

GOD WITH US

Part 1: The Great Blessing

Genesis – Deuteronomy

1. God invited Abraham to Engage with His Promises.

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives, and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3).

A GREAT NATION.

A GREAT LAND.

A GREAT NAME.

A GREAT BLESSING to ALL the families of the earth.

2. God invited Moses and all Israel to Engage with His Plan.

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:4-6).

Israel was to become A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS to represent God to the world.

3. Israel (1st generation) failed to stay Engaged with God, and lost the privilege of going into the land.

“Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it” (Numbers 14:20-24).

An 11-day journey to the Promised Land turned into a 40-year walk in the desert.

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Part 2: Conquest and Chaos

Joshua – Judges - Ruth

1. GAME ON for Joshua and a new generation; but they had to Engage with God’s rules to win.

“Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses” (Joshua 1:2,3).

The *only* way to experience the blessings of your relationship with God is through OBEDIENCE to His game plan.

2. Entanglement (with people-groups, beliefs and customs) killed engagement with God and His plan.

“Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the Lord to anger. So they forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtaroth” (Judges 2:11-13).

Engaging with the world (as God’s representative) and becoming entangled with the world are two very different things.

3. All along the way, God was looking for individuals who were willing to Engage with His plan.

“She went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech (Ruth 2:3).

God is always looking for a remnant of faithful people that He can engage with, to fulfill His plan to bring hope to the world.