

IV. The Counterattack of Kingdom — Through Israel

“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go 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.’”(Genesis 12:1-3)

The first eleven chapters of Genesis show repeatedly mankind's failures, which resulted in the flood and the dispersion—a depressing and hopeless picture. But in the calling of Abram (Abraham) in chapter 12 we began to see hope and direction.

In this chapter God made a covenant with Abraham. The first half of the covenant was to give a three-fold blessing to Abraham—A great nation, a great blessing and a great name!

The second half of the covenant was to give a responsibility to Abraham and the Israel people, *“You will be a blessing (to others)...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Gen. 12:2-3)*

Here we see God's plan and concern: to obtain the Israel people (a chosen people who belong to Him) through Abraham, and then through Israel to bless all the peoples of the world thus to restore God’s Kingdom.



But Israel was unfaithful to God's covenant. They were interested in only the first half of the covenant (receiving blessing for themselves), not the second half (be a blessing to others). Being an arrogant and self-centered people they have never willingly tried to help other peoples to know Jehovah, the true God. They have utterly failed in God’s calling, that *“all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”* In fact, the Old Testament is essentially a history of Israel's failure.