

Aligning with God's Strategy of Blessing

Ezekiel 37:28 - "Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel..."

- There is _____ that has been unfolding throughout human history whereby God's relationship with Israel serves as a witness to the _____ of who God is.

From the Cursing of Creation to the Blessing through Abraham

- God's creation is very _____ and thoroughly _____. But when the serpent deceives mankind and sin enters the world, the very words "good" and "bless" all but _____ from the pages of Scripture.
- Only when God chooses Abraham, does He begin to reintroduce blessing: "I will _____ you... so that you will be _____. I will _____ those who _____ you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be _____." (*Genesis 12:1-3*)

Therefore: If the _____ was to thwart the good and the blessing of God for the world by going after Adam and Eve, what do you think his _____ will shift to when God promises to bless all the families of the earth through Abraham's offspring?

- ❖ The more _____ the something is to God, the harder His Enemy will try to _____ it. Why are the Jewish people important to God? "The Lord - chose you - because the Lord _____ you" (*Deuteronomy 7:6-8*)

3 Ways God Aligns Us with His Strategy of Blessing

1. God offers us _____ to demonstrate our _____ (*Ruth 1:14-18*)

Ruth clung to Naomi as one should cling to that which is most precious (*Genesis 2:24; Joshua 22:5; Psalm 137:6*). This determined clinging was not only to the _____ of Israel, but to the _____ of Israel. If we don't cling to the right things, the wrong things will cling to us (*Psalm 101:3; Hebrews 12:1*). Ruth clung to the people of Israel, even in a season of rebellion and _____ (*Ruth 1:1 + Judges 21:25*).

- ❖ She seized the opportunity to align herself with God's strategy, so God aligned Ruth with _____ of blessing for the world (*Ruth 4:11, 17*)!

2. God offends our _____ to reveal our _____ (*Matthew 15:21-28 / Mark 7:24-30*)

The Syrophoenician woman's heart is to secure her daughter's wellbeing. Jesus's heart is to rescue and feed the children of Israel _____. As a parent herself, how will she respond to his parental

priority? The supposed offense reveals the woman's _____. Just as she would do anything to save her little girl, Jesus would do anything to make sure his children are fed.

- ❖ The woman aligned her priorities with the _____ for Israel's spiritual health, so Jesus gifted the _____ family with spiritual health.

3. God is open-_____ with the tender-_____ (*Acts 10:1-5, 22*)

Cornelius was a devout man who feared God, who gave generously to the _____ people (*Acts 10:22*), and prayed continually. He did so with **all** his household = the gentile heroes thus far have all exemplified a passion for the role of the family.

Cornelius had a reputation as one **ALREADY ALIGNED** with God's strategy of blessing.

- It was not a coincidence that God chose Cornelius, or Mary (*Luke 1:46, 54-55*), or Zechariah (*Luke 1:67-74*), or Simon (*Luke 2:25-32*), or Anna (*Luke 2:36-38*). They all understood God's strategy for blessing Israel and the nations.
- Be ready to fulfill the Great Commission; Jesus will send the lost to your doorstep (*Acts 9:6, 11, 19 + Acts 10:5, 22, 33*).

- ❖ *Cycle of Blessing* = Tender-hearted _____ → Open-handed _____ → Awe-inspired _____

The Ultimate Goal

Romans 11:1-2, 11: Gentile believers lovingly living out their faith in a way that makes the people of Israel _____ for the fullness of a relationship with the God of Israel.

Romans 11:12-13: All of the riches that accompany a life in Christ for Gentiles will actually expand much much more with the _____ of the Jewish people into their Messiah.

Romans 11:13-15: Provoking Jewish people to jealousy unto salvation magnifies your ministry and will lead to _____.

"Magnify Your Ministry"

- ❖ Prioritize (*Rom 1:16*) – The Gospel is to the _____ and also to the Gentile.
- ❖ Pray (*Rom 10:1*) – Desire and pray to God that Israel may be _____.
- ❖ Promote (*Rom 15:27*) - If you have come to share in Jewish believers' _____ blessings, you ought also to be of service to them in _____ blessings.

