

## I. Session 4 – Biblical Theology of Missions from the NT – Part 1

### A. Missionary Profile – John Calvin’s Geneva

- i. The modern missionary movement among **Protestant** Christians began in the 1700’s with William Carey
- ii. Many people have blamed the lack of **Protestant** missionary effort prior to this upon doctrinal teachings called Calvinism.
- iii. The truth, however, is that the lack of protestant missionary effort prior to the 1700’s was actually the result of a number of factors only one of which was a hyper-Calvinism prevalent among many Protestants in England at the time
- iv. What most people don’t know is that the French reformer, John Calvin, himself was actively involved with promoting missions
- v. Upon his conversion as a young man in France, John Calvin broke from the Roman Catholic church, and became a protestant Reformer during the 1530’s.
- vi. After his conversion he fled France and came to Geneva Switzerland
- vii. There he wrote, preached, and pastored.
- viii. As his ministry flourished young protestants came to Geneva from all over the world to be trained as pastors by Calvin and his contemporaries
- ix. Calvin not only wrote and preached about the necessity of missions but was also involved with sending many missionaries from Geneva from the ranks of young men who came to study there.
- x. Calvin and His contemporaries in Geneva sent missionaries to plant churches in Roman Catholic dominated countries, including France, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, West Germany, and even Brazil.
- xi. Calvin had a particular heart for France, being his home country, and the impact of Genevan missionaries there was perhaps greatest of all. The Genevan records list 88 Protestant missionaries sent to France from Geneva between 1555 and 1563 and during that time the number of Protestant churches in France exploded from 5 to over 2,000.
- xii. Calvin taught that the missionary endeavor was worth sacrificing your life for. Indeed the first missionary sent from Geneva, was Pierre Brully to the Netherlands. He only survived 3 months before being martyred by Catholics. And most Genevan missionaries left knowing they might very well suffer the same fate in service of the gospel. Many of them did.
- xiii. John Calvin and the church in Geneva provide us with a profound example of a local church, committed to Reformed theology, actively sending missionaries to proclaim the gospel and plant churches among the unreached among the nations at great cost to themselves.
- xiv. May we be encouraged to follow his example here at Cow Creek.

### B. Introduction

- i. We are in a section in which we are looking at how Global Missions is a central aspect of the storyline of Scripture from beginning to end
- ii. Last two Sundays Ben has been showing us global missions in the storyline of the OT

- iii. For the next two weeks I am going to show you global missions in the storyline of the NT
- iv. Today we are going to focus on the Gospels and Acts

C. Review: Anticipation of Missions in the OT

- i. Seed of missions – Genesis 3:15 – mankind redeemed from the effects of the fall through a descendant of Eve
- ii. Plant of missions – Genesis 12:1-3 – nations blessed through descendant(s) of Abraham
- iii. Vine on the plant of mission – King will arise from Judah/David who would rule the nations – Gen 49:10; 2 Samuel 7
- iv. Partial fulfillment - Israel under David/Solomon → Tree cut down in exile
- v. Greater tree of missions grows out of the stump – Prophets
  - 1. New Exodus (Isaiah 40)
  - 2. New Israel (Ezekiel 36:25-26) – remnant of Israelites
  - 3. New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31)
  - 4. New Davidic King (Is 9:6-7)
  - 5. New Creation (Is. 65:17)
  - 6. Nations will be judged (Zephaniah 1:2-3)
  - 7. Remnant from among the nations will gathered into the kingdom of God
    - a. Is 49:6
    - b. Is 2:1-4
    - c. Is. 19:18-25
    - d. Zech. 2:10-11
    - e. Zech. 8:20-23

D. Inauguration of Missions in the Gospels

- i. The message of the gospels is that the promises of the OT came to fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus the Messiah
  - 1. Mark 1:15 theme verse – “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15)
  - 2. The New Exodus is about to occur – Mark 1:1-3 – John the Baptist is the forerunner
  - 3. The New Davidic King has arrived – Luke 2:11
  - 4. He began to create the new Israel – 12 disciples corresponding to the 12 tribes – characterized by the new birth – John 3:5
  - 5. He established the New Covenant – Luke 22:20

6. He came to fulfill the promises in Genesis 3:15; Genesis 12:1-3; and 2 Samuel 7 as well – Matthew's genealogy showed he was the offspring of *David* and *Abraham* – see also Luke 1:67-75 – Luke's genealogy also adds that he is the offspring of *Adam*.
- ii. However certain things the prophets foretold ***didn't happen right away***
    1. The wicked in Israel and among the nations were not judged
    2. The kingdom was not established to the ends of the earth
    3. A remnant of the Gentile nations did not receive the salvation of the Messiah and come into the kingdom [*remember all those prophecies I read*]
    4. Instead Jesus ministered almost exclusively to the Jews and even refused to minister to the Gentiles – in the response to the request of the Canaanite woman - Matthew 15:24
    5. Although there were glimpses of the future salvation of the Gentiles spoken of by the prophets – Matthew 8:10-12
  - iii. At the end of his life Jesus explained that there would be a long delay before the promises of the OT were fully and finally consummated – final judgment and final salvation
    1. Matthew 25:5-12 – Parable of the 10 virgins – “The bridegroom was delayed” (v.5)
    2. Matthew 25:14- – Parable of the Talents – ‘It will be like a man going on a journey’ (v.14)
  - iv. The primary purpose for the delay is the gathering of the nations into the kingdom as the prophets foretold – Matthew 24:9-14; Luke 24:45-49.
  - v. The gospels end with the risen Jesus giving His disciples (the church) the mission to make disciples of all nations until the end of the age (i.e. when he returns) – Matthew 28:18-19
  - vi. So what the OT prophets foresaw as a single event the gospels said happened with the arrival of Jesus in a ‘now’ and ‘not yet’ way – we are still living in the period of delay in between the ***inauguration*** and the ***consummation*** of the fulfillment – when the nations are being gathered into the kingdom of the Messiah as the prophets foretold – *this is missions*.
- E. Ongoing fulfillment of Missions in Acts
- i. Acts picks up where the gospels left off – the risen Jesus commissioning His disciples to proclaim the gospel and make disciples to the ends of the earth – Acts 1:6-8
  - ii. Acts shows us how they would be able to do this – Acts 1:8, ‘you will receive power when the HS has come upon you’ - Acts 2 – Pentecost – fulfillment of the

prophetic hope (i.e. Joel 2:28-32; Is. 32:14-18; Is. 44:1-5; Ezekiel 3:26-27) – from then on the HS empowered their ministry

1. Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”
  2. Acts 4:8, “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”
  3. Acts 4:31, “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”
  4. Acts 6:10, “But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he [Stephen] was speaking”
  5. Acts 8:29, “And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot”
  6. Acts 10:44, “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word”
  7. Acts 13:4, “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia”
  8. Acts 16:6, “And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia”
- iii. Acts recounts the beginning of the fulfillment of the mission to make disciples of all nations
1. Acts 1:8, “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”
  2. Jerusalem – Acts 2-7
  3. Judea – Acts 8:1
  4. Samaria – Acts 8:4-25
  5. The uttermost parts of the earth - Acts 10 [first Gentiles] – Acts 11 [first Gentile church in Antioch] – Acts 13-20 [Paul’s missionary journeys in Asia Minor and Europe] – Acts 21-28 [Paul’s trials which take Him to Rome]
- iv. Acts tells us what fulfilling the mission to make disciples of all nations looked like
1. Going to unreached places
  2. Proclaiming the gospel
  3. Forming new believers into local churches
- v. Acts ends abruptly with Paul in Rome – implies that the story of Acts isn’t over – we are in Acts 29 - until the end of the age.

F. Applications:

- i. Explains what is happening now
- ii. Explains where we fit in it
- iii. Explains how we participate in it

G. Gives us great hope

H. Questions