

# Lesson 10

## THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF MISSIONS

### INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand God's Commission in the Old Testament
- To study the Mission of Jesus
- To understand God's Commission in the New Testament

### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. GOD COMMISSIONS ISRAEL
  - A. ABRAHAM
  - B. JOSEPH
  - C. MOSES
  - D. DAVID
  - E. ISAIAH
  - F. JEREMIAH
  - F. EZEKIEL
  - G. JONAH
  
- II. GOD SENT JESUS
  - A. Incarnation: The model for missions
  - B. Crucifixion: The cost of missions
  - C. Resurrection: The mandate of missions
  - D. Ascension: The authority for missions
  
- III. JESUS SENDS THE CHURCH
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  - C. Luke 24:46-49
  - D. John 20:21-23
  - E. Acts 1:8: The Promise of the Holy Spirit
  
- IV. A MODEL FOR LOCAL CHURCH MISSION
  
- V. HOW HAS THE CHURCH PROGRESSED?
  
- VI. THE URGENCY OF MISSIONS
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  - C. 6,200 Unreached people groups

VII. MISSION INCENTIVES

- A. Obedience in Christ's command
- B. Love for Christ's people
- C. Jealousy for His Name
- D. Fear of God
- E. The love of Christ
- F. A sense of responsibility
- G. A sense of privilege

VIII. METHODS IN MISSIONS

- A. Salt of the earth
- B. Light of the World

IX. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

- A. GO personally
- B. GIVE sacrificially to world missions
- C. PRAY globally
- D. READ missions books, magazines, newsletters to help you pray intelligently
- D. THINK globally

## I. GOD COMMISSIONS ISRAEL

### A. ABRAHAM: God proclaims His plan

#### Genesis 12:1-3

1. I will make you a great **nation**.
2. I will **bless** you.
3. I will make your **name** great. Abraham – father of a multitude.
4. I will **bless** those who bless you)      2 groups of people.  
I will **curse** those who curse you)
5. So that in you **all nations of the earth** might be blessed.

God confirmed this promise to:

- Isaac      **Genesis 26:4**
- Jacob      **Genesis 32:12.**

We see it fulfilled in **Hebrews 11:12**. Abraham died, not seeing the fulfillment. Land restored to Israel 700 years later.

Paul named Abraham as heir of the world.      **Romans 4:13**

We are the seed of Abraham, and therefore heirs to the promise, but also have the responsibility to be a blessing to the nations of the earth.  
**Galatians 3:6-9,29**

### B. JOSEPH: Joseph SENT by God to preserve a godly remnant in Israel

#### Genesis 45:4-8

1. God sent me **vs. 5**
2. God sent me **vs. 7**
3. God sent me **vs. 8**

### C. MOSES: Moses' response to God's call, "Here I am"

#### Exodus 3:1-10

1. God shares His heartbeat for His people.

I have **SEEN** the affliction of my people vs. 7

I have **HEARD** their cry

I am **AWARE** of their suffering - NIV, have compassion for them

I have come down to deliver them vs. 9

2. Then commissions Moses.

I will **SEND** you:

vs. 10

- To bring My people **OUT** of Egypt

- To bring them **IN** to the Promised Land

Moses had 5 excuses ready, but God counteracted them all. But Moses had made himself available - "*Here I am*" - even though he suggested God send someone else more qualified than he. So he went in faith.

**MOSAIC COVENANT:** Confirmed God's Covenant with Abraham.

**Exodus 19:5-6**

3. God reminds Israel of how He delivered them from Egypt. "*Now then*", or because of this, God specifies 3 ministries.

- a. **My special possession**

Treasure among all the nations.

- i) "*Special*" not to be exclusive, but to take the message of salvation to the world.
- ii) Their election was not a privilege to keep to themselves, but a call to serve, to witness, among the nations.

- b. **A kingdom of priests.**

Tribe of Levi set aside to be priests. A model for whole nation.

Two functions:

- i) Mediator between God and man.
- ii) Mediator between man and God.
- iii) If whole nation to be priests, to whom would they minister? Other nations.
  - Israel was to be a mediator between God and other nations - a bridge-builder.

- Priest serves God, and serves the people. Israel was chosen to serve the nations not to keep God's blessings to themselves.

- c. By being a **holy nation** in lifestyle.
  1. Set apart in their lives for God. God put a difference between Israel and the Egyptians.
  2. Set apart in their service to the nations.

4. Condition: If you obey Me and keep my covenant.

5. N.T. outworking: **1 Peter 2:9**

*"But you are a **CHOSEN RACE**, a royal **PRIESTHOOD**, a **HOLY NATION**, a people for God's **OWN POSSESSION**, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*

**D. DAVID: "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever, your throne shall be established forever."**

**2 Samuel 7:16**

**Psalm 67:1-7**

David understands that God has blessed him and the nations of Israel so that God's salvation might be known among all the nations on the earth. **v. 2**

God rules and guides all nations. **vs. 4-5**

Because God has been so good to them they ought to prove His purposes by blessing the nations. **vs. 6-7**

*"Tell of His glory among the nations".* **Psalm 96:3**

*"Say among the nations, ' the Lord reigns' ."* **Psalm 96:10**

**E. ISAIAH: Isaiah had a vision of the Lord, recognized his own uncleanness and cried out for mercy. After cleansing, he heard the voice of the Lord calling "Whom shall I SEND?", and he responded, "Here am I, send me." Isaiah 4:1-8**

**Isaiah 6:8-9** In verse 9 God commissions him to GO

**Isaiah 49:6:** *"I will make you a light to the nations so that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."*

F. **JEREMIAH: Before he was born God appointed him to be a prophet to the nations.**

Appointed over the nations and the kingdoms **v 1:10**

**Jeremiah 1:5**

- To pluck up and break down
- To destroy and overthrow
- To build and to plant

G. **EZEKIE: "I am SENDING you to the sons of Israel..." Ezekiel 2:3**

H. **JONAH: Did not understand he was to be a blessing to the nations**

1. Jonah was told to GO, but instead he ran away. **v. 1:2**
2. God prepared a storm. The storm obeyed but God's missionary, Jonah, was sleeping, unaware that the storm was directed to him. **v. 1:4**
3. Large fish swallows Jonah. God's plan is to save Nineveh and in the fish He prepares Jonah.
4. Inside the fish Jonah implores God to save him.
5. God repeats the command to GO to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeys. **v. 3:1**
6. Nineveh, from the king down, repented of their sins and God forgave them. **v. 3:5-10**
7. Jonah was furious because God extended His mercy beyond Israel to the Gentiles. Although he obeyed, his heart wasn't in it. **v. 4:1-3**
8. God made one more attempt to get through to Jonah by appointing a tree to provide shade, and sending a worm to eat it up so that the sun beat on Jonah. God pointed out to him that he had compassion on the tree, so why shouldn't God have compassion on Nineveh. God achieved His purpose with Nineveh, but with Jonah..... ? **v. 4:6-11**

Jonah, like Israel, had become so preoccupied with himself that he no longer turned his eyes towards the world of nations. Jonah did not accept that those outside God's covenant could receive salvation. He represents the lazy church which doesn't obey God's command to GO.

7. Israel failed to be a blessing to the nations of the earth. In the New Testament Israel's failure is pictured as fruitlessness:
- a. The fruitless fig tree **Mark 11:12-14, 20-25**
  - b. The fruitless vineyard tenants **Mark 12:1-12**
  - c. The fruitless branches **John 15:1-8**
  - d. The fruitless olive tree **Romans 11:16-24**

## II. GOD SENT JESUS

Four stages of mission in Jesus' life. **John 3:16**

### *A. Incarnation: The MODEL for missions*

Jesus' birth was unique – virgin birth.

He was God come down to earth as man, to experience all that we experience:

1. Important aspect of mission is: IDENTIFICATION.

*"We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."*

**Hebrews 4:15**

We need to identify with the people to whom we are ministering: lifestyle, dress etc.

2. Another is SERVING OTHERS.

He stooped to wash the feet of His disciples that man might catch the vision of serving one another. He taught by example. *"I have not come to be served, but to serve."* This must be our motive also. Go as servant, not as master!

**B. Crucifixion: The COST of mission**

Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to die on the Cross to pay the penalty of sin.

At Gethsemane the horror of death pressed upon Him. His only resource was His Father. He wanted only to please His Father.

But He said, "*Not My Will, but Yours be done.*"

Jesus accepted the role that Israel had rejected, that of Priest and Suffering Servant. In so doing, He opened the door for all believers to become priests and servants unto the Lord.

1. Present our **bodies** as living sacrifices. **Romans 12:1**
2. Need not just charisma, but **character**. Found through suffering. **Romans 5:3-4**
3. Offer up sacrifices of **praise**. **Hebrews 13:15**
4. **Deny** ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. **Luke 9:23**
5. Need maturity - comes through **suffering**. **James 1:2-4**

In missions, there is a cost. Abraham had to leave family, home, country, all that he was familiar with and didn't even know where God was leading him.

6. All great missionary endeavors have meant tremendous cost:
  - a. The **Apostle Paul** - **2 Corinthians 11.24 - 28, 2 Timothy 2:10.**
  - b. **Hudson Taylor** so identified with the Chinese his fellow missionaries didn't want to have anything to do with him. He was often sick and his body weak. But he said, "*If I had 1,000 lives I'd spend them all in China.*"
  - c. **William Carey** (India) and **Adoniram Judson** (Burma) both lost their wives and children on the field.
  - d. **Jim Elliot** (South America) and other missionaries killed by natives.



*"Unless a corn of wheat fall in to the ground and die, it stands alone. But if it dies it will bring forth much fruit." Jesus was the corn of wheat Who died, and from Whom has come much fruit. When the price is paid, fruit will come forth.*

**John 12:24**

C. **Resurrection - The MANDATE of missions**

1. New **Life** Available

*Through the resurrection we can have newness of life. "If any man be in Christ he is a new creation."*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

2. **Authority** Given

*Jesus gave the Great Commission on the basis of His resurrection. "All power and authority has been given to Me, therefore GO..."*

3. **Victory** over satan and his forces

*Through the resurrection all the evil forces of Satan have been conquered - "spoiled principalities and powers, and made an open show of them, triumphing over thorn."*

**Colossians 2:15**

The resurrection forced Christianity to break with Judaism. Christ could not be contained by one race.

D. **Ascension: The AUTHORITY for missions**

After commissioning the disciples, Jesus ascended and sat down at the right hand of the Father. He ascended visibly to show He had left earth permanently.

**Mark 16:19**

Seated at the right hand.

**Ephesians 1:20-2**

- Far above all rule and authority... and name...
- All things under His feet.
- Head over all things.

Raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus. This is the position from which we approach missions: seated in Christ, in a position of authority over the works of the enemy, and all his works under our feet.

**Ephesians 2:6**

Told the disciples to wait for the Promise of the Holy Spirit. They were not to wait for another appearance; wouldn't see Him again until Second Coming

### **III. JESUS SENDS THE CHURCH**

#### **A. *The Great Commission!***

**Matthew 28:18-20**

##### **1. Announcement**

All authority has been given to Jesus in heaven and earth... Cannot go in our own strength. **v. 18**

All authority in heaven – in heavenly places where evil powers operate.

At the Cross Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, triumphing over them.

**Ephesians 1:20-22. Colossians 2:15**

And on earth – over everything He has created. His authority extends to the nations where He sends us.

If Jesus did not have all authority, and if He had not overthrown principalities and powers, we would never be able to turn nations from darkness to light.

On the basis of Jesus' authority, therefore....

##### **2. Command**

GO! Because we are under authority, and because the nations are under authority! **v. 19**

##### **3. The Goal**

Make disciples of all the nations.

- a. Jesus did not call people to become Christians but to become disciples of Jesus Christ - not of our church or our way of thinking, but of Jesus.

- b. He did not tell them how easy it would be but how difficult.
  - c. He did not ask them to "*make a decision*" but to follow Him in daily obedience.
  - d. He did not tell them to forget about the cost but to count it.
  - e. He did not require us to have education or social status, but to obey the command to make disciples.
4. The **Method**:
- a. Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – enters in to a union, and identifies with Christ's death and resurrection.
  - b. Teaching them to observe all of Christ's commands, not what they want to hear or what we want to say.
    - Jesus taught through the Beautitudes.
    - Jesus taught through Parables.
    - He taught His disciples to pray.
    - He taught in the open air, in the churches and from a boat.
5. The **Promise**: v. 20

I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth. The promise is for when we GO, not stay at home and keep the blessings to ourselves.

### FULL CIRCLE EVANGELISM

#### B. *Mark 16:15-18*

- 1. The **Command** : **GO** into all the world.
- 2. The **Method** : **PREACH** the Gospel to every creature.
- 3. The **Promise** : He who believes and is baptized will be **saved**.  
: Signs, wonders and miracles will follow those who believe.

**C. Luke 24:46-49**

1. The Command : Preach **repentance** for forgiveness of sins.
2. The Basis : In the **Name** of Christ - Jesus' death and resurrection is the foundation on which the offer of forgiveness is made.
3. The Location : All **nations**, beginning in Jerusalem.
4. The Promise : Power of **Holy Spirit** to do the task.

**D. John 20:21-23**

1. The Command : As Father has sent me, so I **SEND** you.
2. The Promise : Breathed on them the **Holy Spirit**.

**E. Acts 1:8: The promise of the Holy Spirit**

1. The Promise : You shall receive **power**.
2. The Purpose : To be His **witnesses**.
3. The Location : **Jerusalem** - immediate locale and own culture, family, workplace  
**Judea** - own tribe, neighbourhood.  
**Samaria** - other tribes.  
**Remotest parts of the earth** - different culture and language.

The Holy Spirit is not given to bless the receiver, but that the receiver would bless the remotest parts of the earth.

4. Characteristics of the Spirit-filled church **Acts 2:42-47.**

a) Its **instruction.**

Evidence of Spirit - filled believer is a hunger for the Word of God. They didn't just enjoy the great experience, or occasionally look at the Word of God, but continually devoted themselves to the Apostles' doctrine. **v. 42**

b) Their **fellowship.**

First time word appears in N.T. Holy Spirit created the fellowship. Fellowship is sharing. **v. 42**

Outworking sharing together and shared their possessions with those in need. **vs. 44-45**

c) Their **worship**

Formal and informal: in temple and in homes Joyful and reverent - gladness, sincerity of heart **v. 46**

Praising God **v. 47**

d) Its **power.**

Sense of awe, signs and wonders. **v. 43**

e) Its **evangelism.**

Although devoted to teaching, fellowship and worship, did not neglect to reach out to the outside world. An example is the Shan concept of church for believers to fellowship in, not to reach out from! Unless the church expands outwards it will become an empty shell! **v. 47**

5. The **Holy Spirit** is a very important element in missions.

a) The Holy Spirit is the **empowerment** for missions.

Only the Holy Spirit can convict of sin, judgment and righteousness. **John 16:8-11**

- b) The Holy Spirit is the **inspiration** of missions.

Christ had come to be WITH man, the Holy Spirit had come to be IN man.

The lordship of Christ gives us the **AUTHORITY** to witness to everyone. The Holy Spirit gives us the spiritual **ABILITY** to make an impact on those with whom we share the Gospel. When the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 disciples in the Upper Room they spontaneously shared the wonderful works of God with people of many nations. When the Holy Spirit fills the Christian, he puts a desire in the heart to fulfil the Great Commission.

- c) The Holy Spirit is the **guide** in missions.

The Holy Spirit thrust the Spirit-filled disciples farther into the fields.

- i) Jerusalem. **Acts 2:1 to 8:4**
- ii) Judea and Samaria. **Acts 8:5 -12:25**
- iii) The rest of the world. **Acts 13:1-28:31**
- iv) Philip went to the outcast Samaritans. **Acts 8:5-8**
- v) Supernatural transportation to reach one influential man - the Ethiopian eunuch. **Acts 8:26-40**
- vi) Peter to Cornelius, an Italian centurion - after God got his attention! **Acts 10**
- vii) Persecution scattered the disciples and the Greeks in Antioch received the Gospel. Church established. **Acts 11:19**
- viii) Antioch church sets apart Paul and Barnabas for missionary work **Acts 13:2**
- ix) In Paul declares the Gospel is going to the Gentiles because the Jews have rejected it. **Acts 13:46-48**

- x) Paul forbidden by Holy Spirit to speak the Word in Asia.  
**Acts 16:6**

Spirit didn't permit them to go in to Bithynia. **v. 7**  
Vision of man in Macedonia. **v. 9**

- xi) Through Paul's missionary journeys the Gospel began to spread through Asia - 7 churches of Revelation established.

- xii) Thomas went to India.

- xiii) Matthew went to Egypt and Ethiopia.

6. In the five different accounts of the GREAT COMMISSION, we see five promises:

1. Matthew : **Disciples**
2. Mark : **Miracles**
3. Luke : **Boldness**
4. John : **Authority**
5. Acts : **Power**

## **IV. A MODEL FOR LOCAL CHURCH MISSION**

### **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.**

1. A church characterized by faith, steadfastness in hope and love. **v. 3**
  - Faith is reaching upward to God
  - Love is reaching outward to others
  - Hope is reaching onward toward the return of Jesus Christ, which leads to patience in the face of persecution.
2. A people loved and chosen by God. We are chosen because God loves us. We are chosen to proclaim His Word to the nations. **v. 4**

3. Word was proclaimed, not just in word but in the power of the Holy Spirit, and through example. Brought deep conviction. **v. 5**
  
4. Word was received **vs.6-8**
  - Amid persecution
  - With joy - Sounded out from them. Everywhere they went they shared the Gospel.
  
5. Word brought transformation. **vs. 6-10**
  - "You became imitators of us and of the Lord." **v.6**
  - Became an example for others. **v.7**
  - Turned from idols - decisive break. **v.9**  
Power of the idols broken.
  - Served the living and true God - idols false gods. Became actively involved. **v.9**
  - Waiting for the return of Christ. Not passively sitting waiting, but actively serving. As serve need to wait on the Lord and not serve in own strength. **v. 10**

The Church that has received the Gospel must pass it on. If the Church had been faithful to God's purpose the world would have been evangelized by now. Jesus is still waiting for every tribe, nation and tongue to hear the Gospel before He returns.

## V. HOW HAS THE CHURCH PROGRESSED?

- |                                   |                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AD.30-1800</b>                 | Concentration on Asia Minor and Europe, mainly Roman Empire.                                |
| <b>Middle Ages<br/>476 - 1453</b> | "Dark ages" - not much missionary activity.                                                 |
| <b>1800's</b>                     | Great missionary century.<br><i>William Carey</i> - India.<br><i>Hudson Taylor</i> - China. |



David Livingstone - Africa  
 Adoniram Judson - Burma

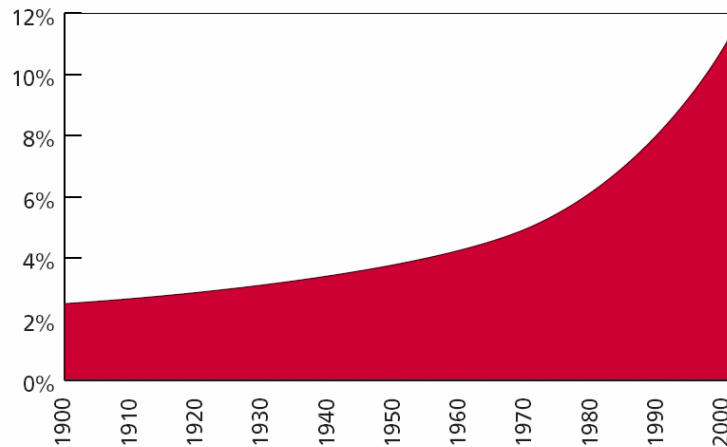
**1900-1960** America became the largest missionary sending nation.  
 Thousands of students poured on to the mission field.  
 Specialized missions: medical, Bible translation, literature, Christian radio, missionary aviation.

**1960s on** Revival of missionary zeal: YWAM, Fuller, SWM, charismatic movement.

**1969-1976** North American missionaries increased by 50%.  
 Local churches became involved in missions.  
 Short-term mission trips.  
 Power evangelism.  
 Unreached peoples.  
 Tentmakers.  
 Prayer networks-spiritual warfare and intercession.

**1980 on HARVEST STATISTICS**

**Believers as a Percentage of Total World Population in the 20th Century**



It took 18 centuries for dedicated believers to grow from 0 percent of the world's population to 2.5 percent in 1900, only 70 years to grow from 2.5 to 5 percent in 1970, and just the last 30 years to grow from 5 to 11.2 percent of the world population. Now, for the first time in history, there is one believer for every nine people worldwide who aren't believers.

Source: Lausanne Statistical Task Force

New trend in missions: Asians being sent out.  
 Many countries don't allow Western missionaries – God's provision.

*"We cannot assume that today's outpouring of the Spirit is indefinite. We cannot presume that the fields will always be white."* Shibley

## VI. THE URGENCY OF MISSIONS

### A. *Matthew 24:14*

*"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and THEN the end shall come."*

### B. *Revelation 7:9-10*

*"... a great multitude ... from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes ... saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'"*  
 Have these Scriptures been fulfilled? NO!

### C. *6,200 Unreached people groups (2004)*

(Unreached Peoples Group – Less than 2% True Christian)

Some countries (with the most Unreached peoples group) in which GCIs are being held:

Country	Total People Group	Unreached People	% Christians
India	2328	2094	
Pakistan	477	472	2
China	494	409	
Nepal	392	329	0.58
Bangladesh	375	276	0.44

## VII. MISSION INCENTIVES

### A. Obedience to Christ's command

Commission is to whole Church and to individual.

### B. Love for Christ's people

#### **1 John 3:17-18:**

Love SEES the needs of others - dead in sin, without Christ, under God's judgment. Need compassion to snatch people out of darkness. **v .17**

If you see your brother in need and have no compassion.

Love FEELS the needs of others. Jesus was moved with compassion.

Love ACTS to meet the needs of others. Love not with words but with actions and in truth. **v. 18**

### C. Jealousy for His Name.

God has right to our exclusive worship because He is the only God.

Eg. Elijah vs. prophets of Baal.  
Jesus for house of God.

### D. Fear of God

We must all give account of our life and work, including our stewardship of the Gospel. "*Since we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.*"

**2 Corinthians 5:11-14**

### E. The love of Christ

The love of Christ compels us - His love for us. **2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

F. *A sense of responsibility*

**Romans 1:14-17:**

Obligated – a debtor. Evangelism is paying a debt. **v. 14**

Eager to preach Gospel. **v. 15**

Not ashamed to preach Gospel. **v. 16**

G. *A sense of privilege*

"Through God's mercy we have this ministry." **2 Corinthians 4:**

"Grace given to preach the Gospel." **Ephesians 3:7-9**

## VIII. METHODS IN MISSIONS

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."*

*"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

**Matthew 5:13-16**

A. *Salt of the earth*

1. Salt flavors. We need to flavor the society in which we live.
2. Salt preserves - prevents decay.
3. Salt stings when rubbed in to open wound. Non-Christian. convicted of his sin as we live for the Lord.
4. Salt creates thirst. Jesus attracted people because they saw in Him something they were thirsty for.
5. Salt penetrates. Is hidden. Many things we do only God can see.

6. Salt has to do with our Christlike character. If salt loses its flavor it is useless ... so is a Christian who does not display Christlike character- It is like putting salt in a shaker and never using it!

**B. Light of the World**

1. Light penetrates darkness - even a little match.
2. Light can be seen - "*men will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

Light deals with Christ-like conduct. Don't hide your light.

**IX. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?**

**A. GO personally**

Not all able to go to another country. God needs people to work here. Abraham was called to leave everything that was familiar to him.

To you that might mean going to another village, another tribe. Would you be like Isaiah and say, "*Lord, here am I, send me*"? Or would you say, "*Here am I, send someone else.*"

**B. GIVE sacrificially to world missions**

Is missions part of your budget? Your budget might be very small, but would you allow God speak to you about setting aside a certain percentage towards missions?

**C. PRAY globally**

1. Look at daily newspaper and pray for countries. Look at world map and let God burden you for certain countries. Pray for unreached peoples.

*"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into his harvest".*

**Matthew 9:37-39**

Realize that *“the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving that they might not see the light of the gospel ...”* **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Realize that *“the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually understood.”* **1 Corinthians 2:14**

2. We need to bind the works of Satan operating in the hearts of unbelievers, and ruling in the nations, before we see salvation come.

*'Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'* **Matthews 18:18**

Bind the forces of darkness that blind people's minds, and loose the light of the Gospel that brings salvation.

3. God says He was looking for a man to stand in the gap, but He couldn't find one! **Ezekiel 22:30**

*"Ask of Me and I will give the nations as an inheritance for you, and the ends of the earth as your possession."* **Psalms 2:9**

As we pray for the nations we are involving ourselves in God's purposes, rather than involving God in our plans.

4. It involves persistence.

*"... from the first day that you humbled yourself before your God your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of Persia held me back for 21 days ..."* **Daniel 10:12-13**

5. If we want to release God's power to bring in the global harvest, we should remember to:

- a. Pray with **commitment**.
- b. Pray **fervently**, not half-heartedly.
- c. Pray **specifically** - country, missionary.
- d. Pray in **unity** with others.
- e. Pray **persistently**, not spasmodically.
- f. Pray **boldly** against spiritual powers that rule over the nations you are praying for.

g. Pray expectantly, believing God to answer.

D. READ *missions books, magazines, newsletters to help you pray intelligently*

E. THINK *globally*

Not just in your own little area.

Be a GREAT COMMISSION Christian, helping to bring closure to the missions mandate to the Church.

Our response : Jonah?  
: Isaiah?

**Reference:**

1. Willis, Avery T. Jr. *The Biblical Basis of Missions*.