

Definition

Mission is the work of God reconciling to himself a people from all peoples

Five Essential Elements to Mission

- 1) Mission is something *God does*
- 2) Mission is something God does *for himself*
- 3) Mission is about *salvation*
- 4) Mission is aimed toward *peoples*
- 5) Mission results in *a people*

The Story of the Bible is a Story about Mission

I. Chapter 1: The Need for Mission

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

(Genesis 3:8-9)

⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” [...] ⁶ The Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language [...]” ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

(Genesis 11:4, 6-9)

II. Chapter 2: The Beginning of Mission

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

(Genesis 12:1-3)

III. Chapter 3: The Un-silence of Mission in Israel's History

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

(*Luke 24:44-47*)

Five Examples

- 1) The mixed multitude at the exodus:

³⁷ And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. ³⁸ A mixed multitude also went up with them (*Exodus 12:37-38*)

- 2) Rahab the prostitute:

¹¹ "The Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath." (*Joshua 2:11*)

²⁵ But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. (*Joshua 6:25*)

- 3) Ruth the Moabitess:

"For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (*Ruth 1:16*)

- 4) The Queen of Sheba

⁹ "Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel!" (*1 Kings 10:9*)

- 5) King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

³⁷ "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble." (*Daniel 4:37*)

IV. Chapter 4: Mission Anticipated

² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

(Romans 10:14)

V. Chapter 5: Mission *Par Excellence*

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

(John 12:27-28)

¹⁹ In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them

(2 Corinthians 5:19a)

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

(Ephesians 2:13-19)

VI. Chapter 6: Mission Given

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:18-20)

VII. Chapter 7: Mission Accomplished

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

(Revelation 7:9-12)

Application

1) Something to Know: *Not everything is mission*

“Areas where Protestant missionaries had a significant presence in the past are on average more economically developed today, with comparatively better health, lower infant mortality, lower corruption, greater literacy, higher educational attainment (especially for women) and more robust membership in nongovernmental associations...”

However, this was only true for conversionary Protestants—missionaries whose main focus was on preaching the gospel, planting churches, and discipling

“...This excluded Catholic missionaries who started schools, hospitals, and orphanages but had no gospel to proclaim. It also excluded state-sponsored missionaries sent essentially to “civilize” the local population. Both of these groups focused on social transformation, but neither achieved it in the long run. Instead, those who focused first on gospel work and then disciplined fully-formed followers of Jesus have a heritage of transformation that continues today in many places”

(Come & See, Glen Scrivener and Justin Schell)

2) Something to Believe: *Mission is guaranteed its success*

3) **Something to Do: *Fulfill the mission***

⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

(3 John 7-8)

4) **Someone to Love: *Jesus, the God of mission***

“Any work for God that has less than a passion for Jesus Christ as its motive will end in crushing heartbreak and discouragement.” (Oswald Chambers)

“I have but one passion - it is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ.” (Count Zinzendorf)

Book Recommendations

● **Missiologies (Theology of Missions)**

- *No Shortcut to Success*, Matt Rhodes
- *Missions*, Andy Johnson
- *Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions*, John Piper
- *A Vision for Missions*, Tom Wells
- *Cross*, John Piper & David Mathis eds.
- *Evangelism as Exiles*, Elliot Clark
- *Come & See: A History & Theology of Missions*, Justin Schell & Glen Scrivener

● **Missionary Biographies**

- *To the Golden Shore*, Courtney Anderson (Adoniram Judson)
- *John Paton* (Autobiography)
- *Peace Child*, Don Richardson (Autobiography)
- *Through Gates of Splendor*, Elisabeth Elliot (Jim & Elisabeth Elliot)
- *When God Comes Calling*, Ted Fletcher (Autobiography)
- *Tortured for Christ*, Richard Wurmbrand (Autobiography)