1. **“ALL” HE HAD MADE**

[***Genesis 1:31***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1:31&version=NIV)

*God saw****all****that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.*

In Genesis, God tells us how the earth was created, all the animals, fish, land and sea, night and day. On this sixth day, He would also create man and woman. God saw all that He had made, and it was good. It was good! Do you know you are good? Do you know that He made you to be good? To do good? To live good? But what does that mean?

Webster’s Dictionary defines “good” as: to be desired or approved of; having the qualities for a particular role, morally right; righteousness.

1. To be desired or approved of: our goodness comes from our Lord and Savior through our relationship with Him; we are good because He is good. We are desired because He desires to have a relationship with us, He pursues us.

2. Having the qualities for a particular role: God made us good so that means your identity is in Him, not your stuff, your achievements, your possessions or what others say about you. God created you for a particular role, to have a relationship that glorifies Him and out of that relationship--a relationship with others.

3. Morally right: Good is the opposite of bad. God created us to be good, to choose what is right based on His word. To live a life in truth and honesty with integrity. To make choices that bring glory to God and create fruit. To make choices that build others up versus tearing them down.

4. Righteousness: God is a righteous God and being good in Him is righteousness. Being righteous is not having your own way, being prideful or holding your “Christianity” over someone, but instead, in love, it is directing others towards Christ, sharing the truth of who Jesus is, His life and what our lives should be as a result. The only way to God is through Jesus--the right way and the right life!

So, God said He made it ALL and it was all good. How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

1. **“ALL” THE WORK**

*Genesis 2:3*

*Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day, He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.*

In Genesis, after God had created everything including man and woman, He would choose to rest. Why would God need to rest? He’s God!

Webster’s Dictionary defines “rest” as: *to cease work or movement in order to relax, refresh oneself, or recover strength.*

1. God rested to show us that we need time set apart to rest, to renew and refresh. Resting is needed in order to be ready for what God wants us to do in this life. Unlike God, our bodies have limits. If we don’t stop, slow down, rest, sleep, etc. then what we can accomplish in this world is limited.

2. God rested to show us the need to spend specific time with Him, away from the various distractions of life. Yes, we should spend time with God each day, praying without ceasing, in fellowship with Him but in this verse God is reminding us that He made this day--this seventh day--holy. Holy, unlike the other six days, holy, in that it’s special and set apart for divine fellowship with the Creator. Set apart so that we are reminded of how much He wants to spend time with us—a whole day!

When we spend time with God, we get His direction, we grow stronger in our walk and relationship with Him, we get to reflect on all that He has done and is doing, we get to tell Him our fears, concerns and needs. We also get to hear what He wants from us.  We get His peace to keep doing what we are doing.

3. God blessed the seventh day. God blesses it to show how much He values this down time, this day of focus, this day where we will be nourished and grow fruit.

What distractions, what work are you needing to take a break from so that you can rest, truly rest?

How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

1. **“ALL” THE PEOPLE**

*Genesis 6:12-13*

*God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”*

In Genesis, God saw how horribly things had gone wrong among the people. The story behind these verses is the story of Cain and Abel and how Cain killed his brother. This sin of jealousy, of murder, of betrayal to his parents, Adam and Eve, would just be the start of the curse that would be passed down through several generations.

God would give Adam and Eve another son, Seth, and out of Seth’s lineage would come Noah, a righteous man who served the Lord. God would tell Noah that He was going to put an end to ALL people and not only the people but also to the earth due to the violence of that time!

1. How could God create an earth--a people--that would be so corrupt? Well, because He gave man and woman free will. God will not force us to be good. He will not force us to spend time with Him, to have fellowship with or believe in Him. Would you want to force someone to be your friend, to date you, to marry you? This illustration shows that without fellowship with the Lord-- on our own--we can quickly become wicked!

2. God would destroy not only the people but also the earth. Wow, why did the planet need to also suffer? What was God doing by destroying it? Perhaps a new start, a freshness, a renewal? Perhaps a death in one way brings life in another—Christ. Yes, our own death of the flesh, our old ways and renewal in Christ is what had to be done.  For Noah, it just wasn’t death of the body but it was death of the old nature, the old way of life, the old way of doing things. God started over. He does this with us too.

3. Even though God was disgusted with man and what he had done, He still had compassion on those who were following Him. He saved Noah and his family. Noah trusted God enough to build the massive ark--the ark that not only saved his family but also two of every kind of creature!

Is there sin in your life that is keeping you from God? From a relationship with Him? Is there sin that is taking you down the path of Cain? Turn from your sin right now, ask God for forgiveness, to be filled with His Spirit and to move forward. You never know what He might be asking you to build!

How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

1. **“ALL” THE BABBLE**

*Genesis 11:1-8* *Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.* ***2*** *As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.* *They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”* *But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.**The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.* *Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”* *So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.* ***9*** *That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.*

Now the whole world was speaking one language. They were growing together as a team and of course that would be a good thing--however, this community began to wander from their relationship with God. They began to work together to build something for themselves, to glorify their effort versus God. So often we do the same!

1. Isn’t a team a good thing? Isn’t it good that we all speak the same language? It would really help in reaching people for Jesus. It would really help when trying to market, communicate, connect with others. Yes, it would be, however, in this case it worked against the ultimate goal of coming together for the Lord. Coming together to bring glory to Him. Often, we see groups formed around us. Sometimes using social media, sometimes in our schools, community and of course, church. While some of these groups appear harmless, i.e., Flower Growers of America, others like the KKK can be detrimental not only to people, but to the kingdom of God. This is an example of coming together for community but with the wrong focus!

2. God saw what was happening, that they wanted to build a monument to signify themselves, their effort, and their power. We do this today--we see names on everything from monuments and statues, buildings and roads to fancy grave markers, speeches, and causes. While it appears great to name something after someone who did something awesome in history such as freeing slaves, curing a disease, or helping hide people during the Holocaust, we must never forget who allowed this to happen, our Lord and Savior! These people forgot and as a result, they wanted to build something that focused on what they did, without God’s help.

3. The tower is called the “Tower of Babel” which is funny because today, this is where we get the word “babble” from which means to ramble on in conversation that has little meaning. Their tower represented man’s attempts at meaning but instead it became meaningless. How often today do we get caught up in gossip, in talk that is of no value, or conversation that isn’t salty—seasoned with God’s word and purpose?! What kinds of babble are you involved in?

4. God saw what they were doing and out of protection for them—although I am sure they didn't see it that way—He confused their language so they would: 1) stop building the tower and 2) split from their big group; forming smaller groups resulting in less power. Less power that was focused on themselves. He would then scatter them all over the earth. Sometimes we do need to break groups apart, especially when we see where things are heading. Sometimes we even need to pull friends and family apart to allow time for them to refocus their relationships on God versus themselves. Does this mean every group that God pulls apart can never work or see each other again? No! It just means God has a purpose on this earth and when we start to make it about ourselves, then He will intervene and get us back on track (for those who follow Him). He does this because He loves us!

So where are you in your relationship to God? What about the groups you belong to? Relationships? Are you Christ centered? Does your speech, your talk edify God? Are you working to build His kingdom or your Tower of Babel?

How does this change things for you today? What is God telling you right now?

**5. “ALL” WILL BE BLESSED**

*Genesis 12:1-3*

*The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

I love Abraham. A man who took such a risk to leave all that he knew, trusting God to step out, travel to a new place, new environment, new everything. I can only imagine his fears, his concerns, and even his doubts. Just like each of us, change is hard, especially when it requires fully trusting in the Lord.

1. The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s house to the land I will show you.” God gave Abraham a direct order. No "stop, look and listen"—just go. He told him to leave his country, his home and all that was familiar. What if God asked you to leave your home… to travel across the country, or maybe across the ocean?? A place where the terrain might be different. A place that could be very cold with lots of snow or very hot and humid. A place that might have tall mountains or dry desert land. Would you want to go? Would you be willing to trust God not knowing where He might take you? Knowing that He has something planned for you there? To leave what is comfortable and easy? Trusting God for something better?

2. God also told Abraham to leave all his people (family, friends, those he worked with, etc.). While there is a point in time we do need to leave our family—especially if we are grown---this was not that kind of situation. Abraham was asked to leave all those people he had relationships with and go where God told him to go. Believe me,  there was no email, facetime and texting to stay in touch with them. How very hard this had to be. Could you do this today? If God said to leave and not look back— not even to correspond with family and friends, could you do this? For some of us, the mission field is just that—limited family correspondence. However, the blessings far outweigh the sacrifices.

3. "I will show you," says God. God does not just take you someplace without giving you a  type of peace about what He is doing. The issue is we want to know all the details and then trust God. Just the fact that God is directing you should be enough to trust Him. Trust is the first step in God “showing you.”

4. "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing." Can you imagine how Abraham was feeling now--“Okay, so You are asking me to leave all that I know and to trust You? Now You are telling me what is going to happen?!” God wants to use you, just like Abraham, to do great things. Things that bring glory to God. By being obedient in where you are now, God wants to bless all of us. For some, He will show favor by their fame or finance, for others, by their compassion and patience. But all is for HIS kingdom to bring HIM glory. Are you ready for God to use you in mighty ways?

5. "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse.” God is our provision and our protector. As you continue to follow Him, listening, obeying, acting, He will bless you beyond measure, as well as protect you. He will take care of your enemies. Provide judgment and resolution, HE will do this--not you!

6. "And ALL the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Hmmm, how is God going to do that? I mean, we are just simple people living a simple life? Abraham does this first by just saying to God, “yes, I will follow you (whatever this might be)." The more we say “yes” to His direction, His calling, His work, the more people are impacted and blessed as well. As we teach, disciple and empower others, the more they learn and the process is multiplied, but it must all  start with us saying “yes” to God!

So where are you in your relationship to God? Are you truly trusting Him for everything in your life, including a new direction? New place to live, work or place of ministry? Maybe a new relationship or leaving some old ones behind. Pray right now that God shows you what needs to change to truly trust Him in ALL ways.

# **ALL The Nations**

# **Genesis 22:15-18**

**15**The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time **16**and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17**I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,**18**and through your offspringall nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

We continue to learn more about Abraham, including a very important test of his trust in the Lord: Abraham would be asked to sacrifice his only son- the love of his life- in an act of  obedience and surrender to the Lord.

1. Abraham was obedient. The angel of the Lord appeared a second time to Abraham, with a message from God, a message declaring Abraham’s obedience to God. I don’t know about you but I am not sure I could have done what he did, but let’s make it even simpler as a point for consideration: what if God asked you to refrain from using your phone for anything other than making calls? What if He asked you to stop using social media or watching TV/videos? What if He asked you to stop spending time here or there or money on this or that? Anything that is more important than God becomes our god.

2. God would bless Abraham with millions of descendants. This seemed impossible considering he had only this one son. Often, we do the same to the Lord-He wants to bless us beyond measure, but we must first be willing to lay our lives, our stuff, our checkbook, our time, and our loved ones down before Him. What does “beyond measure” mean to you and me? Who knows what one good deed of sowing financially or investing time in a ministry could do? Who knows what a kind word could do or opening up your home to someone who has no home or better yet, letting go of past hurt and anger??!!  Anything that keeps us from being obedient blocks God from blessing us beyond measure!

3. God would give Abraham the possessions of his enemies. God has the power to give us anything, new or used. He can give you things that have been taken away due to a broken marriage, a broken family, and/or loss of a job, home, etc. He can restore all those things that were taken plus give you more. But again, these blessings come with obedience.

4. Others will be blessed through Abraham’s actions. I love that when we are truly trusting the Lord, it impacts others. First, it affects those in our lives, from friends and family to neighbors and workmates. As they see us change, they will be changed. Then, because they have relationships with others, this transformation expands, and more people will continue to be changed! This is how the Great Commission got started. As we accept Christ’s gift of Salvation and begin to grow in Him, others see this and desire this for themselves. We are then given opportunities to witness by what we do and what we say. This results in others getting saved and repercussions continue like ripples in a pond. Through Abraham’s example, even those reading this scripture are learning what it takes for God to pour out His blessings!

So, what thing or person or relationship is God asking you to lay at His feet...to truly sacrifice...to show that you love Him more? In what ways does God want to bless you? Pray right now that God shows you what you need to submit to Him so that you can be a part of His blessing to ALL the nations!