**4. “PRONOUNCEMENT OF A BLESSING”**

**Section II:** THE PLAN REVISED

**Biblical Basis:** Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-14; 22:17-18; 26:1-4

**Objective:** That each class member understands God’s plan to bring a sinful, lost humanity back into harmony with a Holy God.

**INTRODUCTION**

We arrive now at the fourth most significant concept in our understanding of the Old Testament. The first was that man lived in a world created by a living God. Second, it was God’s divine intention to create a humanity that would live in perfect harmony with God, self, others and nature. Third, because of man’s rebellion against God, disorder and disharmony dominates man’s existence. Now, we will see the starting point of recovery – a Holy God will bring His condemned creation back into a four-fold harmony. God takes the initiative and introduces a plan designed to save His world from the dilemma imposed by sin and evil.

**I. GOD’S PLAN BEGINS WITH A COVENANT**

 A. The key issue: How can sinful man come back into a harmonious relationship with a holy righteous God?

 1. What do you see as issues that separate man from God? (Rom 3:10-12, 23; 6:23)

 2. What are the obstacles that separate God from man? (Lev 19:2; Eph 2:1-3)

 B. The cornerstone of God’s plan.

 1. Read Genesis 12:1-3. Who takes the initiative in establishing this agreement?

 2. What is the definition of a Biblical covenant?

 3. In light of this covenant, how can we understand the deeper meanings of these following events described in the Bible?

 a. The seed concept. (Gen 13:16)

 b. The complex separation concept. (Gen 13:14; 24:3-4; 28:1; 46:33-34)

 c. The experience of God’s people at Sinai. (Ex 20:1-24)

 d. The institution of “Atonement.” (Lev 16:1-34)

 e. The burden of the prophet’s message. (Amos 5:21-24)

 f. The coming of Christ. (Luke 2:1-14)

 f. The establishment of Christ’s church. (Matt 28:16-20; I Pet 2:9-10)

**II. GOD’S COVENANT INVOLVES A PROMISE, A PLAN AND A PROPHECY**

 A. The **promise**:

 1. What is the promise and on whom does the emphasis lie? (Gen 12:2)

 2. To be one of God’s people, it is not enough to merely believe in God. What more must take place in our belief? (Gen 15:6)

 3. Why did God choose Abraham to be a blessing? Was he chosen because of his perfection? (Josh 24:2)

 4. What qualities of character marked Abraham? (Gen 12:1-9; Heb 11:8-19)

 B. The **plan**:

 1. A place: God was going to give Abraham and his descendants a land. The land becomes a key concept in the Old Testament. Why? (Gen 17:8)

 2. A people: God was forming a nation or body of people who would be under His rule. Why is this needed for God to fulfill His plan? (Isa 42:6-7; Deut 4:6-8)

 3. In obedience: What did God expect from Abraham? What must he do?

 (Gen 12:1; 17:1)

 4. What is the only hope that man has to get rid of his guilt before God? (Gen 3:15)

 C. The **prophecy**:

 1. What prophecy does God proclaim if Abraham responds? (Gen 12:3)

 2. How does the New Testament show the fulfillment of this prophecy?

 a. Romans 9:4-5

 b. Galatians 3:6-9

**CONCLUSION**

The call to destiny given to Abraham is the same call given to you and me by God. He calls us to respond to His promises. He then promises to bless us, but expects that we do not hoard our God-given blessings for ourselves. The church today is the covenant people who are called to serve Him in a place and to be obedient to His will. How do you respond to Him?