

“Make Disciples of All Nations...”

Text: Matthew 28:16-20

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Our Missionary God

Walter C Kaiser offers this outline from three Old Testament texts: *We have been called to:*

Proclaim His Plan to Bless the Nations (Genesis 12:1-3)

Participate in His Priesthood as Agents of That Blessing (Exodus 19:4-6)

“As priests represent God and mediate His word to the people, so Israel as a holy nation was to assume two relations: one towards God and the other towards the nations.”

Walter C. Kaiser

Related Passages: 1 Peter 2:9-10; Romans 15:15-17

Prove His Purpose to Bless all the Nations (Psalm 67)

“so that”

“Hallowed be Thy name” (Matthew 6:9)

Preaching the Gospel of the KINGDOM (Matthew 28:16-18)

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

God at War

It’s clear in the New Testament that Satan has some temporary but real authority in the earth:

- He offers Jesus the authority and glory of the kingdoms (Luke 4:5-6)
- He is called the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- He is the “ruler of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)
- The entire world is under the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19)

The devil’s purpose toward mankind is:

- To steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10)

- To “scourge” us –*mastix*, translated “diseases” (e.g. Mark 3:10)
- To blind the hearts and minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4)

But when Jesus came, part of His purpose was:

- To “bind up the strongman” (Mark 3:27)
- To break the devil’s power over people (Hebrews 2:14)
- To “destroy the works of the evil one” (1 John 3:8b)

Related passages: Mark 1:14b-15; Matthew 24:14; 1 John 3:8b

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...

Related passages: Isaiah 56:7

	Voluntary	Involuntary
With	Missionaries	Refugees
Toward	International Students	Ukraine

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. The Great Commission is first to delight yourself in the Lord (Ps. 37:4). And then to declare, “Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!” (Ps. 67:4).

John Piper

...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

... ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. If God is on a mission to reach the nations through His Church, how do I see Him doing that through me? Is there more that He wants to do through me?
2. How does the idea that God is constantly moving people with or toward the Gospel strike you? Who are some that God is calling you to move toward WITH the Gospel? Who might be some that God is bringing TOWARD you in order to hear the Gospel?
3. How does the idea that Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one impact you? In what ways does He want to still do that through His Church today?