### Who Needs Christmas? | Part 1

Lesson 3

Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6; Malachi 1:11; Galatians 4:4-5 December 10, 2023

### Who Needs Christmas? The World Does.

#### INTRODUCTION

The first Biblical hint of Christ's infantile arrival as a blessing appears in Genesis 12:3 when God tells Abram, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." He repeats this plan for his understanding in Genesis 18:18 and 22:18. To be certain that Abraham's next generation gets the message, God informs Isaac in Genesis 26:4; for successive reminding, Jacob is told in Genesis 28:14.

It must have been important for God to announce the blessing more than once in Genesis, yet did the three (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) ever think they might recognize the blessing in their lifetimes? Could they envision it happening at the end of the long genealogical road when Jesus was born (Matthew 1:2-17)?

Every Christian knows the answers to those questions. Sadly, most heirs of Judaism have not identified *the blessing* as Christ's sacrifice for sinners who believe in His divinity and purpose. "All peoples on earth" who *do* believe are truly blessed.

Memory verse: "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law..."
—Galatians 4:4

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

# **OBSERVATION:** What does the passage say?

1.	Why does God ask Abram to leave his homeland? (Genesis 12:1-2)
2.	In Genesis 12:2, Abraham is epitomized as a "great nation" and blessed as such in what way, although different, from the blessing of Genesis 12:3?
3.	How will salvation reach the ends of the earth? (Isaiah 49:6)
4.	Where does God expect his name to be honored? (Malachi 1:11)
5.	Why did God send His Son to earth? (Galatians 4:4-5)

## INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. It would be folly to curse the people of Abraham's nation because God will answer with a curse for the one who curses (Genesis 12:3). What other God-given truth is overlooked when cursing "the great nation"? (Acts 13:32-33; Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:29)

2. Which people are to benefit from the "light" that God intends for salvation? (Isaiah 9:2, 49:6; John 1:9; Acts 26:23)

3. When the Lord's name is "great among the nations" (Malachi 1:11), what happens? (Isaiah 24:16, 56:6-7; Luke 13:29)

4. What does it mean in Galatians 4:4 that God's son was "born under the law"? (Genesis 17:12; Luke 2:22-23, 27)

### APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. As Christmas approaches, why is it difficult for some to recognize that Jesus' birth is a precursor of a more significant gift yet to come?

2. Is it appropriate or not to connect Jesus' crucifixion to the joyous occasion of His birth, even knowing His resurrection soon follows his death? Explain.

3. Write a prayer of praise that expresses your appreciation of God's most magnificent gift to the world.