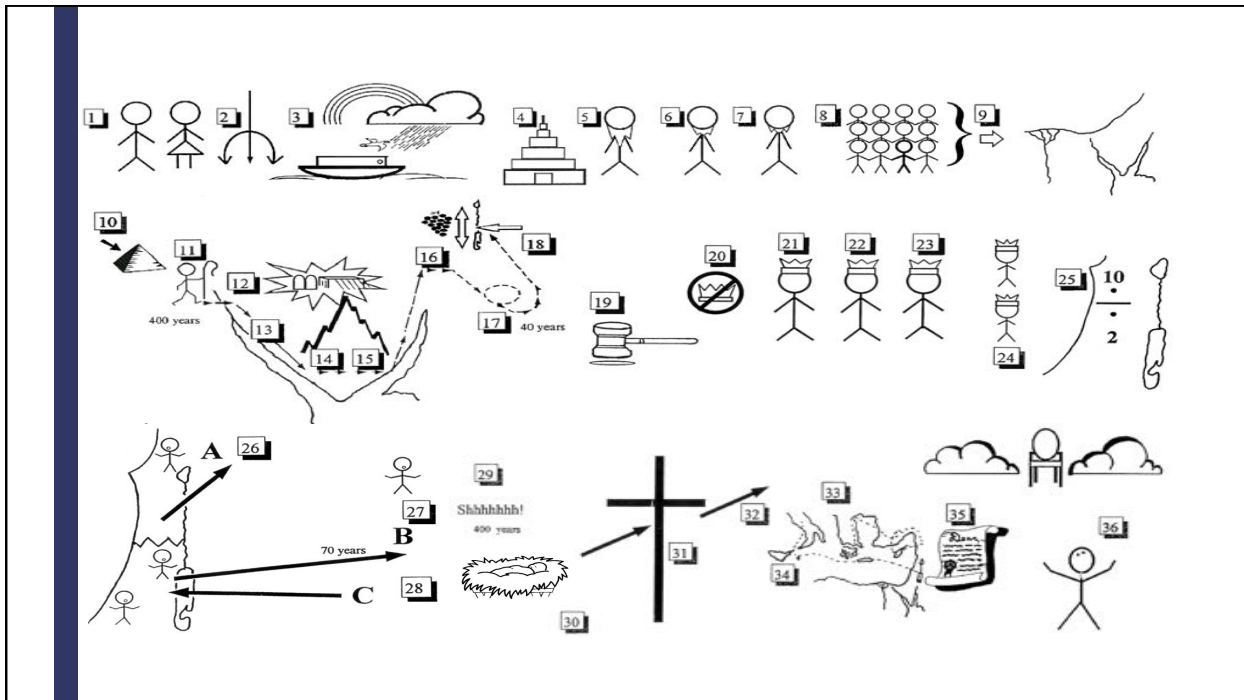


A MISSIONAL WORD



**Session 3: Friday 20 September 2019
Christiansfeld**

**MISSION:
THE BIBLE'S BIG STORY**



Question

- When you think of Mission, which bible verses do you think of?

'Mission' in the Bible?

“The whole bible renders to us the story of **God's mission** through **God's people** in their engagement with **God's world** for the sake of the whole of **God's creation.**”

Chris Wright, *The Mission of God*, 51.

Instead of looking for a

biblical basis
for mission,

we should be looking at the

missional basis
for the Bible!



Chris Wright

Mission in 6 Acts

1. A dramatic opening - **Creation**
2. Tragedy strikes – **The Fall**
3. Hope is sparked – **God chooses Israel**
4. A hero arises - **Jesus**
5. The commission is extended – **The Church**
6. The Grande finale – **The New Creation**



1. Creation	2. Fall	3. Israel
4. Jesus	5. Church	6. New Creation

1. Creation

- God creates the world in 6 days – with humanity as the ‘crown’ (Genesis 1-2)



1. God's *Purpose* in Creation

Read: Gen 1:1-4a, 26-28, 31

1. Make mankind in **God's image and likeness**
2. Mankind should have **dominion** over the rest of creation on earth.
3. To **bles**s Mankind



Humanity's Mission

1. Bear & Multiply Image of God

- “Let us **make man in our image**, according to our **likeness...**” (Genesis 1.26)
- “**Be fruitful and multiply**, fill the earth ...” (Genesis 1.28)



Humanity's Mission

1. Fruitful & Multiply

1. **Eternal Life in God** - ‘God formed the man of dust... and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life**, and the man became a **living creature.**’ (Genesis 2.7)
2. **Godly character** – multiply God's moral attributes



Perfect Relationships

“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **helper fit** for him... Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **The man said,**

*“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”*

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. **(Gen 2:18, 20-24)**

Humanity’s Mission

2. Care for Creation

- “... **subdue** it and to **rule** over [the rest of creation]” (Genesis 1:28).
- “... **work** and **take care** of” the garden **(Genesis 2.15)**
*“God brought them to the man to see what he would call them.” **(Genesis 2:19)***



Humanity's Mission

Provision with a command

And the Lord God **commanded** the man, saying, "**You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall **surely die.**" (Genesis 2:16-17)



Mission of God in 6 Acts

1. Creation

– **God's Purpose:**

- Make humanity in His image
- Call humanity to govern & care for creation
- Bless humanity

– **Humanity's mission:**

- multiply God's image & perfect relationships
- care for creation
- Obey God's command

and therefore receive God's blessing

Pause

- What would it be like if humanity (Adam and Eve) fulfilled God's Mission for them?
- In your groups, write down the most important points to remember **God's Mission** and **Humanity's mission** in **Creation**

2. Tragedy Strikes: The Fall

Read: Gen 3:1-13

1. How did Satan turn Adam & Eve from their mission?
2. What happened to Humanity's mission when they 'fell'?



Satan's mission: destroy God's mission



1. Doubt

- **“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”** (Genesis 3.1)
 - “Does the bible really say....?”
 - “But the bible doesn’t say anything about...”
 - “But everyone else says...”

Satan's mission: destroy God's mission



2. Lie – No consequences

- **“You will not certainly die,”** the serpent said to the woman. (Genesis 3.4)
- “If you can get away with it...”
- “Don’t worry, no one will know...”
- “Everybody is doing it...”
- “God will understand...”

Satan's mission: destroy God's mission



3. Humanity choosing to be 'god'

- "For **God knows** that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be **like God, knowing good and evil.**" (Genesis 3.5)
 - "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25)
 - "...man is the master of everything and decides everything." – national ideology of N.Korea

What was the result?

Instead of doing righteousness	Humanity fell – do unrighteousness
Multiplying God's Image	Multiplied unrighteousness
Working to take care of Creation	Exploitation of creation and fellow human beings
Being blessed by God	Judgment
Eternal Life in God	Dead in sin
Provision in the Garden	Struggle to survive
Godly purpose in life - mission	Corrupt purposes
Good relationships	Broken relationships

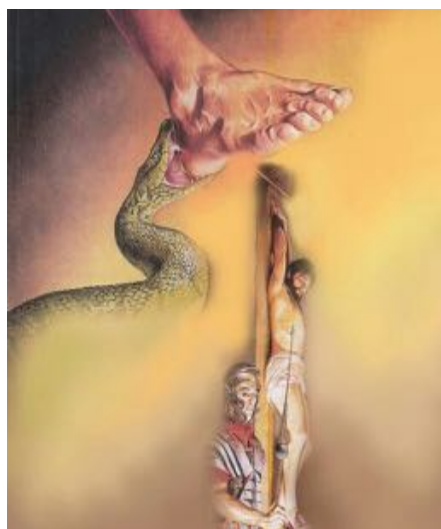
What about God's Mission?

Q: Was God's mission:

- To make humanity in his image
- For humanity to govern & care for creation
- To bless humanity

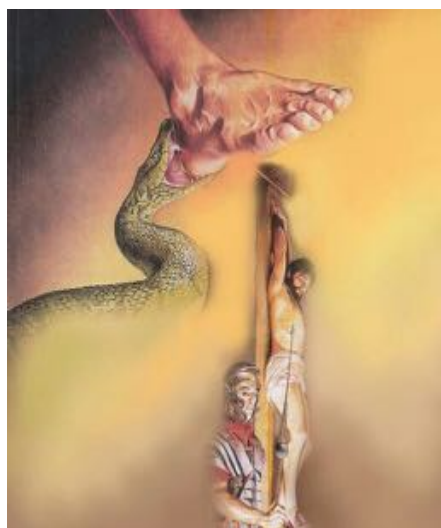
overturned?

Read Genesis 3:15 & 21



God's Mission: Redemption promised

1. Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**"
2. Genesis 3:21 – "And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife **garments of skins and clothed them.**"



Mission of God in 6 Acts

1. Creation

- *God's Mission: Make humanity in His image, call humanity to govern & care for creation and to bless humanity*
- *Humanity's mission: multiply God's image & care for creation*

2. Fall

- *Satan tries to destroy God's mission*
- *Fall: Humanity fails in their mission*
- *God's mission of Redemption promised*

Pause

- Draw/write your insights for the **Fall**

3. Hope: God chooses Israel

- God chooses Abraham and his descendants, the people of Israel to participate in His Mission (Genesis 12-Malachi 4)
- God chooses **one nation to bless all nations** (Genesis 12:1-3)



Israel's mission



Read:

- Genesis 12:1-3; 18:18-19
- **Exodus 19:3-6**
- Deuteronomy 4:5-8

Q: How should Israel fulfil Humanity's Mission of:

- imaging God
- governing & caring for creation and therefore be blessed by God?

Israel's mission



■ Genesis 12:1-3; 18:18-19

- Chosen – **land, great nation, blessed...to bless all nations**
- Keep **the way of the LORD**: doing what is **Right and Just**

■ Exodus 19:3-6

- **Treasured Possession** – Blessed
- **Kingdom of Priests** – for the whole earth - witness
- **Holy Nation** – **like God**

■ Deuteronomy 4:5-8, 28.1-12

- Observe righteous laws in the land
- Witness to the nations: wise and understanding; God is near
- Blessed abundantly

Israel's Mission: Witness to the Nations

- Israel's mission is to **witness** to God **by being**, rather than *going*



Israel's witness about God

1. **YHWH alone is God**
(Deut 4.35, 39)
2. **YHWH owns the world**
(Deut 10.14, 27; Psalm 24.1; Jer 27.1–12; 1 Chron. 29.11)
3. **God over all nations**
(Psalm 96 (v10, 13); Jer 10.1–16; Isaiah 43.9–13; 44.6–20)
 - E.g. 1 Sam 17:46, 2 Sam 7: 25-26, 29, 1 Kings 8:41-43, 60-61



Israel's Mission: Witness to the Nations

Consider:

Do the ways we live witness to non-Christians around us that:

1. God alone is God
2. God owns the whole world
3. God rules over all nations?



Israel fails in fulfilling her Mission

- The Prophets announces God's judgment on Israel for their failure to fulfil God's Mission for them



Israel fails in fulfilling her Mission

1. **Failed to witness that:**
God alone is God, owns and rules over all people in the world – worshiped other gods
2. **Failed to bear God's image** – holy, righteous & just



Israel fails despite being religious

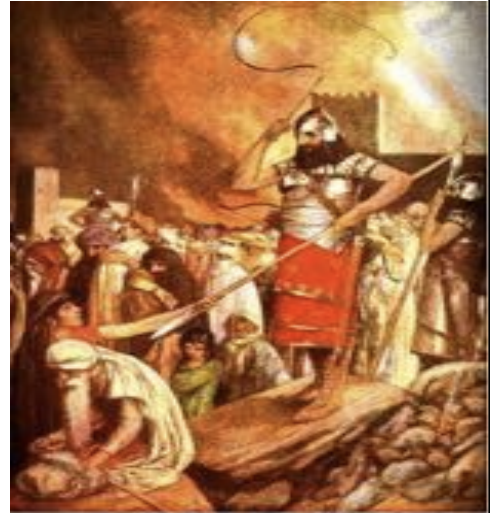
1. I **hate, I despise your religious** gatherings
2. I will **not accept your offerings**
3. Your **worship and singing is like noise** to me!
“But let **justice** roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream.”
Amos 5:21-24

True worship - Isaiah 58.6-7

“...this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to **loose the chains of injustice**
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to **set the oppressed free**
and break every yoke?
Is it not to **share your food with the hungry**
and to **provide the poor wanderer with shelter—**
when you **see the naked, to clothe them...**”

Not Blessed → The Exile

- The Exile is God saying “better to have no witness to my Name among the nations than a bad witness!”
- Did Israel's failure in fulfilling their mission overturn God's mission?



Redemption promised

- Isaiah foresees before the Exile(!):
 - the **Return** (40:1-2, Ezra, Nehemiah): God's grace
 - that despite future failures of Israel, God promises:
 - the **Messiah** (40:3-5, 42-49)
 - the **New Heavens and New Earth** (56-66)

Mission of God in 6 Acts

1. Creation

2. Fall

3. Israel

- *Called to Witness to the nations by:*

1. imaging God - being holy and follow God's
2. relating to one another and the land in right & just ways, and being a nation of priests

- *Failed → Exile*

- *Hope of future fulfillment of God's Mission in:*

- the Messiah
- the New Creation

THE NEW TESTAMENT

God's Mission continues...

4. Jesus comes to fulfil God's Mission

- God sends His own Son, to deal with sin once for all (Matthew 1 – John 21)
- Jesus fulfils the mission of Israel



Jesus fulfils God's Mission

1. **Perfectly imaged God** - "He is the **image of the invisible God...**" (Col 1:15), John 14:9 – seen Jesus = seen the Father
2. **Perfectly rules over all creation** – "through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." **Col 1:16-20**, Phil 2:9-11, Matthew 28:18
 - **'Blessed': Exalted by God** – "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name." (Phil 2:9), Matt 3.17

Jesus' fulfils Israel's Mission

*"The **Spirit of the Lord is upon me,**
because he has anointed me
to **proclaim good news to the poor.**
He has sent me to **proclaim liberty to the captives**
and **recovering of sight to the blind,**
to **set at liberty those who are oppressed,**
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

Today this Scripture has been **fulfilled** in your hearing." (Luke 4:18-21)

Jesus, our model for Mission

1. **Preparation** (Luke 2:52, 3:21-23, 4:1-2, 14-15 → Mark 3:14-15).
2. **Ministry** – Preaching, teaching, healing the sick, miracles, casting out demons (Matt 4-10)
3. **Character & Connection to God** – love, compassion, timing, listening to God, **prayer** (Luke 3:21, 5.16, 6.12, 9.18, 9.28-29, 11.1 → 11.1!)
4. **Community** (Luke 5:1-11)
5. **Served... till death** (Phil 2:5-11)

Jesus' Disciples called to participate in God's Mission

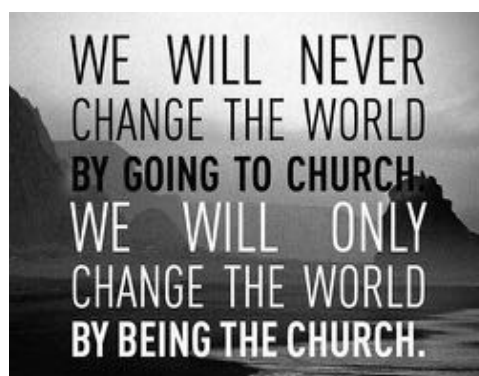
- Matt 4:19 - And he said to them, "**Follow me**, and I will make you **fishers of men.**"
- Luke 9.1-6, 10.1-9 – **Sends** 12, 72 to preach the kingdom, heal and cast out demons
- Matt 28:19 – "**Go therefore** and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age."

Drama in 6 Acts

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Israel
4. Jesus
 - *Fulfilled God's Mission*
 - *Fulfilled Israel's mission*
 - *Modelled mission for us*
 - *Calls disciples to join his mission*

5. The Church's Mission

- **Read Acts 1:1-8**
- The Holy Spirit includes all nations in the people of God and sends them out on God's Mission (Acts 1-Rev 22)



5. The Church's Mission

1. **Bearing the image of Christ**
(Romans 8:29, Philippians 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:49; Colossians 3:10, 1 John 3:2)
 2. **Co-heirs of Christ** (Romans 8:17, cf v15-23) calling the nations to come into God's Kingdom (Acts 2:35, 39, Colossians 1:20)
- **Blessed**



5. The Church's Mission

1. The Church - Bearing the image of Christ

- Read John 17.20-23, Acts 2:42-47, 4.32-37
- What does a church in **unity** demonstrate?
- What was the result?
- How was this unity possible?



5. The Church's Mission

1. The Church - Bearing the image of Christ

- Read Acts 5:1-16, 6:1-7
- How does Satan try to hinder the Church from fulfilling God's mission?
- What did God do?
- How does Satan still work to hinder God's Mission today?



5. The Church's Mission

2. The Church – exercising 'dominion'

Read Acts 1.8

- How were they to **extend God's Kingdom (rulership)**?
What was their Mission 'strategy'?
- How did this work out in practice? (2.8-11, 41, 47; 4.4, 5.14, 6.7, **8.4**)



5. The Church's Mission

2. The Church – exercising 'dominion'

Read Acts 3.1-10, 5.10, 6.8, 8.4-8, etc.

- What happened when 'miracles' were performed?



5. The Church's Mission

3. The Church – blessed

Read Acts 2:41-47, Acts
4.32-34

- Growth
- Unity
- No needs



Drama in 6 Acts

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Israel
4. Jesus
5. Church
 - *Bearing the image of Christ*
 - *Co-heirs with Christ*
 - *Bless all nations*

6. New Creation: God's Mission Fulfilled

- **'Image God'**: People of many nations made holy by the blood of the Lamb (1 John 3:2, Rev 7:9-17)
- **Reigning with Christ** (Rev 5:9-10, 22:1-5)
- **Blessed**: New heaven and new earth where God dwells with humanity & no more effects of the Fall (Rev 21:1-4, Isa 11:6-9)



Drama in 6 Acts

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Israel
4. Jesus
5. Church
6. **New Creation**
 - *Perfectly bear the **image of God***
 - ***Reign** with Christ on the earth*
 - ***Blessed** to dwell with God forever, no more suffering*

Reflect

How does a missional reading of Scripture help us to find **our place in God's Missional story?**

1. God's Mission
2. Humanity's Mission
3. Israel's Mission
4. Jesus' Mission
5. The Church's Mission
6. The Ultimate fulfillment of God's Mission?

What is Mission?

“Our committed **participation** as
God's people,
at God's invitation and command,
in God's own mission
within the **history of God's world**
for the **redemption of God's creation.**”

Chris Wright, *The Mission of God*, 2006:23.

