



Part 1: To Bless the World // Andy Stanley // December 3, 2023

The messiness of the world is what paved the way for God to do something extraordinary. God blessed the world with a different kind of king who came to establish a different kind of Kingdom. We are all familiar with the Christmas story but some of us are not familiar with the Christmas backstory. The story of Christmas begins with a remarkable promise to Abraham. God promised to make Abraham into a great nation and He did which set up the Christmas story we all know. The backstory of Christmas occurred during a 2,000-year saga that is fascinating, amazing, and inspiring. It's also a bit convicting. If the arrival of Jesus was a blessing to the world, shouldn't we as Jesus followers be a blessing to the world as well?

Scripture: [Genesis 12:1–3 NLT](#); [Isaiah 49:6 NLT](#); [Malachi 1:11 NLT](#); [Galatians 4:4 NLT](#); [Luke 1:26–28, 31–33 NLT](#); [Matthew 4:8 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: The whole world would be blessed because the whole world needed blessing. It needed Christmas.

Discuss:

1. Do you look forward to the Christmas season? Why or why not?
2. How familiar are you with the backstory of Christmas that was discussed in the message?
3. Outside of your personal experience but based on personal observation, how has the coming of Jesus blessed the world?
4. How has the coming of Jesus served as a blessing to you? What was missing before you came to faith?
5. Is there something you can do this season to bless someone else? Do you need a blessing?
6. The story of Christmas reminds us that when God is silent, he's not necessarily still. What are the implications of that for us?

Moving Forward:

This week, as you are reminded of the promises and blessings of God, think about how we as Jesus followers should be a blessing as well. Ask yourself, am I being a blessing to the world? Is our world better off because of Jesus' followers? Does our collective presence make the world brighter?