



FIRSTSF 9AM | 5.12.24

THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

DISCUSS

What is the purpose of the Church?



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

GOD'S PURPOSE IN
SCRIPTURE



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

BOOKENDS OF SCRIPTURE



GEN 3:

The Fall of Man

REDEMPTION

REV 19–20:

Bride & Throne



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

JESUS' MISSION

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the **kingdom of God** is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

MARK 1:14-15



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

BOOKENDS OF SCRIPTURE

GEN 1–2:
Kingdom
Established



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE IN CREATION

EARTH & SEA/
PLANTS & FOOD

BEASTS/
MALE & FEMALE

WATERS ABOVE/
WATERS BELOW

SEA CREATURES/
HEAVEN CREATURES

DAY & NIGHT

GREATER LIGHT &
LESSER LIGHT

COSMIC SPACES

COSMIC RULERS



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

GOD'S COSMIC TEMPLE

Around all the walls of the house he carved engraved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms.

1 KINGS 6:29



GOD'S REST

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

GENESIS 2:2-3



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

GOD'S REST AS REIGN

Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD."

ISAIAH 66:1-2



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE IN CREATION

GOD RESTED

EARTH & SEA/
PLANTS & FOOD

BEASTS/
MALE & FEMALE

WATERS ABOVE/
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THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

EDEN AS THE HOLY OF HOLIES

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day

GENESIS 3:8

ADAM AND EVE AS FIRST PRIESTS

- **Genesis 2:15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it (עבד) and keep it (שמר).
- **Numbers 3:7–8** [The priests] shall keep guard (שמר) over [Aaron] and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister (עבד) at the tabernacle. They shall guard (שמר) all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep guard (שמר) over the people of Israel as they minister (עבד) at the tabernacle.



“Adam’s kingly and priestly activity in the garden was to be a beginning fulfillment of the commission in 1:28 and was not to be limited to the garden’s original earthly boundaries but was to be extended over the whole world.”

G.K. BEALE, *THE TEMPLE AND
THE CHURCH’S MISSION*, 83



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

BOOKENDS OF SCRIPTURE



GEN 1–2:
Kingdom
Established

REV 21–22:
Kingdom
Restored



KINGDOM RESTORED IN REVELATION 21-22

- **Revelation 21:3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."
- **Revelation 21:22** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.



KINGDOM RESTORED IN REVELATION 21-22

- **Revelation 22:1–2** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.
- **Genesis 2:10** A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE IN SCRIPTURE

BOOKENDS OF SCRIPTURE



GEN 1–2:

Kingdom
Established

KINGDOM OF GOD

REV 21–22:

Kingdom
Restored





THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

GOD'S PURPOSE
FOR HIS PEOPLE

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE

KINGDOM EXPANDED THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE

- **Exodus 19:5-6** "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."
- **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE

KINGDOM EXPANDED THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

GENESIS 1:28



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE

DISPLAYING THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

...in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2:21-22



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE

DISPLAYING THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides
in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 JOHN 4:11-12



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH | GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS PEOPLE

DISPLAYING THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

- The Church is an “outpost” of the Kingdom
- We reveal God’s Kingdom through proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom
- We reveal God’s Kingdom through living as a Kingdom presence



THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

DISCUSSION

1. How can we reveal the Kingdom of God individually as God's people?
2. How can we reveal the Kingdom of God collectively as God's church?

