

What on earth are we doing? The Kingdom of God and World Mission

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3-5 July 2002

one world ... or else !

I. Introduction

The theme of Jesus' ministry and preaching is the Kingdom of God.

The theme of Romans 8 is the extraordinary mission of the people of God, within the overarching plan of God for the rebirth of the entire creation.



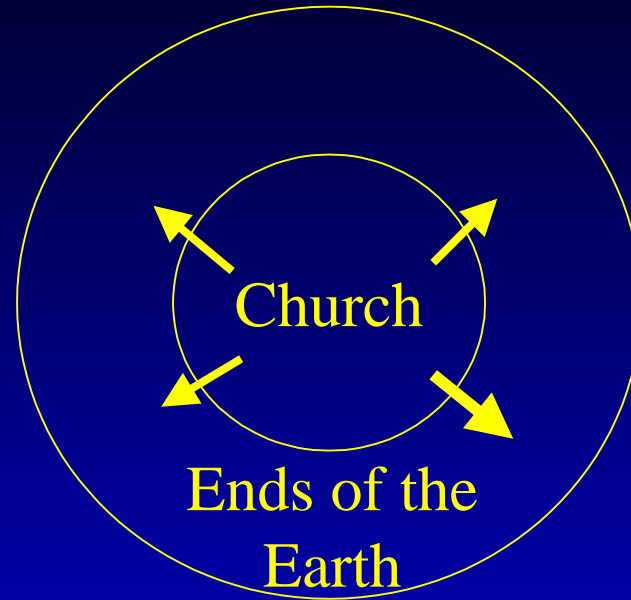
Old Testament Model of Mission



-  Israel as a Worshipping Community
-  Centripetal Mission (Gen 12:1-3)



New Testament Model of Mission



-  The Church as a Witnessing Community
-  Centrifugal Mission (Matt. 28:18-20)



Jesus and the Kingdom of God

- 🌐 Context: The Jews expected a national, political Kingdom
- 🌐 Jesus subversively transforms Jewish worldviews
- 🌐 Jesus is the "showcase of the Kingdom"
- 🌐 Jesus is the climax of God's salvation History
- 🌐 From "God is King" to "Jesus is Lord"



The Parables of the Kingdom



Interpretive Keys:

- All parables are Israel-specific
- Tools for inaugurating the Kingdom
- Function to break open Jewish worldviews



Luke 10: Parable of the Good Samaritan



Luke 15: Parable of the Lost Son



Luke 20: Parable of the Tenants



The Signs (Miracles) of the Kingdom

- 🌍 Miracles of reconstituted Israel
- 🌍 Miracles inaugurate the new creation
- 🌍 Miracles raise the Christological Question: Is He the Messiah?
- 🌍 Miracles are part of the battle of the Kingdom



The Cross is the Victory of the Kingdom

- 🌍 Jesus announced the judgment of the Kingdom
- 🌍 Jesus took upon himself the judgment of Israel
- 🌍 Satan is the real enemy, not Rome
- 🌍 By focusing on the real enemy, the cross became a triumph rather than defeat



Resurrection is the Vindication of the Kingdom

- 🌍 Jesus' preaching of the Kingdom as True
- 🌍 Satan is ultimately defeated
- 🌍 New Creation Life began
 - Turned disciples into bold witnesses
 - Kept Christianity going... and going
- 🌍 He is Risen! Jesus is Lord!



The Church, the World and the Groaning Spirit (Romans 8:17-27)



False Views of the World as Inheritance

- The World as Totally Evil – To be rejected
- The World as Totally Good – To be worshipped



What is the Christian View of the World?

The whole creation is...

- good but incomplete (19);
- good but at present in bondage (20);
- good but awaiting liberation (21)
- good but pregnant with the future world (22)

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The Incarnational Church in a Broken World

- 🌍 "not only so, but we ourselves..." (8:23).
Not only the creation groans, but we the church needs to groan with the pain of our broken world
- 🌍 Danger of reductionism of the Gospel
Word – Works – Power



The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Church in Mission (Romans 8:26-27)

The heart of the passage, verses 26-27. "In the same way," what is true of the world and the church is actually true also of the Spirit. Within the groaning of creation, and within the groaning of the church, God, this strange God—is groaning also.



Globalisation Issues

- Rethinking what is mission, what is the gospel?
- How shall we do missions? .
- Is the church a pain bearing community?
- Do we pursue the redemption of social structures or only of individuals?



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