



End of the Line

Andy Stanley

Idea: Christmas was the end of the line . . . *and the beginning of the blessing.*

1. In Genesis, we are told that God spoke to Abraham 2,000 years before Jesus and made him an unbelievable promise that he chose to believe.

Genesis 12:3

“... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

2. Really? All peoples?
3. God would bless the world through him.
 - Not conquer the world. That’s what everybody else was trying to do.
 - Bless the world.
 - Not BY him, THROUGH Him, through his descendants.
4. So a line began . . . so Abraham had Isaac, Jacob, 12 sons, 12 tribes, Jesse, David, Solomon . . . lots of births . . . no real blessing.
5. Solomon: The Golden Age. That would have been a good time for a Messiah: the golden powerful age, but this wasn’t about conquering.
6. The descendants of Abraham began to lose influence after Solomon, yet the prophets insisted that God would bless the world through the nation.

Isaiah 49:6

“I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

7. But there was no light.
8. Malachi, the final voice at a time when Israel couldn’t bless itself, insisted . . .

Malachi 1:11

“My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incensed and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord Almighty.