ARRIVAL
JOYFUL
BLESSING

Advent at Central Vineyard

“WOW, YOU’RE HERE NOW.”

LUKE 2:21-40

—

Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.
Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.” So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

LUKE 2:21-40

—

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
    as you have promised.

LUKE 2:21-40

—

I have seen your salvation,
    which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
    and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

LUKE 2:21-40

—

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.
When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

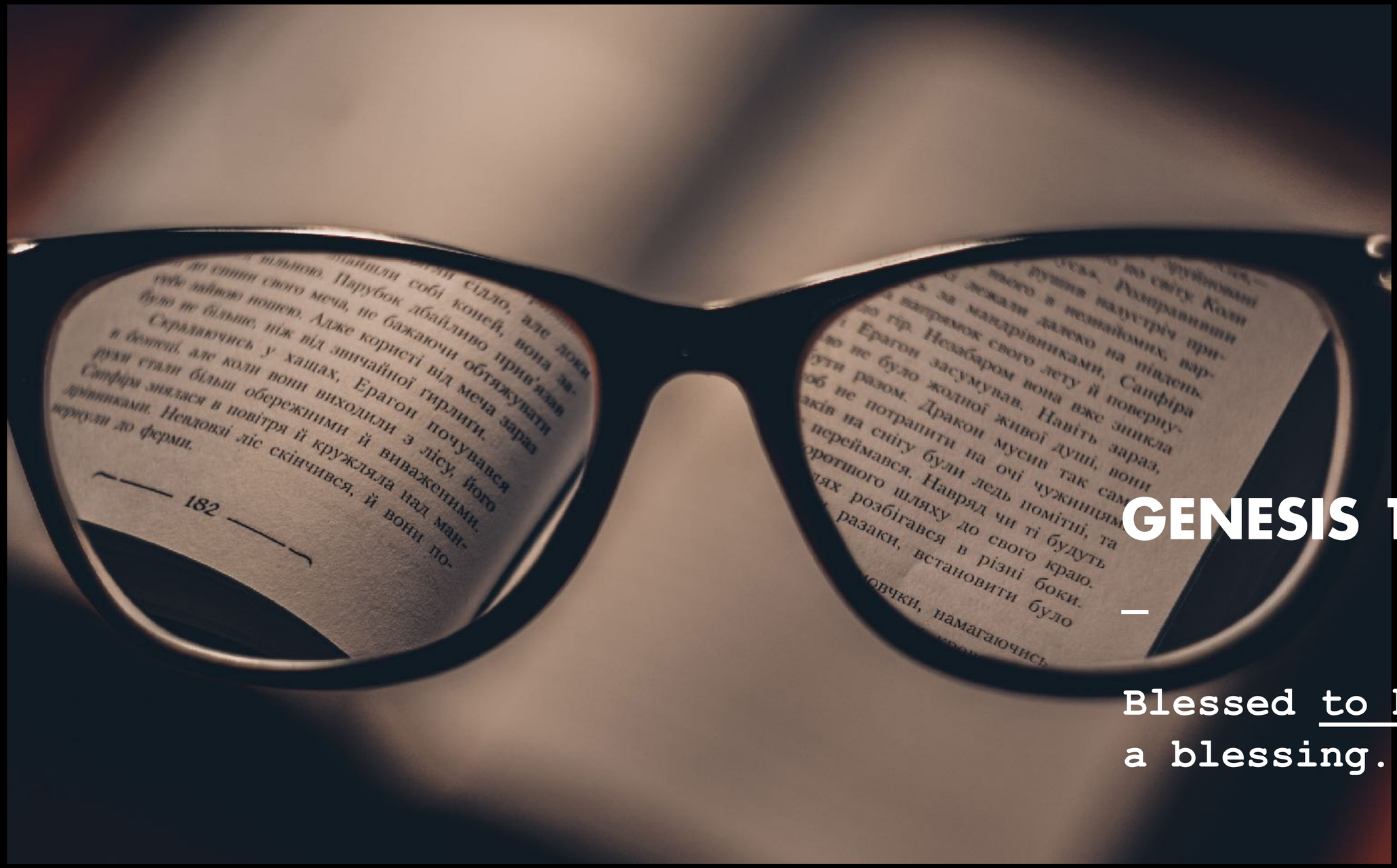
BREAKDOWN

—

- Starts with blessing-by-law-keeping
- Recognition of fulfilment - v32 “He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”
- Ends with prophetic blessing
- v40 “God’s favour was on him.”

THE ULTIMATE BLESSING OF GOD HAS ARRIVED

THEY THEN BLESS THAT IT WOULD GO FURTHER



GENESIS 12:2-3

—

Blessed to be
a blessing.

BLESSING:
BARAKH + EULOGIA

TANGIBLE / GOOD / GIFT

BLESSING:
RECEIVED + GIVEN / IN + OUT

CONSUMERISM: WHAT YOU GET WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY

HOARDING: WHAT YOU KEEP WILL KEEP YOU HAPPY

HOW DO WE LIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE?

DR JOHANNES HARTL

—

“If you give someone something, and they say to you, “Oh you shouldn’t have, what a waste!” You can say, “Correct. That is the right answer. Otherwise it isn’t a gift.”

That is precisely what a gift is: a beautiful waste.”

AS PEOPLE OF BLESSING,
WE MUST BECOME PEOPLE OF “BEAUTIFUL WASTE”
WHO RETELL GOD’S GENEROSITY TO THE WORLD

FAITHFUL PRESENCE

GOOD
GIFTS

COMMUNITY HALL
Cross St
FAT FREDDY'S DROP

REFLECTION (FOR YOURSELF)

—

For you, what has been a “beautiful waste” this year?

How did you waste your time for the sake of the Kingdom?
How did you waste your money for the sake of the Kingdom?
How did you waste your energy for the sake of the Kingdom?

ACTION

—

Go and be a blessing today,
tomorrow, the-day-after,
and for the rest of your days.

(This isn’t just a Christmas-thing.)