

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

### Part 1 & 2

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Dr. Ché Ahn

**TEXT: Matt. 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

**INTRO:** One thing that most Christians I know have in common is a mutual agreement that we all must do our part to help fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission. Granted, many Christians have little or no idea as to what part they should personally play in accomplishing this. Sad to say, there are all too many who could not even verbalize what the Great Commission is. Nevertheless, almost all agree that Jesus’ Great Commission is a serious assignment for every believer because they hear it declared on a regular basis when they attend church. The Great Commission appears in different forms in all four Gospels plus the Book of Acts. I want to specifically look at Matthew’s version of the Great Commission.

### I. THE VISION: MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

#### A. WHAT IT IS NOT

1. It is not just wins souls although it includes that
2. It doesn’t say to make disciples in nations, although it includes making disciples
3. **Ed Silviso says, “The *ultimate* goal of the Great commission, contrary to contemporary religious lore, is not simply making disciples of people, but also discipling, teaching, and baptizing *nations*.”** Transformation p.38

#### B. LOOKING CLOSER AT THIS PASSAGE

1. It is a command from our Lord Jesus
2. All the nations is the Greek phrase *panta ta ethne*
3. A key to the Great Commission is understanding the word “nation.” In the original Greek it is *ethne*. You can easily see that we get our English word “ethnic” from this. So one way of understanding the Great Commission would be to “make disciples of every ethnic group.” But that is a bit narrow.

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The best way to interpret *ethne* is any social grouping that unites people in a coherent unit such as a neighborhood or a city or an occupational group or a state or an ethnic group such as Korean-Americans or Mexican-Americans or a geopolitical nation such as Sweden or Vietnam and on and on.

4. Peter Wagner says, “The main point is that Matthew’s version of the Great Commission stresses discipling a whole *group* of people.”
5. THE VISION SUMMARY: SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
6. Cindy Jacobs says, “This is the kingdom we need to release into the world again—a kingdom based on God’s love, justice, and power, where corruption is the exception, the hungry and poor are fed and clothed, the courts rule justly, government is run righteously, business is operated ethically, and education is more about pursuing truth than indoctrinating the young into the popular philosophy of the day.” Reformation Manifesto p. 20

## II. JESUS GIVES US THE AUTHORITY AND POWER TO GET THE JOB DONE!

- A. Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”
- B. The Garden of Eden
  1. Genesis 1:28 “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
  2. Most Christian teaching on the temptation in the Garden of Eden highlights Satan’s desire to entice Adam to sin and then to pass that sin down through the whole human race. While this certainly is true, I don’t believe it was Satan’s *primary* motivation for tempting Adam. I believe that when Satan approached Adam, he knew that God had given Adam authority to take dominion but that, as a free moral agent, he could also give that authority away. Adam could choose to obey God or to obey Satan. When Adam sinned and disobeyed God not only did he and his descendants acquire a sinful human nature, but Satan was able to usurp Adam’s authority over creation. The result? A chaotic creation permeated by evil and perversion!
  3. New Testament writers give Satan titles such as “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). Jesus even calls him “the ruler of this world” (John 14:30).

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4. In Jesus' third temptation, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would only worship him. Jesus never questioned Satan's dominion over the kingdoms of the world. *All* of them, otherwise it would not have been a real temptation!
5. When Jesus died on the cross, I believe that He descended into hell and **Colossians 2:15 says, Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**
6. **Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**

### C. THE POWER

1. **Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**
2. Two dreams on Friday morning, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. First dream I am with a female singer and musician who sings the classics of the past, Frank Sinatra, etc. There is a public key board and she begins to sing a song from the past but most of the people could not recognize it. But she was so excellent, that people started to be drawn to the music. As the crowds gather, I seize the opportunity to preach the gospel with the emphasis that you need to encounter the power of God. The Spirit of God falls and people start to get saved.
3. The second dream is I am in a large seminary class with over a hundred seminary students. My professor holds up a paper that I wrote on Isaiah 54:1-3. So the professor ask if I had any comments. I stood up and addressed the students that we will not be able to fulfill Isa 54, which is about harvest and reforming cities, apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. Then I asked the students if they had the power of the Holy Spirit? Most said no, so I began to pray for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit and revival breaks out.
4. **Isaiah 54:1 "Sing, barren woman, who has never had a baby. Fill the air with song, you who've never experienced childbirth! You're ending up with far more children than all those childbearing women." God says so! 2 "Clear lots of ground for your tents! Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big! Use plenty of rope, drive the tent pegs deep. 3. You're going to need lots of elbow room for your growing family. You're going to take over whole nations; you're going to resettle abandoned cities.**  
**Message**

### III. THE STRATEGY

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### **A. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE AND EMPOWER APOSTLES**

1. First of all, Jesus gives the Great Commission to His apostles minus Judas
2. Apostles are called to bring social transformation
3. **Luke 6:13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles**
4. **Apostles in the Workplace**

### **B. BEGIN ON YOUR MOUNTAIN**

1. INFLUENCING ALL SEVEN MOUNTAINS OF SOCIETY (Bill Bright and Loren Cunningham)
2. **FAMILY, RELIGION, GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, BUSINESS, MEDIA, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**
3. **Wallnau says, “The Church lacks cultural power because it focuses on changing the world from within the Church Mountain rather than releasing the Church into the marketplace to leaven all seven. . . Taking the Gospel into all the world is no longer a journey simply of geography. The world is a matrix of overlapping systems or spheres of influence. We are called to go into the entire matrix and invade every [mountain] with an influence that liberates its fullest potential.” - Reformers Pledge**

### **C. LET THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOW YOU HOW YOU ARE TO TRANSFORM YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**