

# Overview of the Bible -- The Trajectory of the Kingdom

Luk 24:46-47 ESV and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should **suffer** and on the third day **rise from the dead**, 47 **and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed** in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

- **SLIDE Prophets → Messiah - Messiah → repentance and forgiveness offered to all nations**

**This work of Messiah will continue until all nations shall hear and is a condition for the end**

- Mat 24:14 ESV And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, **and then the end will come.**

**We can get sidetracked or lack understanding → but Messiah is “laser-focused to reach the nations**

- Act 1:6-8 ESV So when they had come together, they asked him, "**Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**The church initially did not get on with the task → only after persecution → Messiah laser focused**

- Act 8:1 ESV And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of **Judea and Samaria**, except the apostles.

**There was great joy in that city → this is what the work of Messiah produces (this is in Samaria)**

- Act 8:5-8 ESV Philip went down to the city of **Samaria** and proclaimed to them **the Christ**. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 **So there was much joy in that city.**

**The conversion of Paul (see Caravaggio's painting) → Jesus the Messiah is in charge**

Act 9:1-6 ESV But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

- Here is Paul → with **all the authority** of the high priest **flat on his back** → sword on the ground → horse is being held from trampling him → he doesn't know the name of the one who knocked him over
- **He is blinded** and has to be led into the city by others → told to wait and he will be told what to do
- His whole world was unraveled by the risen Messiah - our Lord Jesus Christ
- When you look at that, you have to ask **“Who is in charge?” “Who is calling the shots?”**
- **None of this is initiated or controlled by Paul → this is solely the work of Messiah**

**Paul was called to reach the Gentiles he is the reason we're here today → “My Chosen Instrument”**

Act 9:15 ESV But the Lord said to him, "**Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.**

- Now what if that's still true today? What if Jesus rose from the dead and still leads the way today?"
- This would be at the heart of what the church is about -
- Jesus is in control, he is doing something → we are simply going to step into what he is already doing and become His partner His coworkers

**Not long after this some no named believers fleeing the persecution came to Antioch and preached the gospel there - the hand of Messiah was with them → because He is laser-focused**

- Act 11:19-21 ESV Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as **Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch**, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, **preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.**

**Barnabas and Saul teaching in Antioch → But Messiah wants to take the gospel elsewhere/further**

Act 13:2 ESV While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, **the Holy Spirit said**, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- Then from Antioch the LORD sent Paul and Barnabas for the work to continue to spread the gospel [3 minute Journeys of Paul video](#)

**Before he comes to Rome "No Place Left" because of what Messiah has accomplished through me**

Rom 15:17-24 ESV In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except **what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience--by word and deed**, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God--so that **from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum** I have fulfilled the ministry **of the gospel of Christ**; 20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "**Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.**" 22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, since **I no longer have any room for work in these regions**, and since I have longed for many years **to come to you**, 24 I hope to see you in passing **as I go to Spain**, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

- The **early church filled Jerusalem** with the teaching of Jesus
- Believers in Ephesus shared the message of Jesus with nearly **2 million people in Asia** in 2 years
- For Paul → **no place left** to work from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum (a region of 60 million)

**Challenge for us...the same challenge for Paul on the Damascus Road - the kingdom is still advancing**

- Is Jesus still in control? Is Jesus still at work in the world?
- Do you see in scripture the relentless pursuit of Messiah to finish his work and establish His Kingdom?
- Are you willing to be knocked off your horse? To have your world unraveled? To be his instrument?
- There are two questions to answer just like Paul
  - **Who is the LORD?** - is it the high priest in Jerusalem, is it my ambitions and pursuits or do I lay on the ground before the risen LORD, my world unraveled, with nowhere to look but to Him?
  - **What will you have me do?** - this is where you will find God's purpose for your life...He is MY CHOSEN INSTRUMENT

To proclaim the Message of the Gospel for repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations, and make disciples of those who respond who will turn around and do the same → **THIS is the MISSION of the CHURCH** → It has not changed in 2000 years and it will not change until HE RETURNS → for us it is only to decide how engaged we will be...or perhaps to find out what will we have to endure before we get the message? (persecution? Laying prostrate in the dust at the feet of Jesus?) Messiah is in pursuit of all nations.

**Start Small → What can we do to bring Joy to Our City? (Prayer, Care, Share)**

1. Prayer - Pray for people I know who are far from God
2. Care - show them acts of Kindness (Love God, Love Neighbor)
3. Share - tell them what the Lord has done in your life → then learn to share the gospel