



Magdalen Road Church

*Delighting in God - Displaying his glory*

# GOD'S BIG SOCIETY

THE COMMUNAL VISION OF THE BIBLE

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## 2. A COMMUNITY OF PROMISE



Standing beside the barren grave, watching the dry wind toy with a piece of litter along the road, I wondered if this was the identity to which I was tethered. I had never thought about home much before that afternoon, but since then it has been my great passion. What is home? Where is mine? And how do we conduct lives that amount to something more than getting a few miles on down the road to nowhere special?

Craig Barnes, *Searching for Home*

## ABRAHAM: A PROMISED TRUE COMMUNITY

### LAND

Genesis 12:7

...to your offspring I will give this land..

### INNUMERABLE OFFSPRING

Genesis 15:5

<sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

### ENJOYING GOD’S PRESENCE

Genesis 17:7

<sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

### FOR ALL NATIONS

Gen 12:3

all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

# THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## LAND

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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Mark 1:15 (NIV - Anglicised)

<sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

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### SPIRITUALISED

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Matthew 11:28–29

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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### GLOBALISED

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Matthew 5:5

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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### ESCHATOLOGISED

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Romans 8:24–25

<sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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### MANIFESTED IN THE CHURCH

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1 Peter 2:9–10 (NIV - Anglicised)

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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## INNUMERABLE OFFSPRING

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1 Peter 2:12

<sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds **and glorify God on the day he visits us.**

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## ENJOYING GOD'S PRESENCE

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1 Peter 2:9

that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

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## FOR ALL NATIONS

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1 Peter 2:10

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God

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## QUESTIONS FOR HOMEGROUPS

1. Look through the promises to Abraham in Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22. Does the fourfold analysis suggested work, or does it miss things?
2. Why do you think the promise of land more or less disappears in the New Testament? What does this mean for our expectations in today's world?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12. How do the elements of the promises to Abraham appear in these verses? What privileges does the church today enjoy?
4. Considering our church life, in what ways are we seeing the promises to Abraham fulfilled and in what ways do you think we should particularly seek more?
5. How has this study changed your view of the local church?