

## I. Week 2, Biblical Theology of Missions from OT Part 1

### A. Historical Snapshot, St. Patrick

- i. Source material - <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/who-was-saint-patrick-and-should-christians-celebrate-st-patricks-day/>
- ii. Early 400s
- iii. Roman Empire beginning to lose power, marauding bands began to raid and pillage, particularly from the north.
- iv. Lived in Britain, the far northern border of the Roman Empire
- v. Age 16, captured, kidnapped, taken to Ireland, lived as a slave for 6 years in hunger and cold
- vi. In his 20s, he recounts a vision that he saw of a man from Ireland asking him to return
- vii. In the midst of political upheaval, Rome was sacked in 410
- viii. Many of the Roman civil and military leaders were returning from Britain, back to mainland Europe
- ix. Family and other thought it was a useless effort to return to Ireland
- x. Patrick returned to Ireland and preached the gospel
- xi. Many converted, formed monasteries, church councils
- xii. An example of courage and conviction in acting against the norms of his day to take the gospel to pagan land.
- xiii. Today, we will be looking into the Old Testament, and it is my prayer / desire that, as we see the cause of missions woven through the Old Testament story, we too will develop courage and conviction like Patrick, fueled by a desire to see God glorified among the nations that would compel us to commit ourselves, either as those who send or those who go, to the cause of world missions.

### B. Review Last Week

- i. Definition of Missions - Missions refers to the work of making disciples through preaching the gospel and establishing local churches, typically involving the crossing of cultural, linguistic, or ethnic barriers and performed by those specifically sent out by the church for this task.
- ii. Distinct from Evangelism
- iii. People Group Approach / 1974 Lausanne Congress / Ralph Winter

### C. Resources to Recommend

- i. *Introduction to Global Missions*, Zane Pratt, M. David Sills, Jeff Walters
- ii. *God Dwells Among Us*, Beale and Kim
- iii. *Missions in the Old Testament*, Walter C. Kaiser
- iv. *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*, Desmond Alexander.

### D. Introduction to OT Review

- i. Question – if you are the apostle Paul, called to minister to the Gentiles, how would you defend and support your ministry?
  1. Would you quote the Great Commission?

2. Acts 13:47 example of Paul quoting Isaiah to justify his ministry to the Gentiles.
  3. Acts 15:15 James quoting Amos 9 to justify expansion of gospel to the Gentiles.
- ii. Recall that the Bible is one story. It was revealed progressively. There is one grand narrative of God working throughout history to bring all nations to himself.
  - iii. Stories shape worldview. That is what we are after in this course - worldview shaping, affection growing, sacrificial growth in commitment to global missions for the glory of God among the nations.
  - iv. BB Warfield Quote

*“The Old Testament may be likened to a chamber richly furnished but dimly lighted; the introduction of light brings into it nothing which was not in it before; but it brings out into clearer view much of what is in it but was only dimly or even not at all perceived before. The mystery of the Trinity is not revealed in the Old Testament; but the mystery of the Trinity underlies the Old Testament revelation, and here and there almost comes into view. Thus the Old Testament revelation of God is not corrected by the fuller revelation that follows it, but only perfected, extended and enlarged.” —Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, Biblical Doctrines (New York: Oxford University Press, 1932; reprint, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003), 141-42.*

- E. Goal of these two classes is to show that global missions is woven throughout the Old Testament narrative, not an add-on at the time of the New Testament, not a casual or second-hand purpose. The whole purpose of creation and revelation is the glory of God among the nations, as God calls people to himself who will dwell with him and worship him.
- F. Missiological Basis for the Bible - God revealed himself to people throughout time and sovereignly ordained that they might record that revelation and compile it into the Bible that we have today so that the peoples of the earth might know him and glorify him.
- G. Missions is, therefore, working towards the ultimate goal of all creation, namely, to see all peoples of the earth worshipping and praising God.
- H. Structure of this class and next class
  - i. Class 1 - Genesis 1 up to the reign of David, the high point of the history of Israel.
    1. Adam
    2. Fall
    3. Noah
    4. Babel

5. Abraham
  6. Isaac
  7. Jacob / Israel
  8. David
- ii. Class 2 - decline of the nation of Israel and the prophetic hope
    1. Psalms
    2. Isaiah
    3. Micah
    4. Jonah
    5. Zechariah
    6. Amos
- I. Creation, Genesis 1-2
    - i. Review how Old Testament narrative “works”, repetition, commentary, pace, etc.
    - ii. Genesis 1:26-28
      1. God creates man in his own image.
      2. God commands man to be fruitful / multiply / fill the earth / subdue it.
      3. Image of God includes both what man is and what man does. He is a moral and rational being, and he is commanded to rule the earth and subdue it and multiply and fill the earth.
      4. As created in the image of God, man is intended to display God’s character and likeness, to represent God on the earth.
    - iii. Genesis 2 - we see more of the detail fleshed out.
      1. Presence of God is with man. Garden with pleasant trees, beautiful paradise, river flows out of Eden (compare Ezekiel 47, John 8, Revelation 22).
      2. Genesis 2:10-14 - river flows out of Eden and splits into 4 rivers and waters the lands of Havilah, Cush, Assyria, etc.
      3. Ezekiel 47 - river flows from the temple / sanctuary and flows out to the east, brings life and blessing, trees that bear fresh fruit every month.
      4. Revelation 22 - river of water of life, flowing from the throne of God, tree of life whose leaves are healing for the nations, bears fruit every month
      5. Eden is the place where God dwelt with man. The presence of God was there. But, that presence of God was meant to flow out and fill the world, so that the presence of God would fill the earth.
      6. God placed Adam and Eve there to work the garden and to keep it (2:15). Priestly language, these two verbs are used together to refer to the work of the priests in the sanctuary.
    - iv. Summary of Genesis 1-2
      1. Adam and Eve enjoy God’s blessing as they dwell in God’s presence.

2. Yet, God's purpose was not for them to remain in Eden, but instead to fill the earth.
3. Image bearers of God to represent him over the whole earth... that God's glory might fill the whole earth.
4. God created Adam and Eve to experience the presence of God. As his image-bearers, they were created for the purpose of filling the earth and ruling over the creation as God's subordinates. Be fruitful / multiply - have lots of children, teach them to follow God, and fill the earth with worshipers of God.
5. Fruitful / multiply references continues through narrative (Gen. 47:27, Exodus 1:7)
6. Fruitful / multiply in the book of Acts to describe the growth of the church and the progress of the Gospel (6:7, 12:24)

J. Fall / Promise, Genesis 3

i. Genesis 3.

1. Genesis 3:1-7 - the fall of man into sin, not subduing the animals but being subdued by them
2. Genesis 3:8 - they hid themselves from the presence of God. Whereas God created man to dwell in his presence and represent him on earth, now man is hiding from the presence of God.
3. Genesis 3:23-24 - The whole enterprise is put in jeopardy though when man is sent out of the garden, away from God's presence.

ii. What about Genesis 1:28? What about filling the earth with worshipers of God? How will this be fulfilled? What about this serpent that undermines God's Word?

iii. Promise

1. Genesis 3:15, promised seed / offspring
2. Protoevangelion, the first gospel
3. Offspring / seed - key word throughout Genesis

iv. Summary...

1. God's original creation purpose seems to be put in jeopardy when a rogue creature rebels against God and leads Adam and Eve into rebellion.
2. Promise of a seed of woman that will crush the serpent's head
3. What about the filling the earth with worshippers of God?
4. What about God dwelling with man?

K. Flood / Noah / Babel

- i. Genesis 6:1 - man multiplies on the earth, but they fill the earth with wickedness.
- ii. Genesis 6:11 - the earth with filled with violence.

- iii. God is sorry that he has made man, sends a flood to destroy the world, with the exception of Noah.
- iv. Flood / destruction
- v. Genesis 8:20 - Noah builds an altar to worship God
- vi. Genesis 9:1, God blesses Noah in the same language, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."
- vii. Genesis 9:9, I will establish my covenant with you and your offspring.
- viii. Noah is worshipping God and receives a commission from God to fulfill the original creation mandate (Genesis 1:26-28)
- ix. But then we see Noah fall into drunkenness and shame. Is this what God intended?
- x. Tension remains... promised seed of the woman, original creation purposes?
- xi. Table of nations in Genesis 10
- xii. Tower of Babel in Genesis 11
- xiii. Tower of Babel - man disobeys God's command to fill the earth, so God disperses them
- xiv. Beginning of people group / families of the earth thinking in the Bible

L. Patriarchal Period (Abraham/Isaac/Jacob, Genesis 12-50)

- i. The earth is filled with various peoples, dispersed over the earth. God chooses one man and determines to use that man to fulfill his original creation purposes.
- ii. Genesis 12:1-3, God Calls Abram
  - 1. Pivotal passage in the Old Testament, Genesis 1 purposes narrow in on one man and his offspring.
  - 2. Great nation / great name (12:2)
  - 3. Blessed by God to be a blessing (12:2)
  - 4. All the families of the earth will be blessed (12:3)
  - 5. Just as God blessed Adam and then commissioned him to fill the earth, so God blesses Abraham here and the commands him to go to the land that he will show him.
- iii. Promise is Confirmed, Genesis 22:15-18
  - 1. Context of sacrifice of Isaac
  - 2. Genesis 22:15-18...I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gates of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.
  - 3. Multiply language (Genesis 1)
  - 4. Offspring language (Genesis 3)
  - 5. Nations of the earth being blessed (Genesis 12)
  - 6. Panta ta Ethne (Matthew 28)
- iv. Promise passed down to Isaac, Genesis 26:2-4

1. Genesis 26:3-4 - I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.
  2. Multiply language (Genesis 1)
  3. Offspring language (Genesis 3)
  4. Nations of the earth being blessed (Genesis 12)
  5. *Panta ta Ethne* (Matthew 28)
- v. Promise passed down to Jacob, Genesis 28
1. Genesis 28:3-4 - Isaac blesses Jacob, "God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. May he give you the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you... (*Before Jacob goes to Paddan-Aram*).
  2. 28:3-4 - Fruitful and multiply language (Genesis 1)
  3. 28:3-4 - Offspring language (Genesis 3)
  4. 28:10-17 - in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
  5. The Lord is in this place.
- vi. Other Texts
1. Genesis 18:18, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in Abraham (*panta ta ethne*)
  2. Genesis 27:27-29 - Isaac blesses deceitful Jacob, let the peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you.
  3. Genesis 35:9-15 - Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you... (*When Jacob returns from Paddan-Aram*). *So Jacob called the place Bethel.*
  4. Genesis 49:10 - promise of rule for Judah and the obedience of the peoples
- vii. Summary
1. God's original creation purpose was to fill the earth with image-bearers, men and women who would dwell in His presence, worship Him and represent Him.
  2. Adam / Eve failed in this regard. Promise passed down to Noah
  3. Noah failed in this regard. Promise passed down to Abraham
  4. Promise continue down through Abraham's descendants... Isaac, Jacob, Judah... to the nation of Israel.
  5. This sets the stage for the whole history of the nation of Israel. We need to read OT history with this in mind. What about Genesis 1? What about the offspring of Genesis 3? What about the families of the earth in Genesis 12?

#### M. Moses / Nation of Israel

- i. Israel's purpose was to fulfill this creation mandate, to fill the earth with God's glory, to bless all the families of the earth, through spreading the presence of God to the nations.

- ii. Exodus from Egypt / Charter for the nation
  - 1. Exodus 19:1-6, kingdom of priests... to represent God to the nations of the world
  - 2. Exodus / Leviticus details creation of the tabernacle, and the regulations surrounding the worship of God. Tabernacle is a place for God to dwell with man. Decorated with garden imagery.
- iii. Numbers
  - 1. Wilderness wandering. People grumble / complain.
- iv. Deuteronomy / Plains of Moab
  - 1. Deuteronomy 4:1-8, Israel was to be a light to the nations in Canaan through their obedience and through the Law (vs. 6-8)
  - 2. Deuteronomy 28:1-14, All the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord (vs. 10)
- v. Joshua - Conquest of Canaan
  - 1. Judgment on the nations
  - 2. Rahab and her family, glimpses of the nations coming in
  - 3. Joshua 4:24, "so that all peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God", set up memorial stones
  - 4. Yet, people do not complete the conquest.
  - 5. As a result, their obedience / fulfillment of the promises is in doubt.
- vi. Judges - Depravity
  - 1. Every man does what was right in his own eyes
  - 2. What about the promises?
  - 3. How will this nation be a blessing to all families of the earth?
- vii. Ruth
  - 1. Beautiful picture of Moabite woman coming to faith
  - 2. Among other things, Ruth provides the background for David
- viii. I Samuel / 2 Samuel / 1 Kings / 2 Kings
  - 1. Story of David
  - 2. Pace slows down
  - 3. 2 Samuel 7
  - 4. Could this be the fulfillment?
- N. 2 Samuel 7, Davidic covenant, instruction for the nations (18-19)
  - i. Walter Kaiser makes the case that 2 Samuel 7 echoes Abrahamic covenant
  - ii. Repetition of divine name... Lord GOD (Adonai YHWH)
  - iii. Great name (7:9), echoes Genesis 12:2
  - iv. Offspring who comes after you (7:12), Genesis 3:15

- v. He will be to me a son (7:14), compare Exodus 4:22
- vi. A house for God to dwell with man.
- vii. Solomon would build a house for God.
- viii. A place for God to dwell with his people (I Kings 8)
- ix. Solomon is the greatest king of the earth. (I Kings 10)
- x. Deuteronomy 17:14-20
- xi. I Kings 10 - Solomon acquired many horses
- xii. I Kings 11 - Solomon loved many foreign women
- xiii. Israel falls into decline

O. Tension Continues to Build...

- i. What about Genesis 1?
- ii. What about Genesis 3?
- iii. What about Genesis 12?
- iv. Adam failed.
- v. Noah failed.
- vi. Israel failed.
- vii. How will God dwell with his people and bless the nations of the earth as his people fill the earth with his glory?
- viii. This is where the prophets come in.
- ix. It's amazing to see how all of these tensions / problems / issues find their resolution and fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

P. Application

- i. We are part of this narrative.
- ii. Global missions didn't start in Matthew 28.
- iii. It started in Genesis 1.
- iv. All of creation's purpose is for the glory of God to fill the earth, as he dwells with his people.
- v. So, let us pray that God would work into our own souls a passion for his glory in all the earth.