

Hope City Church

Going Deeper Notes | 10.30.22

Genesis 12:1-3 | Colossians 1:15-23 | Matthew 21:33-46 | Romans 9-11 | Zephaniah 3:9-20

Beshert

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you really needed to see God show up in a situation. What happened?

Going Deeper:

- 1) As we read Genesis 12:1-3 (p. 10, Life Transformation Bible, LTB) we learn that it begins with a promise to whom? What does this promise mean? How does this promise act as a filter for today's geopolitical events between the United States, Israel, Iran, Russia (Syria, N. Korea, China)? How would it seem that God is interacting with Israel in these situations with other countries?
- 2) In Colossians 1:15-23 (p. 902, LTB) what are the various ways that Jesus is described here? What did God do for humanity (you and me) through Jesus? So then, what are you being asked to do as a result (reference verse 23)? Think more specifically. What part of your life right now makes it difficult for you to "stand firm" in your belief for what God did for you through Jesus? How can you begin to act differently in a way that would change that?
- 3) Jesus shares a powerful story in Matthew 21:33-46 (p. 752, LTB). Who does he share this story with? What is significant about this story? How is God prompting you to respond to this story?
- 4) Zephaniah 3:9-20 (p. 717, LTB) is a book that was written to a remnant of the ancient Jews, returning to Israel after their exile in Babylon. Their next task would be to rebuild the temple that was in disrepair. Revisit verse 9 in the NIV translation. In the NIV translation, this verse reads, *"that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder."* How are you building bridges with those from the Jewish faith, beginning to call on the name of the Lord *with* them, shoulder to shoulder? Where can you start to do this? Where can you do more?

Action: These chapters from Romans 9-11 have been completely ignored by some seminary professors altogether! Why? What do they reveal? If the Jews really are God's chosen people, then how do we as Christ-followers begin to build a bridge with those of the Jewish faith? We can begin with prayer.

This week the challenge is to pray **AND** fast (abstain from food or something specific that you normally do often) between THIS evening, October 30th and the evening of Tuesday, November 1st. The Nation of Israel is calling on their people and those of us who would agree with them for their current election cycle, that God would intervene on their behalf. Like us, theirs is a nation with leadership that does not keep in mind the things of God and what God wants for their future. What will you abstain from during these next 3 days? How will you pray for Israel? For the United States? For how we will choose to reflect God's heart for those people who are still far from Him—people that God would like for us to reach out to and show His love to them?

Prayer: Lord, during these next 3 days, I want to invite you to lead my prayers for Israel; for the United States; for my own life and the lives of the people that I care about; even the lives of those people that I could care less about (if I am honest)! Show me what it is that I should fast (abstain) from. Give me your strength, God, to stand firm, when I feel weak in wanting to break this fast before it is time. Help me to listen closely to your promptings and to discern what it is that you want to show me during this time of fasting, God. Thank you that you are using me in a powerful way to partner with you in these prayers for your people and for a world that is far from you right now. I love you, God. Amen.