



Week 3

The Kingdom of Old

A Garden With a Purpose

Can you imagine the most amazing place you have ever been? It's likely a place that is special to you. When God made the earth, he knew it would have value and beauty for us to enjoy! But when he made people, he gave us an even deeper beauty. He creates man and woman in HIS image, giving us value that cannot be stripped. A perfect relationship in a perfect garden.

But things fell apart when people chose their own way over God's. The story of the Bible is about how God is working to restore that world again, and it starts with a garden, where Heaven and Earth are united.

Read Genesis 1:26-28

What kind of world do you wish existed?

What does this story say about the kind of world God wants?

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

A Promise to Bless the World

Ever feel too old, too young, too ordinary to be used by God? Meet Abraham. In Genesis 12, God calls this 75-year-old man with no children and no status to leave everything familiar, because God had a plan.

God promises to make Abraham a great nation, to bless him, and through him, bless the entire world. But this wasn't just about one man or one family. God was beginning a people who would reflect His heart, His justice, mercy, love, and live in a way that pointed others to Him.

And here's the wild part: if you belong to Jesus, you're part of that same promise. You carry that same calling to live in a way that reveals who God is and brings blessing wherever you go.

Abraham just said yes. And that, yes, changed everything.

Read Genesis 12:1-3

How could a life of purpose extend beyond just me?

What does it say about God that His promise was always meant to include the whole world?

The Call of Abram

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

A Different Kind of King

As God promised, Abraham’s lineage grew and grew into a people called the Israelites. A people who truly reflected his heart and kept his ways. They were also like us; they failed, made mistakes, and disobeyed God.

They begged for a king who would protect them and make them powerful. So God gave them Saul, but it didn’t go well. Then God sent them King David—a flawed but faithful man after His own heart. God walked closely with David, guiding him through some of the most difficult moments of his life. He displayed his power and glory throughout his life. And through David, God made a new promise: One day, a greater King would come. One who would rule with justice and heal what’s broken, forever.

Read 2 Samuel 7:9-14

What kind of leader or ruler would you actually want to follow?

What does it mean that God promises a King who will reign forever?

⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.”

A People Set Apart

As Abraham’s lineage grew into the nation of Israel, God gave them something unique: His law. When God gave Israel His law, it wasn’t just about rules; it was about relationships. At the heart of everything He asked of them was one simple, powerful command: love. Not the shallow kind we toss around casually, but a deep, all-in kind of love directed toward the God who created them, rescued them, and called them into something greater.

This kind of love wasn’t meant to stay private. It was meant to shape how they lived, how they treated people, how they built their communities, and how they made decisions. A society shaped by love would look different. And that was the point.

Read Deuteronomy 6:5

What would need to change to build your life around love for something bigger than just yourself or your life?

Why would God make love the foundation of His Kingdom?

The Greatest Commandment

¹ “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

A Kingdom for All Nations

We were all born into a world divided. Divided by opinion, policy, country, tradition, preference, hate, but Paul gives us a picture of a world together by showing us what God’s plan is to unite people no matter their background, race, status, and it happens not through power but humility. Paul explains how our submission and perspective of Jesus as King over all actually unites all of us together. Our unitedness has nothing to do with what we have done, but what has been done for us.

Read Philippians 2:9-11

Where do I see people divided, and what would unity actually look like?

What does this vision from Paul tell you about God?

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.