



Refuge for the Nations

Lesson 5 • The Gospels

God's **HEART** for the Nations Is Revealed in His Plan for Creation and His Promise of Redemption! **Genesis 1 – 3**

- **God's Plan for Creation:** His **PRESENCE** ruling with His **PEOPLE** over His **PLACE!** *Genesis 1:26-28*
- **God's Promise of Redemption:** God's rule with His people in His place will be **RESTORED** by the promised **Head Crusher** who will overcome the **Heel Biter!** *Genesis 3:15*

God's **HOPE** for the Nations Is Revealed at the End of His Rainbow! **Genesis 4 – 11**

- **The Noahic Covenant with Creation:** The Creator God unconditionally promises to be **FAITHFUL** to His Creation Plan on the basis of common grace! *Genesis 8:20–9:17*

God's **BLESSINGS** for the Nations Are Revealed in His Covenant with Abraham! **Genesis 12:1-3**

- **The Abrahamic Covenant with Israel:** The Redeemer God unconditionally promises to **FULFILL** His Redemption Promise on the basis of saving grace! *Genesis 12:1-3*
 1. The Progress of **REVELATION** in the Bible – *Genesis to Revelation*
 2. The Progress of **FULFILLMENT** of All the Covenants in Christ – *Matthew 1:1; Luke 3:38*
 - Promised **LAND** in the **Abrahamic Covenant**
 - Promised **SEED** in the **Davidic Covenant**
 - Promised **BLESSING** in the **New Covenant**

God's Refuge for the Nations Is Revealed in His **SON**, the Lord Jesus Christ! **Matthew 1:1-17**

- **Jesus Is the "I AM" God Who Is Faithful to Keep His Covenant Promises Out of a Heart of Loyal Love:** The Redeemer God Fulfills His Redemption Promise by **SENDING** His Own Son to Be the Promised Seed!

The Living God is a Missionary God Who Became One of Us to Be a REFUGE for All the Nations!

The Gospel Accounts Reminds Us that Jesus' Missions Was to Be the All-Inclusive Refuge for the Nations.

"Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you!" John 20:21

Jesus as the Refuge for the Nations Is Revealed in...

1. The **ALL-INCLUSIVE MINISTRY** of Jesus

Jesus ministered with a **STRATEGIC INTEREST** in all peoples – *Jew and Gentiles.*

- The **Celebration** of His Birth Was Inclusive.
 1. **DESCRIPTION** of Jesus' Family Tree – *Matthew 1:1-17*
 2. **PREDICTION** at John's Birth of the Light for the Gentiles in Darkness

| ZACHARIAS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT <i>Luke 1:76-79</i> | ISAIAH PROPHESED BY THE SPIRIT <i>Isaiah 9:1-2</i> |
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| <p>76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; 77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, 78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, 79 TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."</p> | <p>Isaiah 9 1 But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES. 2 THE PEOPLE WHO WALK IN DARKNESS WILL SEE A GREAT LIGHT; THOSE WHO LIVE IN A DARK LAND, THE LIGHT WILL SHINE ON THEM.</p> |

3. **PROCLAMATION** by the Angels to the Despised Shepherds of Good News for All Peoples – *Luke 2:9-14*

4. **DECLARATION** by Simeon that Baby Jesus Was the Light to the Gentiles and the Glory of Israel

| SIMEON SPEAKS IN THE SPIRIT <i>Luke 2:27-32</i> | ISAIAH PROPHESED BY THE SPIRIT <i>Isaiah 42:5; 49:5-6; 60:1-3</i> |
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| <p>27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,</p> <p>29 “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word;</p> <p>30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 WHICH YOU HAVE PREPARED IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL PEOPLES,</p> <p>32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, AND THE GLORY OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.”</p> | <p>42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it,</p> <p>6 I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, AS A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS, 7 To OPEN BLIND EYES, To BRING OUT PRISONERS from the dungeon And THOSE WHO DWELL IN DARKNESS from the prison.</p> <p>49:5 And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength),</p> <p>6 He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I WILL ALSO MAKE YOU A LIGHT OF THE NATIONS SO THAT MY SALVATION MAY REACH TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”</p> <p>60:1 ARISE, SHINE; FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME, And THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAS RISEN UPON YOU. 2 For behold, DARKNESS WILL COVER THE EARTH And DEEP DARKNESS THE PEOPLES; BUT the LORD WILL RISE UPON YOU AND HIS GLORY WILL APPEAR UPON YOU. 3 NATIONS WILL COME TO YOUR LIGHT, AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR RISING.</p> |

5. **ADORATION** of Jesus as a Child by the Magi from the East – *Matthew 2:1-12*

► The **Commencement** of His Public Ministry Was Inclusive.

1. His Ministry **BEGINS** in Nazareth with a Rebuke about Gentile Faith-Response – *Luke 4:14-30; Isaiah 61:1-2, 8-11*

2. His Ministry Was **BASED** in Galilee of the Gentiles Picturing the Great Commission – *Matthew 4:12-17; Isaiah 9:1-2*

New Testament Scholar D. A. Carson Drives the Point Home...

The point of the quotation is clear enough. In despised Galilee, the place where people live in darkness (i.e., without the religious and cultic advantages of Jerusalem and Judea), the land of the shadow of death (i.e., where the darkness is most dense...), here the light has dawned (v.16). “Dawned”...suggests that the light first shone brilliantly here, not that it was shining brightly elsewhere and then moved here...This was God’s prophesied plan. Matthew is not interested in the mere fact that some prophecy was fulfilled in Galilee but in this particular prophecy: from of old the Messiah was promised to “Galilee of the Gentiles” (*ton ethnon*), a foreshadowing of the commission to “all nations” (*panta ta ethne*, 28:19). Moreover if the messianic light dawns on the darkest places, then Messiah’s salvation can only be a bestowal of grace—namely, that Jesus came to call, not the righteous, but sinners (9:13).

Carson, D. A., *Matthew*. Edited by Frank E. Gaebel and J. D. Douglas. Vol. 8 of Expositor’s Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

► The **Compassion** of His Ministry Was Inclusive.

| Jesus Showed Compassion to All Peoples and All Nations | | | |
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| Demoniac in Gentile Area <i>Mark 5</i> | Samaritan Leper <i>Luke 17</i> | Samaritan Immoral Woman <i>John 4</i> | Jewish “Bad Boy” Tax Collector <i>Matthew 9</i> |
| Jewish “Good Boy” Pharisee <i>John 3</i> | Roman Centurion <i>Matthew 8</i> | Canaanite Woman (“Dog”) <i>Matthew 15</i> | Greeks Seek to See Jesus <i>John 12</i> |

► The **Concern** of His Ministry Was Inclusive.

1. First to the **JEWES**: *Sending the 12 to Israel alone.*

2. Then to the **GENTILES**: *Sending the 70 to Gentiles also.*

The Cleansing of the Temple Also Reveals Jesus’ Concern for All Nations! Mark 11:15-18

► The **Conclusion** of His Ministry Was Inclusive.

1. The **CHARGE** against Him was written three languages: *Latin, Hebrew, and Aramaic.* *Matthew 27:37; John 19:20*

2. The **CROSS** is where “the Lamb of God took away the sins of the world”: A Condemned Rebel and a Roman Centurion are saved! *Matthew 27:54; John 1:29*

The ALL-INCLUSIVE MINISTRY of Jesus from the Cradle to the Cross

Men & Women, Younger & Older, Slave & Free, Rich & Poor, Clean & Unclean, Religious & Irreligious, Jew & Gentile!

How Do We Evaluate Ourselves in the Following Areas?

Is your heart this inclusive?
Are your prayers this inclusive?

Is your compassion this inclusive?
Is your life mission and ministry this inclusive?

“Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone.”

2. The ALL-INCLUSIVE METHOD of Jesus

What Was the Work Jesus Finished BEFORE He Went to the Cross?

“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.” John 17:4

Not **just** salvation to save many individuals but **multiplication to reach every people group!**

Not **just** salvation by addition but **multiplication by transformation!**

Jesus’ method was a **STRATEGIC FOCUS** on multiplication
by initiating His global mission with a few disciples among the Hebrew people.

“It did not matter how small the group was to start with so long as they reproduced and taught their disciples to reproduce...”
– Robert Coleman

3. The ALL-INCLUSIVE MANDATE of Jesus

Jesus’ mandate gave **STRATEGIC AUTHORITY** to faithfully pursue the finishable task of a church planting movement of baptized, obedient disciples who multiply disciples in their people group to go make disciples in every people group!

Five Commissions that Sum Up Jesus’ Inclusive Mandate

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| Mark 16:15-16 | Luke 24:46-49 | Acts 1:8 | John 20:21-23 | Matthew 28:18-20 |
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*Each one has a different emphasis but all of them are **inclusive** in their ultimate goal!*

Four “ALLs” of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20

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| ALL Authority <i>We All Have the King’s Permission to Go Make Disciples</i> | ALL People <i>Every People Group “Ta Ethne”</i> | ALL I Have Commanded <i>Church Planting Movement E-D-M</i> | ALL the Days <i>Stay Faithful to the Task Until He Comes</i> |
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A multi-generational, finishable task where Jesus is at work among us and through us to establish a church planting movement among every people group.

What Should My Involvement Look Like through LifeBridge in Light of the Fact that Jesus Is Present with Us ALL the Time to Fulfill His Mission?

A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission Will Multiply Great Churches with an ALL-INCLUSIVE MISSION to Be a Refuge for the Nations!

CAUTION | BOTH the Great Commission AND Great Commandment are **IMPORTANT** but **NOT** the **SAME!**

The Great Commission Is our missional purpose that is accomplished in history over time. Matthew 28:18-20

The Great Commandment is our relational power that is to be obeyed at all times. Matthew 22:36-40