

Blessings and Hard Hearts

**One Story that
Leads to Jesus**



Blessings

■ Genesis

“God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **God blessed them** and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.” (Gen 1:27-28)

■ Blessing upon Abraham

...the LORD appeared to Abram and said: I am God the Almighty... Between you and me I will establish my covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly. Abram fell face down and God said to him: For my part, here is my covenant with you: you are to become the father of a multitude of nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings will stem from you. (Gen 17:1-6)

Defining Good and Evil

Accept the Wisdom of God ... or choose our own way ... the story so far...

- Adam and Eve in the Garden
- Cain and Able
- Lamech
- Babylon
- Pharaoh

.... And we cry out for God's help, especially so the Book of Judges

Hardening of Hearts

- **From Adam/Eve to Babylon did God cause a hardness of heart?**
 - Free will
 - To be like God, failing to realize we already were
- **Pharaoh**
 - God knew how it would end up
 - Plagues 1-5, Pharaoh is the animator/cause
 - Plagues 6-10, God takes the inevitable to its natural conclusion.
- **Moses vs. Pharaoh?**
- **Pharaoh vs. God**
 - Man-god wanna' be
 - Creator of the Universe
- ***Ezekiel 36:26***

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them."

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