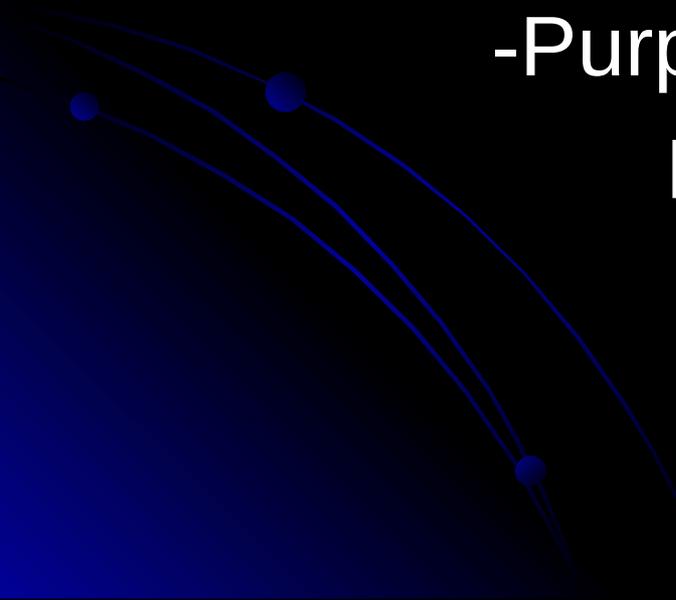


Biblical Foundations for Missions



“To Communicate Christ to the World”

-Purpose of a Missionary
Norman Geisler



God Creates



- He created us; he is interested in us.
- We are made in his image.
 - We are given dominion.
 - *Every* human being is significant.
 - We have a purpose tied to being made in his image:
We are to glorify God by delighting him as we exercise dominion over creation and are fruitful and multiply.

Adam and Eve Fall

- Adam and Eve choose the path of disobedience.
- We live in light of broken relationships:
 - Broken with God
 - Broken with others
 - Broken with self



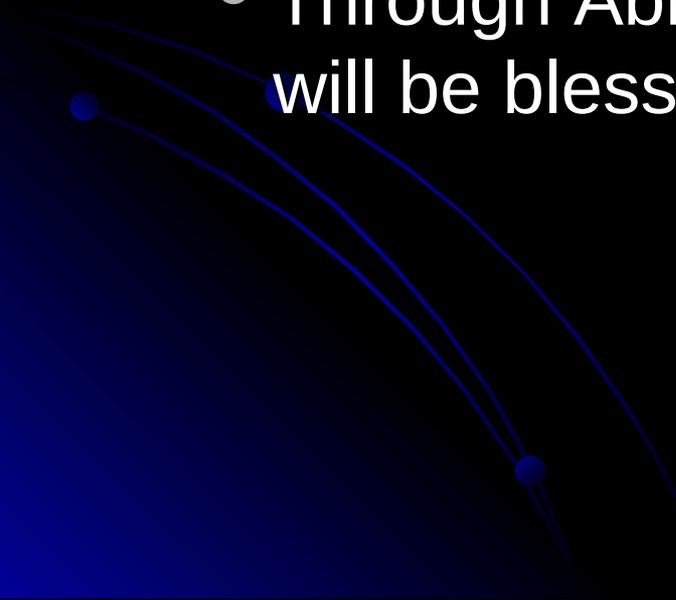
God Pursues



Abraham's Old Testament Great Commission

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Gen. 12:1–3)

The Promises to Abraham

- Three promises, all with the same purpose in mind:
 - God will make Abraham a great nation.
 - He will give Abraham a great name.
 - Through Abraham “*all the peoples on earth will be blessed.*”
- 

Abraham's Old Testament Great Commission

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. **I will make you into a great nation** and I will bless you; **I will make your name great,** and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; **and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**” (Gen. 12:1–3)

Rescuing and Separating a People



Exodus

- It is in this process that a national identity is forged and the descendants of Abraham are forced to take sides.
- They are a “mixed multitude” (Exod. 12:38 [NASB]), an indication that the people were made up of not only Abraham’s descendants but also others who wished to join them (Dyrness 1983, 60).
- Even in the forging of Israel’s national identity the universal nature of God’s concern is found.

Strangers

- Strangers were allowed to enter in among the people of Israel, and they were to be loved as the Israelites loved themselves (Lev. 19:33–34).
- Foreigners were expected (and allowed) to come to the temple to worship (1 Kings 8:41–43).
- God's house was not confined to Israel alone; it was to be a house of prayer for all nations (Isa. 56:6–7).
- God was to uphold Israel so that all the people of the world would know that he is God (1 Kings 8:59–60).



Prophets

- Joel prophesies the outpouring of God's Spirit on all people (2:28) and God's coming judgment of all nations (3:11–12).
- Amos predicts God's restoration will involve all the nations that bear his name (9:11–12).
- Habakkuk declares that the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of God as waters cover the sea (2:14).

Prophets (cont.)

- Micah looks to the day when the nations will come to worship God (4:1–4).
- Jonah preaches—against his will—to the Assyrians. To God’s delight, and Jonah’s chagrin, they repent.
- Zephaniah prophesies universal judgment (3:8) and restoration of God’s people before the eyes of all nations (3:20).

God's People as a Light for the Gentiles

- Israel is a “light for the Gentiles” (Isa. 42:6; 49:6).
- This is the mission of the Old Testament - that the nations were to come to Israel.
- However, Israel was still sent to the world:
 - Abraham to a new land
 - Moses to lead the people back to the land while exhibiting God's wonders to Egypt
 - Jonah to preach repentance to the hated Assyrians in Nineveh

From a People to a Particular Person

The mission of the Servant would be one of justice, gentleness, enlightenment, and liberation (Isa. 42:1–9). But it would also involve rejection and apparent failure (Isa. 49:4; 50:6–8) in the task of restoring Israel to God. In response to that, his mission would be extended to include the nations to the ends of the earth (Isa. 49:6). In that way, the mission of the Servant would be the fulfillment of the mission of Israel itself. (Wright 2000)

Exiled Prophets Offer Signs of Hope

- Jeremiah announces that all the nations would be gathered to Jerusalem (3:17), and that they will not walk in the stubbornness of their hearts anymore. He also announces God's new covenant, when all God's people will know him (31:27–37).
- Ezekiel prophesies that the heathen will know that he is God (36:22–23).
- Zechariah looks ahead to a day when many nations would join God's people (2:11).

-Moreau (2003)

Mission in the Gospels

Saving a People: Jesus the
Messiah



MATTHEW



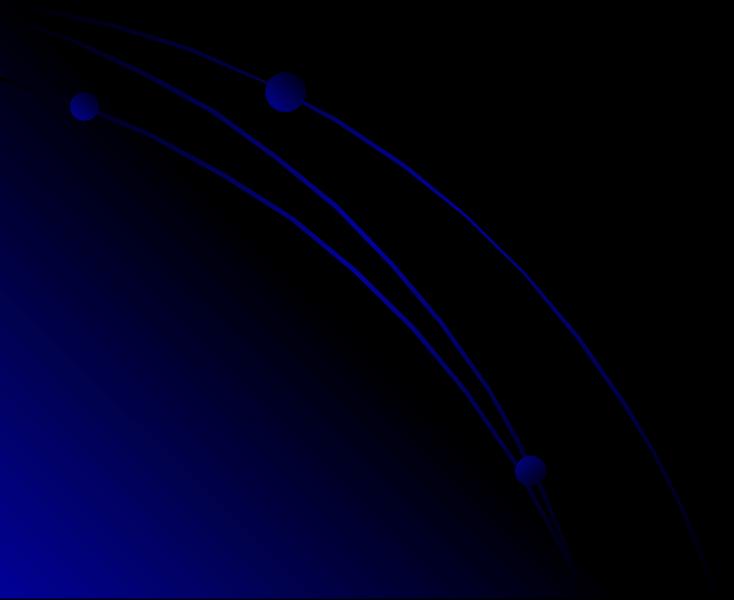
Message and Promise of the Prophets

- 35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
MT 9.35-38

Jesus as the fulfillment of the Promises

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

MT 24.14



Disciples Comissioned and Sent

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.
17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.
18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MT 28.16-20

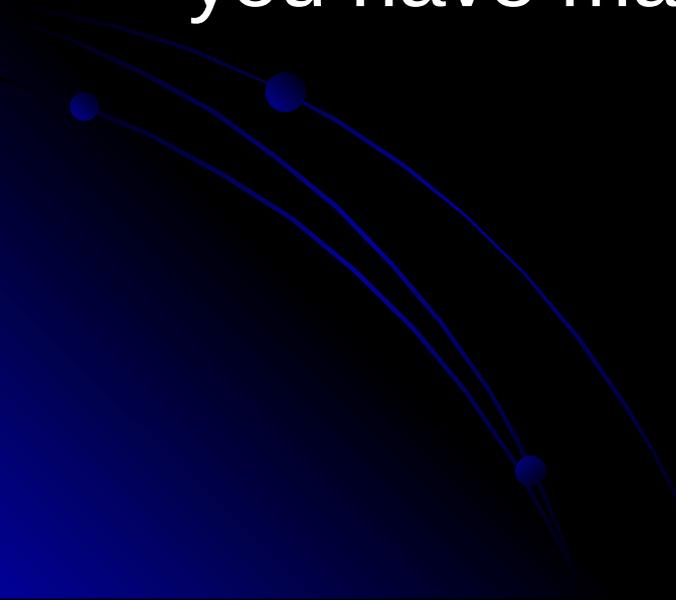
MARK



17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written:

" 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Mark 11.17



10 And the gospel must first be preached to
all nations.

Mark 13.10



LUKE



- 27He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' [a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [b]"

Luke

10.27

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luke 24.45-47

JOHN



16" For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, [a] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3.16



21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 20.21



Disciples Comissioned and Sent - Recap

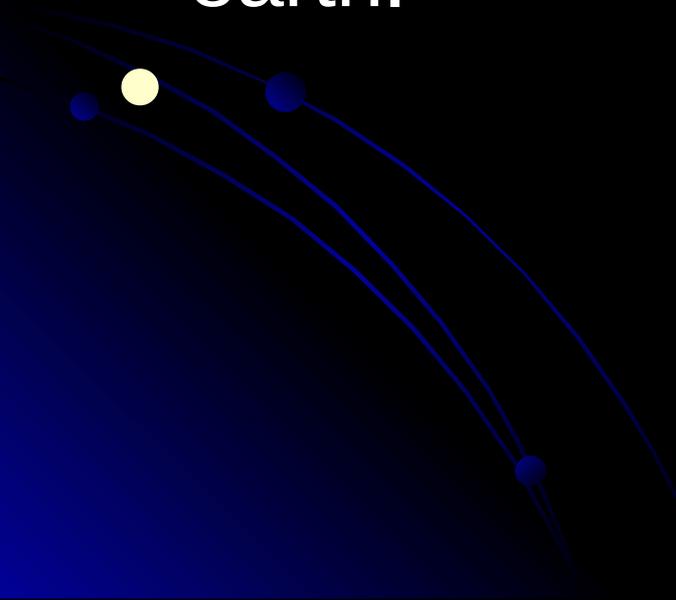


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MT 28.16-20

- 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

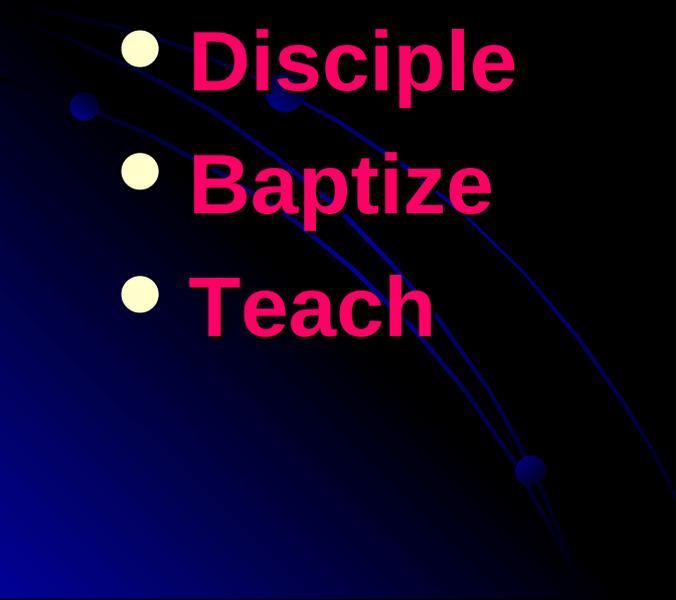
Acts 1.8



Seven Commands



Seven Commands

- **Receive**
 - **Go**
 - **Witness**
 - **Proclaim**
 - **Disciple**
 - **Baptize**
 - **Teach**
- 

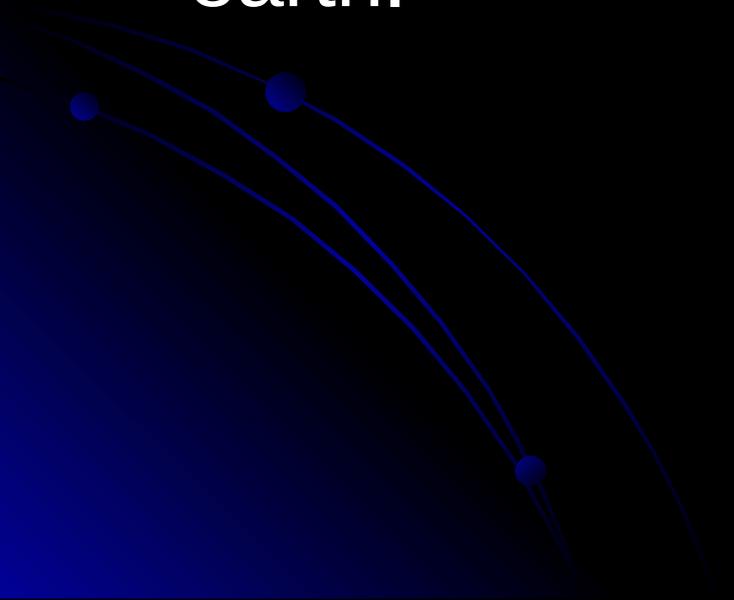
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Acts 1.8



The Intercultural Jesus



1. Jesus' incarnation was **selfless**, not selfish (Philippians 2:5-8)
2. Jesus' incarnation was **fueled by love** (John 3:16)
3. Jesus **ministered** in multi-group settings (Luke 6:17-19)
4. Jesus had a **heart** for the city and country (Luke 19:41; Mark 1:14-9:50)

1. Jesus was not a commuter, he was **on-site** (Matthew 8:20; Mark 2; Mark 6; Luke 19)
2. Jesus is **aware** of social needs as well as heart needs (Matthew 15; Luke 5)
3. Jesus' experience was at **great cost** (Luke 19; Luke 14; Luke 9:62)

Consider the God of the Bible on Mission

Where else do we see it?



End of Presentation

