

## **“THE BOOK THAT BLESSED OUR WORLD AND US.”**

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**January 16, 2022, 10:30 AM**

**Scripture Texts: Genesis 12:1-3;**

### **Introduction.**

At the beginning of every year out of care and concern for your eternal souls I make a pastoral appeal for all of us to take prayer and Scripture reading more seriously. Along with corporate worship, these are God’s greatest gifts of grace to us.

There is nothing more practical and profitable or more beneficial and important to us and our soul, our success and our future than reading the Bible and praying. God wants to listen to you and God wants to speak to you for your eternal benefit and blessing.

I want to spend time this morning showing you how great a blessing the Bible is to you in the earnest hope and prayer that you will want more of that blessing in your life and family.

### **The Book that blesses our physical, material world.**

In Genesis God makes an astonishing promise to Abraham. God promised Abraham would be a blessing to all nations.

**Genesis 12:1-3** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

**Genesis 18:18** All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.

Is that true? Have all the nations of the earth been blessed because of God’s blessing on Abraham and his seed? So has God made good on that promise? Have we been blessed?

God called Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldees, because it was His desire to bless all the nations, all peoples, and you and me through the revelation of Himself, a revelation clearly given in the Old and New Testaments, in the Word of God.

Have you ever thought about what that blessing looks like? Let’s reflect on how far reaching is the impact and influence of the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures on not just us or our nation but on the entire world, all the nations of the world.

The Bible is the world’s best-selling book every year for centuries now. Billions of copies have been published into over 2,300 languages with translation work going on in

another 3,000 languages. No other book has been translated, published, distributed, studied, read and discussed more widely than the Bible.

Its incredible power is seen when you realize it has affected every aspect of human activity. The Word of God is the single greatest influence in all our human institutions include rule of law, democracy, capitalism, science, medicine, technology, education, the arts, and the family.

Let me give a few examples in some of these areas to show how far reaching that blessing is.

I realize some of my comments will have the feel of sweeping generalizations, but it can't be helped, I don't have hours to cite sources and specifics. I can point you to numerous resources if you are interested.

The *democracy* we live in has its roots and foundation in the wisdom of God in Scripture. Documents like the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights rose out of the soil of Scripture.

The *legal and justice system* we are protected by has its roots and foundation in the truth of God in Scripture.

The Bible reveals the moral character of God which is the foundation for all morality. The Ten Commandments have impacted the moral codes of countless cultures and countries. The Word of God gives our world a foundation in morality, in absolutes.

The Word of God declares all people are created in the image of God and are spiritually equal in the eyes of God. All human life is sacred, equal, to be valued and protected.

The *educational* system we have been trained by has its roots and foundation in the knowledge of God. It was early Christians influenced by the Bible and motivated by its truth who established the first institutions of education, the great universities of the world. Our modern universities are a uniquely 12<sup>th</sup> century Christian invention flowing out of medieval theology.

St. Augustine taught that the human mind was God's supreme gift to mankind. The mind was made in God's image, therefore, in order to be godly, one had to cultivate the mind.

It was Christian scholars under the influence of the Bible who gave us the *sciences* and the scientific method.

The Bible shows nature exists because it was created by a personal, rational God, and it glorifies God and honors God to study, explore, understand, and appreciate God's handiwork. Christians did this under the influence of the Bible. This is not the perspective of Chinese, Hindu and Islamic cultures.

The *medical* system we benefit from has its roots and foundation in the compassion and healing power of God. The Bible fosters compassion. What you do for the least of these you do for God.

Because of the Bible's high view of the human body, it was the catalyst to medical advancements. The earliest Christians took care of the sick, studied, learned and taught medicine and medical practices. You can trace the earliest medical schools and hospitals back to monasteries in at least the 9<sup>th</sup> century. How many of the hospitals in America started out as spiritually based?

The advancements and achievements in discoveries, inventions, and *technology* all have their roots and foundation in the creative power of God and the God enabled calling on humanity to subdue and take dominion. God is a worker and a maker and we in His image do the same, to participate in God's workmanship.

Technology grows out of a Biblical theology and worldview. The general goal of technology is humanizing, it is caring and compassion, it is easing the burdens of life.

The Bible has influence more great *literature, music, art*, drama, film than any other single source. Walk into any museum in the world and you will see great paintings reflecting Biblical themes.

The Bible challenged culture after culture in their view of men and women, marriage and children. The Biblical idea of marriage as one man and one woman in a lifelong commitment has done more to protect women and children and the build strong societies. It exposes the terribly destructive worldviews found in Greece and Rome, and in Hinduism and Islam.

Every single morning when we wake up, we bump into God. The second we open our eyes we come face to face with the reality of God. Our world is made by God and belongs to God, and the Bible is the book that has shaped and influenced our world and carried the blessings of God into all the world. The glory of God covers the earth.

**Isaiah 55:10-11** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

All of this should be enough to commend to you the blessing and benefit of reading your Bible. But we haven't scratched the surface of the greatest benefits of all, the most important ways in which God has blessed all the nations and families of earth, including our own.

## **The Book that blesses us spiritually and eternally.**

The Bible is more than just another book with pages and words in black and white. In fact the Bible is like no other book ever written. Hebrews 4 reminds us it is living and active, it is dynamic and powerful, it is the very Word of God, the very power of God, it is the Words of life.

What does the Bible do for you? Let me count the ways. And if this isn't enough to convince you, then read Psalm 19 and 119. Psalm 119 will give you 176 reasons.

It is the source of all that is spiritually and eternally good in our lives. The Bible testifies to us concerning the truth about Jesus Christ. Apart from the Bible you can't know Him who is your salvation and hope.

**II Timothy 3:15** from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are *able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*.

**I Peter 1:23** You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

The living and abiding Word of God is your source of eternal life. The Bible is the revelation of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of souls.

**[See list of ways the Bible blesses us.]**

<http://faithworks.life/twenty-benefits-of-the-word-of-god-the-bible>

It is the Source of Faith

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

It is the Source of Truth

Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. John 17:17

It is the Source of Freedom

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. John 8:31-32

It is the Source of Growth

Like new-born babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 1 Peter 2:2

It is the Source of Victory Over Temptation

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

It is the Source of Purity (Holiness)

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. Psalm 119:9

It is the Source of Guidance

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

It is the Source of Joy

The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. Psalm 19:8

It is the Source of Warning

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 1 Corinthians 10:11

### **Conclusion and application.**

In the final analysis there can be no question, the Word of God has profoundly influenced and shaped every corner of our world and spilled over into blessings on every nation of the world.

The real question is what is shaping and influencing each of us? In any given week what has most of our time and attention? TV, internet, movies, social media, hobbies, news, romance novels? Is the Bible influencing you?

Don't trade what is eternal for what is temporal, don't trade what is godly for what is earthly, don't trade what is life giving for what is life depleting, don't trade eternal joy for temporary pleasure.

“There is nothing in the law of God that will rob you of happiness; it only denies you that which would cost you sorrow” (C.H. Spurgeon).

How would you describe your spiritual life? How is it now compared to a year ago? How many of you would say you are languishing, muddling along, just surviving? In prayer and reading does your mind wander, you fall asleep, you find yourself wanting to do something else? Or how many of you feel complete, equipped, lacking in nothing? (II Timothy 3:1-17).

Who today is hungry for the Word of God? And who here if they aren't hungry for the Word of God acknowledges it honestly and asks God repeatedly to give us a hunger and thirst?

This is the experience of every Christian, and the solution is to press in and persevere and ask the Holy Spirit to help change your heart and mind and desires.

**Deuteronomy 8:3** Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Make God's Word part of your daily bread. Take and eat, take and drink. Become like Jeremiah:

**Jeremiah 15:16** Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,

The Bible is a supernatural book and you need supernatural help to read it. Every time you open it to read it ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand, to give you wisdom and instruction. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. Ask God to open your blind eyes to see wonderful things in His Word.

“As you have blessed the nations of the earth, so bless me and my house. Open my eyes to see your glory in your Word, to see wonderful things you have revealed to us your children. Make your Word more profitable to me today. Remove hindrances, barriers, obstacles, hurdles of my own making and the world’s and the evil one.”

God desires to bless our world and your world, you and your family. He already has and He wants to more. Do you see it? ***How has the Word of God blessed your family?*** Reflect on that, come up with specifics. What can you do now to receive more of God’s blessing in your family through His Word? What do you need to do or change to make His Word more central in your heart and home? For 15 years now I have provided reading guides, monthly memory verses.

Our children learn a wonderful truth at a very early age. “Jesus Loves Me This I Know, for the Bible Tells Me So.” May we never stop learning the depth and height and width and breadth of the knowledge of God and His love and His truth in the Bible.

**Prayer:** Our Holy Father in Heaven, we beseech you this morning to bless our seeking of you. Bless us with a deep and lasting hunger and thirst for righteousness, fan the flame of our zeal for the truth of your Word, and a great love for you and for each other. Grant in our brokenness and imperfection that we would desire the fullness of Christ. Help our unbelief, forgive our wandering affections. Deliver us from our small desires and our foolish pursuits. Send down you Holy Spirit on us all. Make you Word living and active in each of us. I pray for your Fatherly blessing to be upon this flock. Make us faithful and fruitful for your glory. And above all, dear Father, grant that our lives will increasingly bring glory to your dear Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, in whose precious name we pray. Amen.