Ecclesiology

Session 19



Dr. Andy Woods

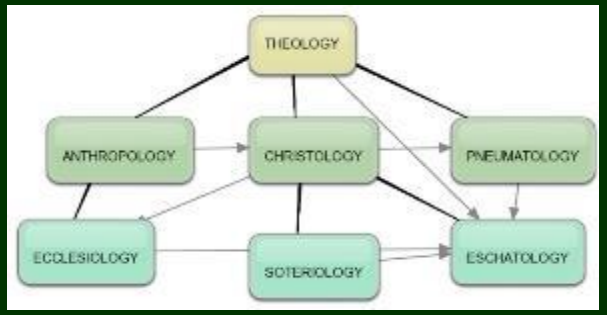
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

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Areas of Systematic Theology

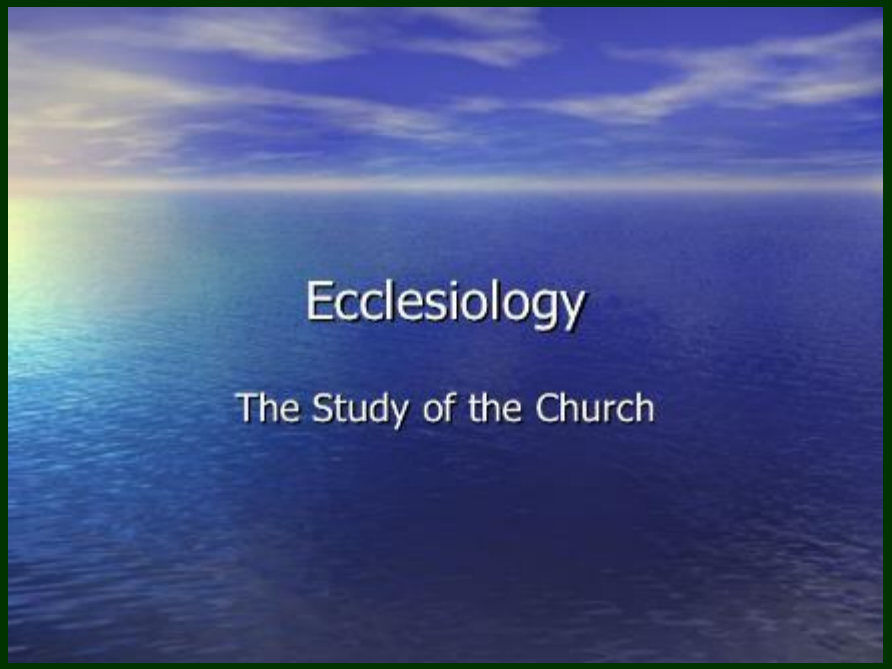


- Prolegomena – Introduction
- Theology – Study of God
- Christology – Study of Christ
- Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology – Study of Man
- Hamartiology – Study of sin
- Soteriology – Study of salvation
- Angelology – Study of angels
- **Ecclesiology – Study of the Church**
- Eschatology – Study of the end



Ecclesiology Overview

I. Definition
II. Universal vs. local
III. Word pictures
IV. Origin
V. Israel – Church differences
VI. Intercalation
VII. Purposes
VIII. Activities
IX. Government
X. Officers
XI. Ordinances
XII. Purity



VII. Purposes of the Local Church



- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

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- **<u>Glorify God (Eph 3:21)</u>**
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Dispensational Theology is a System of Theology

Traditional-normative dispensational theology is a system that embodies three essential, fundamental concepts called the ***sine qua non*** (lit. "without which is not"):

1. The **consistent** use of a plain, normal, literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation;

2. Which reveals that the **Church is distinct from Israel**;

3. God's overall purpose is to bring **glory to Himself** (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).

Dr. Charles Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*, pp. 38-41

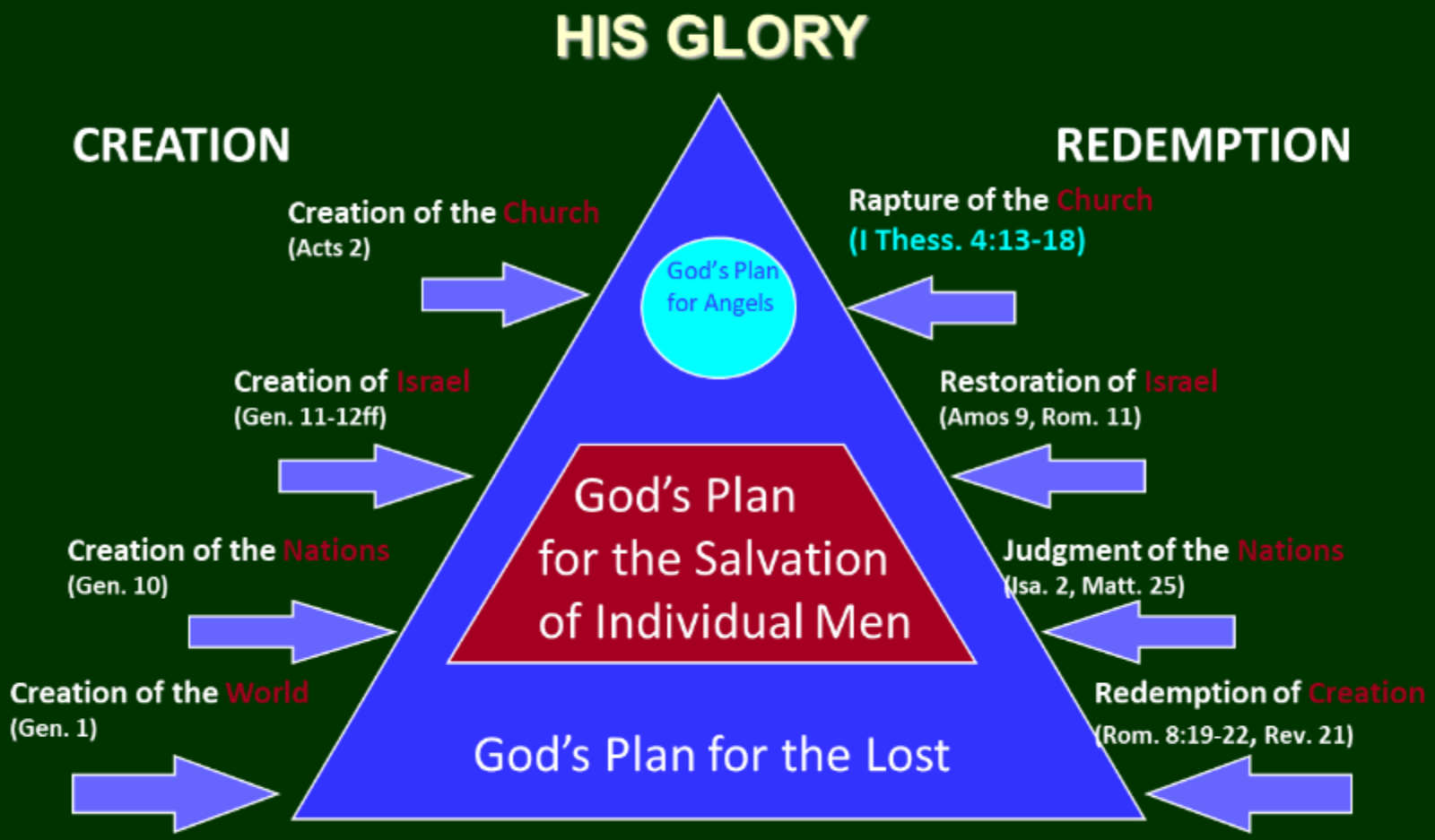
Dispensational Theology: Doxological Purpose

A. God's ultimate purpose for the ages is to glorify Himself. Scripture is not human-centered, as though salvation were the principle point, but God-centered, because His glory is at the center.

B. The glory of God is the primary principle that unifies all dispensations, the program of salvation being just one of the means by which God glorifies Himself. Each successive revelation of God's plan for the ages, as well as His dealing with the elect, non-elect, angels, and nations all manifest His glory.

Dictionary of Premillennial Theology, Charles Ryrie, p. 94

THE FOCUS ON THE GLORY OF GOD IN DISPENSATIONALISM



Dr. Mike Stallard, Baptist Bible Seminary

Ephesians 3:21

"**<u>to Him be the glory in the church</u>** and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."



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Ephesians 4:11-16

“11 And He gave **some** as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, 12 for the **equipping** of the **saints** for the **work of service**, to the **building up** of the body of Christ;”



Ephesians 2:20

"having been built on the foundation of the **apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,"



Ephesians 4:11-16

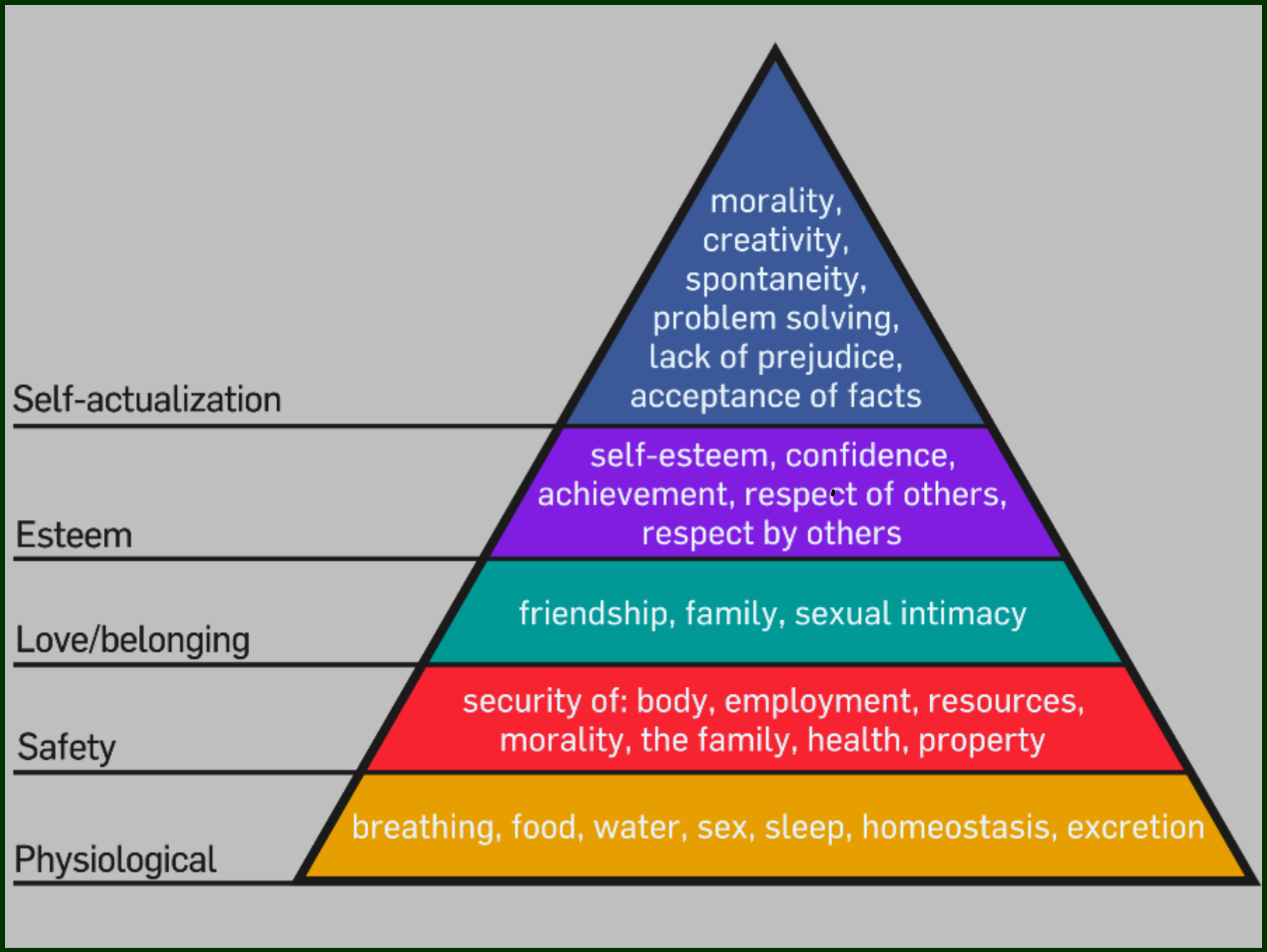
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2 Timothy 3:16-17

“16 **All Scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped for every good work**.”




morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts
Self-actualization
self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others
Esteem
friendship, family, sexual intimacy
Love/belonging
security of: body, employment, resources, morality, the family, health, property
Safety
breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion
Physiological

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Ephesians 4:11-16

"[13] until we all attain to the **unity** of the faith, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the **stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ**. [14] As a **result**, we are no longer to be **children**, **tossed here and there by waves** and carried about by every **wind** of doctrine, by the **trickery of men**, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;"

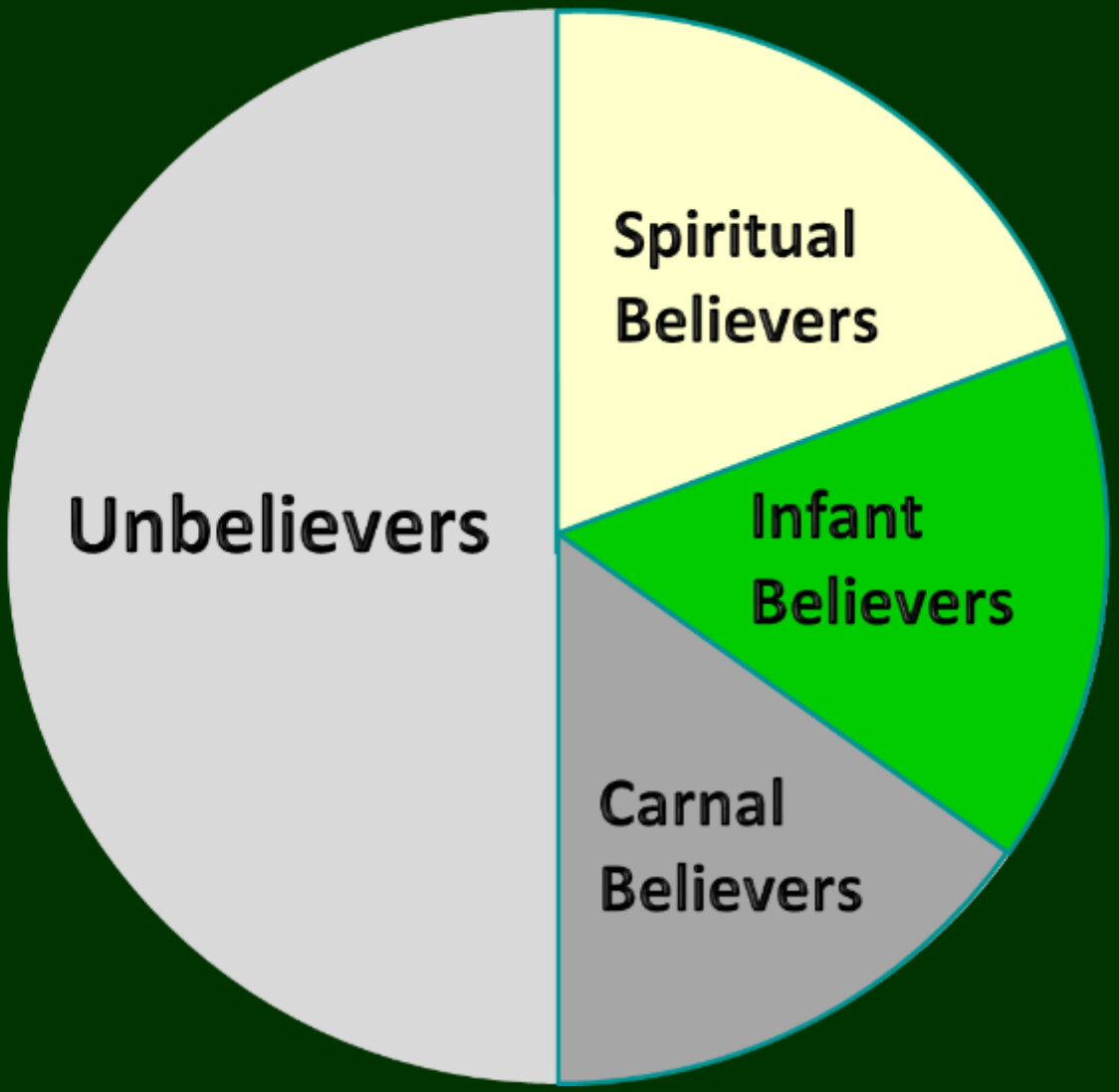


1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

"[1]And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. [2] I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it,* and even now you are still not able; [3] for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* **men**?"



4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



Ephesians 4:11-16

"15 but **speaking** the **truth in love**, we are to **grow up** in **all** *aspects* into Him who is the head, even **Christ**, 16 from whom the whole body, being **fitted and held together** by what **every joint supplies**, according to the **proper working** of **each** individual part, causes the **growth** of the body for the **building up of itself** in **love**."



VII. Purposes of the Local Church



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Matthew 28:18-20

“[18] And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. [19] ***Go*** therefore and make disciples of ***all the nations***, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”



Mark 16:15

"**Go** into **all the world** and preach the gospel to all creation."



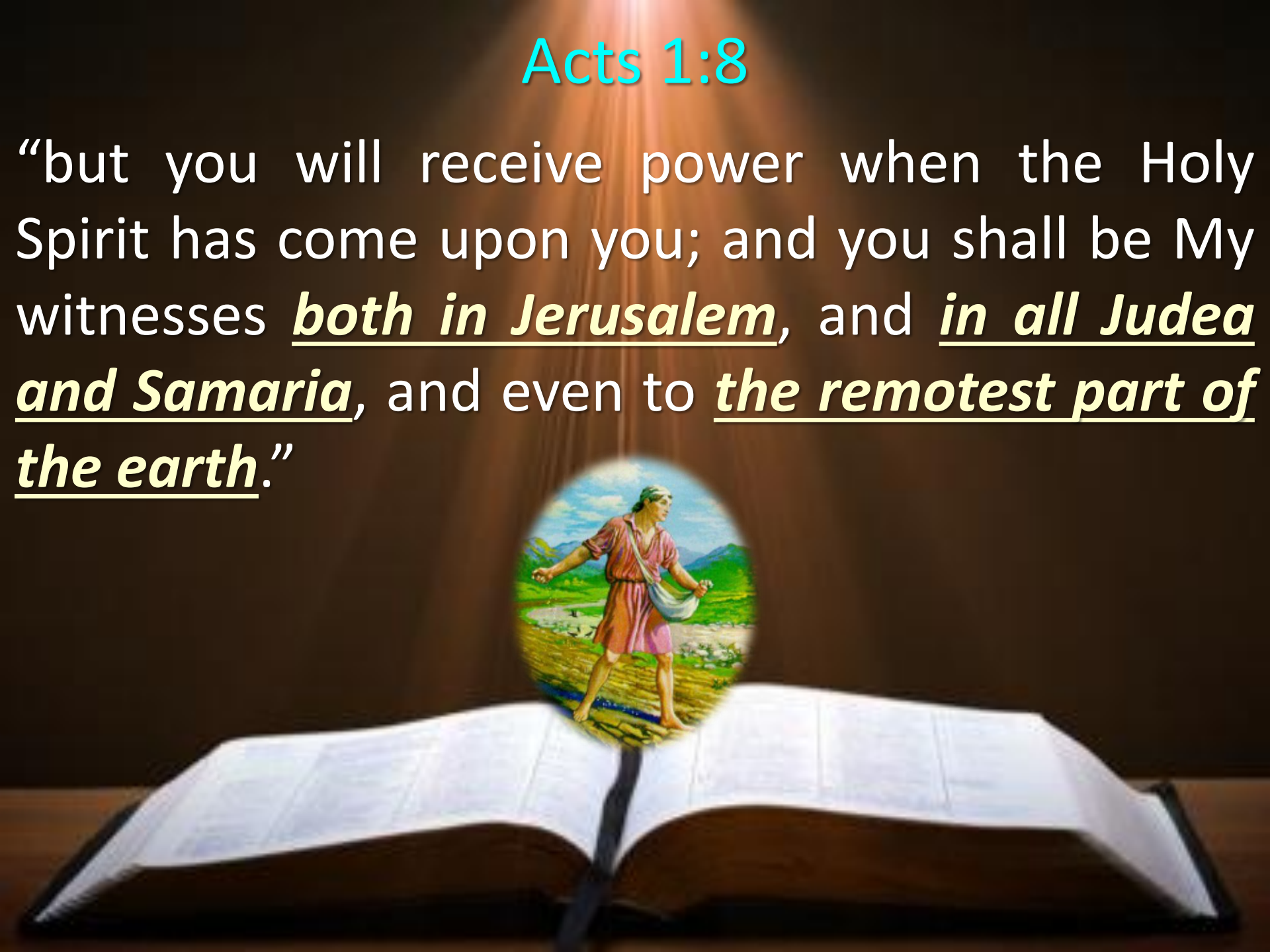
Luke 24:46-48

“[46] and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, [47] and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name **to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem**. [48] You are witnesses of these things.”



Acts 1:8

"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses ***both in Jerusalem***, and ***in all Judea and Samaria***, and even to ***the remotest part of the earth***."



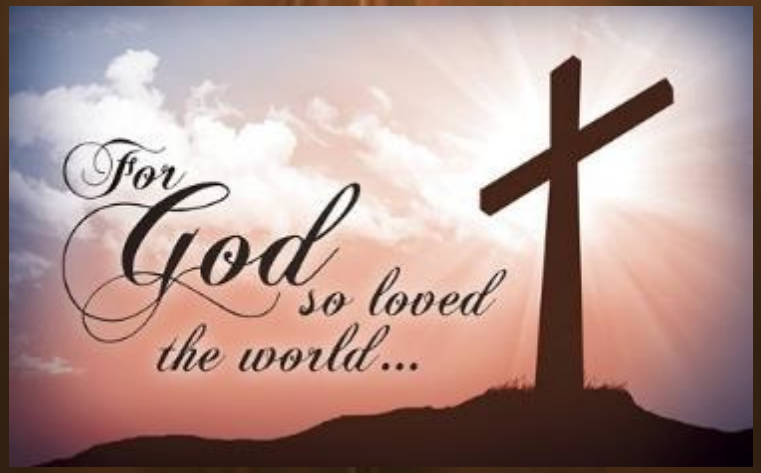
John 20:21

"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; **as the Father has sent Me, I also send you**."



John 3:16

"For God so loved **the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."



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Emergent Church & the Kingdom

"The church has been preoccupied with the question, 'What happens to your soul after you die?' As if the reason for Jesus coming can be summed up in, 'Jesus is trying to get more souls into heaven as opposed to hell, after they die.' I just think a fair reading of the Gospels blows that out of the water. "



Brian McLaren; cited in Roger Oakland, *Faith Undone*, 203.

Emergent Church & the Kingdom

"He selected 12 and trained them in a new way of life. He sent them to teach everyone this new way of life...Even if only a few would practice this new way, many would benefit. Oppressed people would be free. Poor people would be liberated from poverty. Minorities would be treated with respect. Sinners would be loved, not resented."



Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 111.

Emergent Church & the Kingdom

"Industrialists would realize that God cares for sparrows and wildflowers-so their industries should respect, not rape, the environment. The homeless would be invited in for a hot meal. ***The kingdom of God would come*** – not everywhere at once, not suddenly, but gradually like a seed growing in a field, like yeast spreading in a lump of bread dough, like light spreading across the sky at dawn."



Brian McLaren, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, 111.

Church & Kingdom Confusion



Rick Warren, cited in Oakland, *Faith Undone,* Kindle edition.

“I stand before you confidently right now and say to you that God is going to use you to change the world...I'm looking at a stadium full of people right now who are telling God they will do ***whatever it takes to establish God's Kingdom*** **"on earth** as it is in heaven." What will happen if the followers of Jesus say to Him, "We are yours?" What kind of spiritual awakening will occur?”

Church & Kingdom Confusion

"If we are to be a part of this **coming kingdom**, God expects our lives – our churches and faith communities too – to be characterized by these authentic signs of our own transformation: compassion, mercy, justice, and love – demonstrated *tangibly*. Only then will our light break forth like the dawn, our healing quickly appear, and our cries for help be answered with a divine *Here am I.*"



Stearns, *Hole in the Gospel*, 57.

Church & Kingdom Confusion

"The gospel that we have been given – the whole gospel – is God's vision for a new way of living…**Christ's vision was of a redeemed world order populated by redeemed people – *now***. *To accomplish this, we are to be salt and light* in a dark and fallen world, the "yeast" that leavens the whole loaf of bread (the whole of society). *We are the ones God has* called to be His Church. It's up to us. *We are to be the* change. But a changed world requires *change agents, and* change agents are people who have first been changed themselves."



Stearns, *Hole in the Gospel*, 276, 243-44.

Holistic Redemption?

"Unfortunately, present-day dispensationalists have written very little in proposing a theology of social ministry." He continues, "if we as a community of Christ worked on creating our community as a model of social justice and peace, then we really would have some suggestions to make for social reform in our cities and nations."



Craig Blaising, "Dispensationalism: The Search for Definition," in *Dispensationalism, Israel and the Church*, ed. Craig Blaising and Darrell Bock (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992), 14, n. 3; idem, "Theological and Ministerial Issues in Progressive Dispensationalism," in *Progressive Dispensationalism*, ed. Darrell Bock and Craig Blaising (Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1993), 288–89.

Holistic Redemption?

"Holistic redemption can easily lead to placing unbalanced, if not wrong, priorities on political action, social agendas, and improving the structures of society."

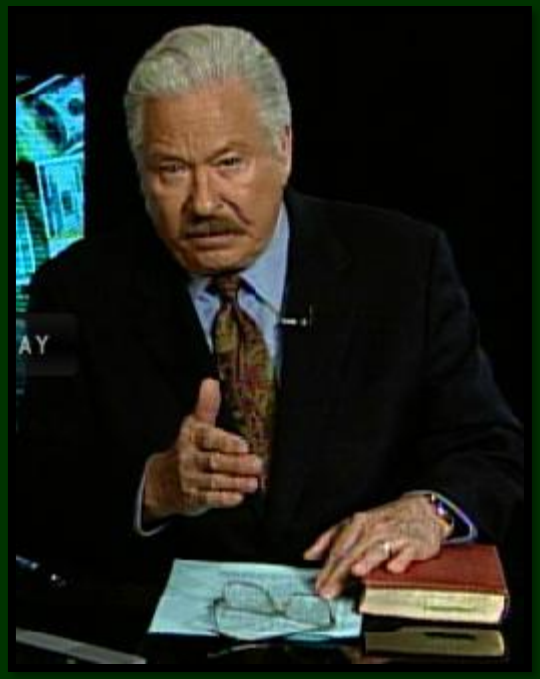


Charles C. Ryrie, *Dispensationalism* (Chicago: Moody, 1995), 176.

Hal Lindsey

The Road to Holocaust, 269

Bestselling author Hal Lindsey warned what could happen to the church in the last days if she began to see herself as the establisher of God's kingdom: “The last days of the church on the earth may be largely ***wasted*** seeking to accomplish a task that only the LORD Himself can and will do directly.”



Acts 15:14

"Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about **taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name**."



Conclusion

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