

# PERSPECTIVES: Lesson 7 History

## MAJOR MOVEMENTS IN MISSION HISTORY

*"Mission is everything the church does outside its four walls. It is philanthropy, education, medicine, famine relief, evangelism, and world friendship." - Reinhold Niebuhr*



*"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. From Pentecost to the Haystack Meeting in New England, and from the days when Robert Morrison landed in China, to the martyrdom of John and Betty Stam, prayer has been the source of power and the secret of spiritual triumph." - Samuel M. Zwemer*

01  
THE  
MISSIONARY GOD

One of the first important perspectives we learn in this course is that God is a missionary God. We discover God is not standing back in hope humanity will come to Him, instead God has pursued us for our sake with redemption on His mind. **Ephesians 1:3-4** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In love" Before we existed, He loved us.

02  
THE GLORIOUS  
APPEARANCE

The gospel message tells us that God came into this world to redeem us through the person of Jesus Christ, God in human flesh; fully God and fully man. In Christ, the missionary God makes the grand step toward our redemption by sacrificing Himself on the cross and rising from the dead. **John 1:4-5** "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus overcame sin and death for us, and redeemed us back to God. This glorious appearance made it possible.

03  
THE  
HISTORIC CHURCH

With Jesus risen from the dead, and ascended to the Father, the role of the "good news" spokesman falls to the Church to take up the message and share it with the world. Two commands are given to us, first in **Matthew 28:16-20**, and in **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." This work of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth, in all its forms, is found all through Church history.

**"Winter's anticipation of the rapid growth and effectiveness of Majority World missions was framed in his now well-known observation of how Protestant mission surged in three eras, each of them focused on a more exacting understanding of what it would take to finish the Great Commission." - Yvonne Wood Huneycutt, New Pioneers Leading the way in the Final Era, Perspectives Reader, page 377**

THE THREE ERAS & FOUR MEN

04  
REACHING THE  
COASTLANDS

Following the time of the Great Awakening in both England and in the Americas, another awakening begins to take place, an awakening to "missions". In 1786, **William Carey** preaches his first sermon about the need to take the gospel to the heathen, and by 1793 he sails to India to fulfill the calling on his life to preach. Then, in 1806 an energized group of young college students hold a prayer meeting - which is later known as the "Haystack Prayer Meeting." With this, modern missions is launched and continues on for many generations.

05  
REACHING  
THE INLAND

Missions having been launched, missionaries are traversing the globe to take the gospel to foreign lands. **Hudson Taylor** (1832-1905), feeling compelled to go to China, recognizes the fact missionaries are reaching other lands, but they are all on the coastlands. Seeing this as a problem to be solved, Taylor begins a movement of taking the gospel message inland in these nations where the gospel is now being preached. He is discontent with only staying on the coast, so he risks the dangers of moving inland with the gospel.

06  
REACHING  
THE UNREACHED

With missions now flourishing in many countries, a new realization begins to surface. Unreached peoples. Many countries such as can be found on the African continent, have established churches and a large number of western missionaries. Meanwhile, in other parts of the world, such as in what is known as the 10/40 Window, no missionaries are found, and the church has no presence. There is no proclamation of the gospel therefore in these nations. Leading figures, **Cameron Townsend** and **Donald McGavran** set out to change this. (1935)