

Fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant as seen Today

Genesis 12:2-3, 18:17-19, 22:15-18, 26:2-5, 28:13-14

"... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Today, on average...

- Sub-Saharan Africa: 63% Christian
- Caribbean Islands: 82% Christian
- Latin America: 92% Christian

Today, there are 2.6 billion Christians around the world!

More information: www.JoshuaProject.net

An **unreached people group** (UPG) is a people group that is less than 5% Christian and 2% Evangelical. This means these groups lack a local church community large enough to evangelize the rest of their people, so they need outside (e.g. missionary) assistance.

- 3 billion people alive today still belong to an UPG.
- 74% of all unreached people groups today live in Asia.
- Only a mere 4% of all missionaries work among UPGs!

Some UPGs mentioned in today's message:

- Ethnic Thai Buddhists: 55 million, 1% Christian
- Oshari* (atheist): 30 million, 1.6% Christian
- Shoptar* (Muslim): 79 million, 0.003% Christian



*UB Global uses a pseudonym for this people group's real name for the safety of local believers and missionaries.

Kairos Missions Course starts Sept. 10 at ECC



Join an exciting 9-session interactive exploration of the Purpose, Plan, and Mission of God, and how you fit into it. Go deeper with others in learning about missions and how you can engage right where you are. Kairos course has been translated into 35 languages and taught around the world!

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CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

September 5 & 6 | Call on the Name of the Lord - 3 | Acts 4:23-31 | Frank Yang

What do we do when things don't work out?

TRUST IN GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

Acts 4:24...they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,

1. "Sovereign" means a ruler who has SUPREME CONTROL.
2. Creator.
 - a. If we shrank the Milky Way galaxy into the size of our sun, then Earth would be the size of a single BACTERIA.
 - b. There are up to 2 TRILLION galaxies in our universe.

Acts 4:25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, 'Why did...the people plot in vain 26... against the Lord and against his Anointed' 27 for truly in this city there were gathered against your holy servant Jesus... 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

3. Lord over TIME.
 - a. David lived 1,000 years before Jesus.
 - b. The early church witnessed the fulfillment of this prophecy just WEEKS earlier.

4. They clearly witnessed His incomprehensible LOVE.
5. They realized even the worst of human sins cannot derail God's PLAN!

Ask Yourself

When we consider these truths about God (sovereignty over all situations, creator of all, not bound by time, incomprehensible love), how does that impact our perspective when we consider what's not working out in our lives right now?

STEP OUT IN BOLDNESS & FAITH

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

1. Speaking about Jesus will get them in MORE trouble.
 - a. Boldness = FEARLESS Courage.
 - b. They did not want to be HELD BACK by fear.

Acts 4:30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

2. God is the SOURCE of supernatural power. By faith, we can be CONDUITS of that power.
3. Notice what the early church DIDN'T ask for in prayer... (Acts 4:29-30).

Ask Yourself

- Is there a fear that's holding me back or a problem that's causing me to fixate?
- What does it mean for me to step out in fearless courage?
- How can I become a conduit of God's supernatural power, even in spite of my problems?

FACE IT IN COMMUNITY

Acts 4:23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said...

1. Community is a critical part of what FEEDS a Christian.
2. God CREATED us to face trials in community.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Ask Yourself

- How often do I get together in person with other believers in a spiritually meaningful way?
- Is there another godly person with whom I can be totally transparent about my joys and struggles?

EVEN WHEN...

Acts 12:1 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. 2 He killed James the brother of John with the sword, 3 and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. 4 And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.

What if we do all the "right things" but life GETS WORSE?

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Ask Yourself

Will I keep trusting, PRAYING, and GATHERING even when life makes no sense?