Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary Chapel Dr. Austin Surls

25 March 2024 PhD, OT Wheaton

**The Future Blessing of God on the Nations**

***Topical Message***

**Topic:** Blessing

**Subject:** How will God remember the Gentiles in his plan?

**Complement:** All are blessed by faith in Jesus—Jew and Gentile.

**Purpose:** The listeners will live with the hope that God’s plan will include all who trust in Jesus, whether part of Israel or among the Gentiles.

# Introduction

### Interest: How amazing that we also know God despite not being part of the old people of God, Israel.

### Need: Too often we over-emphasize God’s blessings upon Israel. We need a balanced view of the situation regarding the Hamas-Israel War that has raged for nearly six months now.

#### Paul describes our previous situation before salvation (**Eph 2:11-12**):

##### Without Christ, strangers to the covenants

##### Without God, without hope

##### Alienated from God

#### Jesus said in **John 4**:22 that salvation is from the Jews

##### God chose Abraham to make a great nation where he gave his Law and covenants

##### But God never intended salvation to be only in Israel—“all nations will be blessed in you.”

#### We are part of the people of God despite not being part of Israel.

##### The prophets also spoke of these promises of the future and that the suffering of Christ will have glories to follow (1 Pet 1:10-12).

###### **1 Pet. 1:10** This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ’s suffering and his great glory afterward.

###### **1 Pet. 1:12** They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

##### God never planned to save only Israel.

### Subject: How will God remember the Gentiles in his plan?

### Text: Egyptians, Iraqis, Sudanese, Moabites, and Palestinians will read in the chapel about God’s future judgment and blessing on their people.

# I. Future judgment and blessing will come upon Egypt (Isa 19:19-22).

## **Is. 19:18**  In that day five of Egypt’s cities will follow the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. They will even begin to speak Hebrew, the language of Canaan. One of these cities will be Heliopolis, the City of the Sun.

## **Is. 19:19** In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the heart of Egypt, and there will be a monument to the LORD at its border. 20 It will be a sign and a witness that the LORD of Heaven’s Armies is worshiped in the land of Egypt. When the people cry to the LORD for help against those who oppress them, he will send them a savior who will rescue them. 21 The LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians. Yes, they will know the LORD and will give their sacrifices and offerings to him. They will make a vow to the LORD and will keep it. 22 The LORD will strike Egypt, and then he will bring healing. For the Egyptians will turn to the LORD, and he will listen to their pleas and heal them.

# II. Future judgment and blessing will come upon Iraq (Isa 19:23-25).

## **Is. 19:23** In that day Egypt and Assyria will be connected by a highway. The Egyptians and Assyrians will move freely between their lands, and they will both worship God. 24 In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth.

## **Is. 19:25** For the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will say, “Blessed be Egypt, my people. Blessed be Assyria, the land I have made. Blessed be Israel, my special possession!”

# III. Future blessings will come upon Sudan (Zeph 3:9; Amos 9:7).

## **Zeph. 3:9** Then I will purify the speech of all people, so that everyone can worship the LORD together. 10 My scattered people who live beyond the rivers of Ethiopia will come to present their offerings.

## **Amos 9:7** Are you Israelites more important to me than the Ethiopians?” asks the LORD. I brought Israel out of Egypt, but I also brought the Philistines from Crete and led the Arameans out of Kir.

# IV. Future blessings will come upon Moab (Is. 42:6, 11).

## **Is. 42:6** I, the LORD, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations.

## **Is. 42:11** Join in the chorus, you desert towns; let the villages of Kedar rejoice! Let the people of Sela [Moab in Jordan] sing for joy; shout praises from the mountaintops!

# IV. The Bible promised blessing upon all peoples who trust in the Lord.

## **Jeremiah 12:14-16** Now this is what the LORD says: “I will uproot from their land all the evil nations reaching out for the possession I gave my people Israel. And I will uproot Judah from among them. 15 But afterward I will return and have compassion on all of them. I will bring them home to their own lands again, each nation to its own possession. 16 And if these nations truly learn the ways of my people, and if they learn to swear by my name, saying, ‘As surely as the LORD lives’ (just as they taught my people to swear by the name of Baal), then they will be given a place among my people.

## **Jer. 18:5-10** Then the LORD gave me this message: 6 “O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand. 7 If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, 8 but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. 9 And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, 10 but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.

## **Isaiah 56:7-8** I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations. 8 For the Sovereign LORD, who brings back the outcasts of Israel, says: I will bring others, too, besides my people Israel.”

## **John 10:16** I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

## **Isaiah 49:6** He says, “You [Messiah] will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

## **Zech 2:11-13** Many nations will join themselves to the LORD on that day, and they, too, will be my people. I will live among you, and you will know that the LORD of Heaven’s Armies sent me to you. 12 The land of Judah will be the LORD’s special possession in the holy land, and he will once again choose Jerusalem to be his own city. 13 Be silent before the LORD, all humanity, for he is springing into action from his holy dwelling.”

# V. Israel will be blessed also when the Jews trust in Christ.

## **Isa 25:7-8** There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. 8 He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. The LORD has spoken!

## **Matt 8:11-12** And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. 12 But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

## **Eph 2:13-16** But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. 14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

## **Rom 15:7-9** Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. 8 Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. 9 He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: “For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name.”

# Conclusion

### ***All are blessed by faith in Jesus—Jew and Gentile (Main Idea).***

### Blessing on the nations will not be at the expense of Jews who trust Jesus

### Application: Live with hope that God’s plan will include all who trust in Jesus, whether part of Israel or among the Gentiles.