouraging them

# Take Note What Blessing is NOT

- “I declare you will be successful”
- “I speak prosperity over you”
- emotional hype or vague positivity
- That shifts authority from God → man
- A pastor, parent, husband, or believer may speak blessing, pray blessing, and encourage someone in God’s purposes—but they are not the source of blessing.
- **Where prosperity teaching twists it**
- Prosperity-style “blessing” often becomes:
- “I release wealth over you”
- “Sow this seed and unlock your blessing”
- “Receive your breakthrough now”
- “I declare increase over your business, body, and bank account”
- That shifts blessing from **God’s sovereign hand to a man’s claimed spiritual power.**

- Biblical blessing is not spiritual currency controlled by a prophet or evangelist.
- They do not “activate” God’s favor by declaring it over you.
- You must ask:
  - Is it rooted in Scripture or personality?
  - Does it point to Christ or the speaker?
  - Does it call people to obedience or just promises comfort?
  - Is money attached to receiving the blessing?
  - Does it redefine blessing as health, wealth, and success?
  - If money is tied to receiving the blessing, that is a major red flag.

# What about James 5?

- “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him...”
- **God uses leadership as a channel**
- Elders are:
  - recognized
  - accountable
  - spiritually mature
- So there is **weight and intentionality** when they pray.
- Not because they have more “power,” but because they are **functioning in their role.**

# It is relational and covenantal, not mechanical

- Notice:
- “call for the elders”
- this is within the church body
- This is not:
- chasing a “special anointing”
- finding a famous speaker
- This is:
- **shepherds caring for their people**

# Faith is still directed toward God

- James emphasizes:
- “the prayer of faith will save the sick”
- “the Lord will raise him up”
- Not:
- the elder’s ability
- the elder’s authority alone

# When elders pray over someone:

- they are **standing in agreement**
- they are **applying Scripture**
- they are **interceding with responsibility**
- they are **shepherding the person under God**
- **Why it matters**
- There is something real about:
  - order
  - authority structure
  - spiritual covering
- Cross reference:
  - Hebrews 13:17 — leaders watch over souls

# Biblical language and roles

- Hebrews 13:17 — leaders “watch over your souls” and will give account
- 1 Peter 5:2–3 — shepherd the flock “not domineering... but being examples”
- Ephesians 4:11–12 — pastors equip the saints
- 1 Corinthians 11:3 — Christ is the head
- **Terms used in the New Testament:** shepherding, oversight, guarding, equipping—is a technical office.

# What “covering” for the Pastor really means

- **Oversight:** watching, guiding, correcting
- **Protection:** guarding doctrine and the flock
- **Care:** prayer, counsel, discipline when needed
- **Accountability:** leaders answer to God for how they shepherd
- **This is relational and responsibility-based, not power-based.**

# A pastor “covers” rightly when he:

- teaches sound doctrine and corrects error
- prays for and with the people
- warns, exhorts, and comforts from Scripture
- lives as an example
- equips people to stand on their own in Christ

# Parents

- A parent has a real, God-given role to bless their child—but it is still stewardship, not source.
- Parental blessing carries **weight of relationship + authority + identity shaping**
- **Identity formation**
- A parent speaks into:
  - who the child is
  - how they see themselves
- This is powerful because:
  - children receive identity before they evaluate it

# Relational authority

- A pastor speaks over many  
A parent speaks into **one life deeply and repeatedly**
- That repetition builds:
  - belief
  - confidence
  - direction

# Ongoing influence

- This is not a one-time event
- Biblically and practically, blessing happens:
- daily
- through words, tone, and consistency

# What a parent's blessing should include

- **Identity (who they are)**
- “You are loved”
- “You are called”
- “You are capable because God is with you”
- **Direction (how to live)**
- truth
- correction
- standards
- This is critical:
- **Correction is part of blessing, not separate from it**

- **Alignment with God**

- pointing them to God as the source
- not making the parent the center

- **What it is NOT**

- Parental blessing is not:
  - flattery
  - empty affirmation
  - “you can be anything” without truth
  - ignoring sin or bad behavior
  - That creates confusion, not blessing

- **Practical examples**

- “God made you with purpose—I see strength in you, and we’re going to grow that.”
- “You made a wrong choice, but that’s not who you are—we’re going to correct it.”
- “I’m proud of how you handled that—that reflects character.”

# So can you bless someone?

- You are not a Levitical priest—but in Christ:
- 1 Peter 2:9 — believers are a “royal priesthood”
- You are not replacing the Old Testament system
- You are functioning as a shepherd who speaks God’s Word over people
- **Speak it as Scripture, not personal authority**
- You are not saying:
  - “I personally grant this”
- You are saying:
  - **“This is what God has spoken—I am placing it over you”**

# Keep it aligned, not mystical

- Avoid turning it into:
  - a ritual formula
  - something that “works automatically”
- It is:
  - a declaration of God’s character and promise
  - Let it function as covering and sending
  - “The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.”

# Practical examples you can use

- “May the Lord strengthen you to walk in what He’s calling you to do.”
- “May God establish His truth in you and lead you clearly.”
- “May you remain faithful and see God’s hand in this season.”

# Genesis 12:3

- The direct promise is to Abram and the covenant line that comes through him.
- That includes:
  - Abram personally
  - The covenant family/nation that comes from Abram
  - Ultimately Messiah, because “all the families of the earth” are blessed through Christ (Goes back to vers 2!)
- Genesis 12:3 does **not** mean:
  - “Whatever the modern state of Israel does, Christians must automatically support it without question.”
  - That is too shallow.

# What we should do

- We should bless what God has blessed, honor His covenant faithfulness to Israel, reject antisemitism, pray for Israel's salvation and peace, and still evaluate all human governments and actions by righteousness and truth.

- **We support:**

- God's covenant promises
- the Jewish people's ongoing place in God's plan
- Israel's right to exist
- pray for Jerusalem
- rejection of hatred toward Jews
- the future fulfillment of God's promises

- **We do not have to support:**

- every political decision
- every military action
- every secular government policy
- every leader automatically
- Genesis 12:3 calls us to bless God's covenant purpose through Israel, not to blindly support every action of the modern Israeli government.

# We will close with this

- “I will curse” אָרַר ārar
- Strong word
- Means: to bind, to bring under judgment, to oppose with consequence
- This is God’s action
- 
- “Who curses you” אָלַל qalal
- Lighter word
- Means: to treat lightly, dishonor, despise, make insignificant

- “Whoever treats you lightly, dishonors, or despises what I have chosen...”
- God will respond with a much stronger level of opposition.
- Cursing (in this context) =  
rejecting, minimizing, or standing against what God has placed His hand on
  
- SO...
- Cursing Israel biblically would look like:
  - hatred toward Jewish people
  - rejecting God’s covenant faithfulness
  - trying to erase or oppose God’s redemptive plan through them
  - arrogance toward Israel (see Romans 11)

# Leads to God cursing

- Removal of favor / restraint of blessing
- Being given over to consequences
- Direct opposition from God
- Joel 3:2 — judgment connected to how nations treated Israel

- Blessing (barakh): God's hand establishing, empowering, aligning
- Cursing ('ārar): God's hand opposing, restricting, and judging
- So:
- Blessing = God working for you  
Cursing = God working against your posture

# Genesis 12:1-3

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NATURE OF BLESSING

