



Heart for the Nations

Lesson 2 • Genesis 1–3

Where Should We Go to See the God's Missionary Heart for the Nations?

The Book of Acts and Missionary Journeys of Paul? Acts 1:8; Acts 13:1ff Back to the Great Commission? Matthew 28:18-20
Further back to the Covenant with Abraham? Genesis 12:1-3 Even further back to Creation or all the way back before time began?

God's Heart for the Nations Is...

- **Freely ROOTED** in eternity past by His predetermined plan of redemption. Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28; 1Peter 1:18-21; Revelation 13:8; 17:8
"this Man [Jesus the Nazarene], delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death." Acts 2:23
"For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You [the LORD] anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. Acts 4:27-28
"For [Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God..." 1Peter 1:20-21
- **Fully REALIZED** in eternity future by His Kingdom coming and in the New Creation. Revelation 5:9-10; 7:9-10; 15:3-4; 21:22–22:5
- **Progressively REVEALED** in the Scriptures beginning with the Creation of the world. Genesis 1:26-28

The Living God is a Missionary God with a HEART for the Nations!

Our life purpose is to partner with Him in fulfilling His purpose for His creation through His plan of redemption!

1. God's Purpose for CREATION Reveals His Heart for the Nations. Genesis 1–2

1. The Bible is God-CENTERED and people-FOCUSED.

How Do We Know the Bible Is God-centered?

- See how the Bible **BEGINS**. Genesis 1:1
"In the beginning, GOD..."
- See how the Bible **ENDS**. Revelation 22:3-5
"Then comes the end, when [Christ] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power... When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL." 1Corinthians 15:24-28

How Do We Know the Bible Is People-focused?

- The **CROWN** of the Old Creation is the creation of people. Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2
"What is man that You take thought of him...? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You CROWN HIM with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; Psalm 8:4-6
- The **CLIMAX** of the New Creation is the redemption of people.
"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away... And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, MADE READY AS A BRIDE ADORNED FOR HER HUSBAND. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,' Revelation 21:1-5

We Could Also Consider...

- The **CRUX** of the Gospel is the incarnation of Christ as a person – the God-Man & Last Adam. Philippians 2:4-6; 1Cor 15:22, 45-49
- The **CONCERN** of the Bible's story-line is the salvation of people. Matthew 1:21; Gen 12:1-3; Rom 8:19
- The **COMMISSION** for the Church is to make disciples of all peoples. Matthew 28:18-20

2. God's purpose for Creation is a PROMISE to be fulfilled. Genesis 1:26-28

God's Purpose for Creation Is a Simple Promise
My **PRESENCE** will rule with My **PEOPLE** over My **PLACE**!

GOD'S PLAN/PROMISE	CREATION	OT ISRAEL	NT CHURCH	THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM COMES	NEW CREATION
My Presence Ruling	Creator	Yahweh	Jesus the Risen Lord	Jesus the King of kings <i>Son of God, Abraham, and David</i>	The Father Over All
With My People	Image-Bearers <i>A & E + Their Children</i>	Israel	Members in Christ	Israel + Church for the Nations	Image-Bearers in Christ's Image
Over My Place	Garden > All Creation	Promise Land	Believers + Local Church	Promise Land + Whole Earth	New Creation

3. God's purpose for Creation will be fulfilled by people created in **HIS IMAGE** as they trust and obey Him.

What Does It Mean People Are Created in the Image of God?

CREATOR
<p>IMAGE-BEARERS</p> <p><i>Enjoy a Unique RELATIONSHIP with His Person</i></p> <p><i>Enjoy a Unique ROLE/REPRESENTATION as His People</i></p> <p><i>Enjoy a Unique RULE under, with, and for Him Over His Place</i></p>
CREATION

How Will God's Image-Bearers Do This? **TRUST AND OBEY** for there's no other way! *Genesis 2:15-17*

2. God's Promise of **REDEMPTION** Reveals His Heart for the Nations. *Genesis 3*

- The Image-Bearers **REBEL** against the Creator and His gracious rule over them. *Genesis 3:1-6*
- The rebellion against the Creator's rule also **REVERSED** His design. *Genesis 3:1-19*

DESIGN of CREATION	REVERSAL of REBELLION	GRACE of the CREATOR	CURSED by the CREATOR <i>Follows the Reversed Order</i>	ORDER of CREATION REMAINS but RUINED by SIN in NEED of REDEEMING !
Creator	Creation: Serpent	Creator Seeks His Hiding Image-Bearers	Curses Serpent	The Creator Freely Chooses to Become the Redeemer
Image-Bearers: <i>Adam Leads as Eve Helps</i>	Image-Bearers" <i>Eve Leads as Adam Follows</i>	Image-Bearers Called: <i>Adam First Eve next</i>	Image-Bearers Cursed <i>Eve First Adam Next</i>	Wife Desires to Overthrow Husband Husband Seeks to Dominate Wife
Creation	Become Like God	Speaks to the Serpent Last	Curses the Ground	All Creations Groans

3. God's heart is revealed in His **PROMISE** of redemption. *Genesis 3:1*

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." Genesis 3:15

God's Heart Is Revealed in the Two-fold Promise of the "First Gospel or Good News" (Proto Evangelium)!

- The Seed of the Woman will "strike the head" of the Serpent with a death blow!
- The Seed of the Serpent will "strike the heel" of the Seed of the Woman with a death bite!

Who Will Be the Seed of the Woman?

Only the Sovereign God can rule as the Victorious Savior and only a Sinless Man can redeem as the Vicarious Sacrifice!

Why Is Jesus Is the Refuge for All the Nations?

Because God's Heart Has Always Been to Rule Over All Creation and Every Nation with His Image-Bearers!