

THE MISSION NEXT DOOR

UPG Study Week Two:

Biblical Mandate to Reach UPGS

Introduction

The fact that people are yet to be reached with the Gospel is heartbreaking. The good news is, God has a plan. The even better news is the plan is perfectly laid out in His Word. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, God has given those who have repented and believed in Him the mission to reach the unreached. This mission from God has been given to us to carry out.

This study is designed to help see three key realities from God's Word:

1. The Global Vision of the Old Testament.
 2. The Global Mandate of the New Testament.
 1. The Global Gathering of Heaven
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Video: God's Global Vision

[Click here](#) to watch the video, or access it on the "Week Two" webpage.

1. The Global Vision of the Old Testament

Key verses: **Genesis 12:1-3; Psalm 67:1-7; Isaiah 49:6**

Biblical Foundation:

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 11 ends with the genealogical record introducing us to Abram the son of Terah. God will then speak to Abram and open his eyes to the mission for which Abram would be called. These three verses reveal the following four truths that help us begin to see the global vision of God:

1. God promises to give Abram a land. (Place)
2. God promises to establish a great nation. (People)
3. God promises to bless Abram to be a blessing. (Platform)
4. God promises to bless all the peoples of the world through Abram. (Purpose)

Psalm 67:1-7

Psalm 67 again reminds us of the global nature of God's mission. The blessing of God is not simply something for His people to hold for themselves. Rather, the blessing of God, His favor shining on His people, has a purpose. The purpose is so that the saving power of God be known among **all nations**. The Psalmist continues and says that **all the peoples** praise God. As the psalm closes, the global nature is once again revealed in that the fear of God shall stretch to the **ends of the earth**.

Isaiah 49:1-6

Abram, the psalmist and now the prophet Isaiah hears from God. God declares to Isaiah that Israel shall return to Him. But notice the purpose once again. The mission of God is revealed yet again as God says He will make His people a light for the nations. Why? So that His salvation may reach **to the end of the earth**. God gives His word to Isaiah as He did to Abram and to the psalmist. This mission is a global vision that reaches to the ends of the earth, declaring God's salvation to all people groups of the world.

Questions to consider:

- What is the purpose of God blessing His people in these three passages of scripture?
 - *Abram was to be blessed in order that He would be a blessing. This blessing was not just for those around him, his people, but literally to bless all the peoples of the world.*
 - *The psalmist declared the blessing of God was to rest on the people so that all the people of the world would know the saving power of God.*
 - *Isaiah declared the blessing on God's people being gathered to Him would make them to be the light that would illuminate the salvation of God to the ends of the earth.*
 - Where does God want His salvation to be proclaimed according to each of these three passages of scripture?
 - *Genesis 12:3 "and in you ALL the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
 - *Isaiah 67 "Let all the peoples praise you", "Let all the ends of the earth fear Him!"*
 - *Isaiah 49:6 "that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*
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2. The Global Mandate of the New Testament

Key Verses: **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8**

Biblical Foundation:

The Old Testament reveals the global vision of God's mission. In the New Testament, we find the global mandate for the church. God's plan A for His mission is that those who repent and believe in Him would be a part of His global mission. Jesus gives a global mandate in each of the Gospel accounts and in Acts. The following is the instruction given by Jesus in each of these passages. Notice both the action to be taken and the scope of that action:

1. Matthew 28:18-20
 - **Action** - "Go and make disciples"
 - **Scope** - "of all nations"
2. Mark 16:15-16
 - **Action** - "Go...proclaim the Gospel"
 - **Scope** - "into all the world" / "to the whole creation"
3. Luke 24:45-47
 - **Action** - "Repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name"
 - **Scope** - "to all nations"
4. John 20:21
 - **Action** - "even so I am sending you"
 - **Scope** - "As the Father has sent me"
5. Acts 1:8
 - **Action** - "You will be my witnesses"
 - **Scope** - "in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria and the end of the earth."

Questions to consider:

- What are the primary actions of the mission Jesus has given to the church and to each Christian?
 - *Going. Making disciples. Proclaiming the Gospel. Proclaiming the forgiveness of sins. Being sent. Being His witness.*
- Who and where does Jesus expect the mission of God to go?
 - *Everywhere on the earth and to all peoples who inhabit the earth.*
- What can prevent us from having this global vision and accepting the global mandate from God?
 - *The following are barriers that often have to be overcome:*
 - *Resources.*
 - *Inability to see beyond our local geographical area.*
 - *A lack of tools to reach across cultural and geographical boundaries.*
 - *Others will surface as you ask this question.*

3. The Global Gathering of Heaven

Key Verses: **Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 7:9-10; Revelation 22:1-2**

The Old Testament reveals the global mission of God. The New Testament reveals the global mandate of God. So how will all of this culminate? God shows John the vision of the culmination of His mission around the throne of heaven. What is revealed is a beautiful picture of God's mission to see all peoples of the earth come to Him fulfilled in heaven. The heavenly worship of God is an extraordinary gathering of people from all people groups worshipping God for all of eternity. This vision should bring us joy, create urgency and give us assurance our work to take

the Gospel to the end of the earth is not in vain. We can observe two important elements in the vision of heaven from these verses:

1. Salvation and healing realized in heaven.
 - o Revelation 5:9 - "For you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God."
 - o Revelation 7:10 - "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
 - o Rev. 22:2 - "The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."
2. The "every" nature of the people in heaven.
 - o Revelation 5:9 - "from every tribe and language and people and nation"
 - o Revelation 7:9 - "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages"
 - o Revelation 22:2 - "healing of the nations"

Questions to consider:

- How does my current involvement in missions contribute to the vision of the global gathering of heaven?
 - What do I need to change to take a more obedient role in God's global mission?
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4. Next Step: What can I do right now?

God's mission from the beginning has been global and He expects His church to be obedient to this mission. The task is urgent, and obedience is critical. Would you consider taking these three next steps:

1. Commit to pray for God to give you a global vision.
2. Commit to research people groups where you live. (In the coming weeks you will get more resources on how to do this).
3. Commit to praying specifically each day for an unreached people group using the *Unreached People Groups Prayer Calendar*.