

FGBA - MDN I: GOD & SELF

SESSION 3

Come Out!

Revelation 18:4

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Objectives:

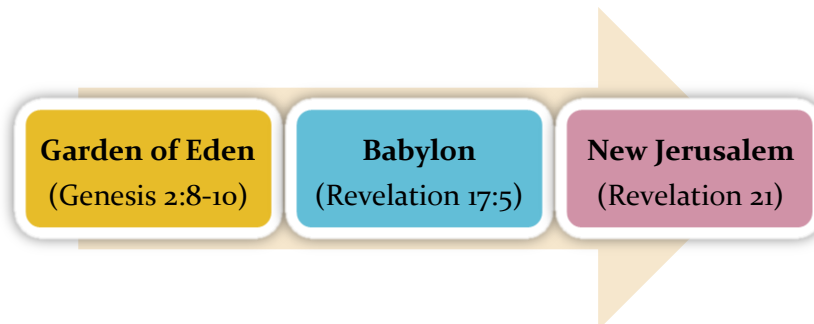
- To help believers COME OUT from the Kingdom of the world (Babylon) and bring them into God's Kingdom
- To help believers, as citizens of the Kingdom, to be Christ's ambassador in the Kingdom of the world

Revelation: What does the bible say?

Understanding the Mission of God

It is nothing less than the redemption and re-creation of the entire fallen created order – J I Packer

The Bible is the tale of two cities engaged in control of the world - Jerusalem & Babylon - Ed Silvano, Transformation: Change the Marketplace and You change the world.



A) REDEMPTION AND THE CITY

They represent two Kingdoms - The Kingdom of God & The Kingdom of Satan/World:

The Kingdom of God As represented by Jerusalem The glory & presence of God (Rev 21)	The Kingdom of Satan/World As represented by Babylon Mother of harlots & Abominations of the earth (Rev 17:5)
1. God First/God's Glory	1. Self First/Self Glory
2. God in control	2. Man in control
3. Gospel of the Kingdom	3. Humanistic Philosophy/ Moral Relativism
4. Righteousness	4. Unrighteousness
5. Honesty & Transparency	5. Deceit, Dishonesty, Corruption
6. Truth	6. Lies

7. Fairness & Justice	7. Injustice
8. Submission	8. Power & Position
9. Servanthood	9. Lordship
10. Giving	10. Getting
11. Stewardship	11. Ownership
12. Good News to the Poor	12. Oppression of the Poor
13. Empowerment	13. Exploitation
14. Surplus Economy/Lender	14. Debt Economy/Borrower

1. **Our Worldview**

Which kingdom we belong determines our worldview

A biblical/kingdom worldview or secular liberalism worldview

2. **Where Do You Live?**

John 17:16-18

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

1. Where we live determines how we live
2. We either live in the Kingdom of this World or we live in the Kingdom of God
3. We either set our minds on things above or things below **Colossians 3:2**
4. We are either disciplined by the World or by the Word of God

If we live in the Kingdom of this World, our values are shaped by the World

These are worldly values

If we live in the Kingdom of God,

our values are shaped by the Kingdom of God

These are Kingdom values **Dr Edmund Chan, Radical Discipleship.**

*We are God's people in Babylon, God's people surrounded by nations in darkness, offering salt and light. Landa Cope, **God and Political Justice: A Study of Civil Governance from Genesis to Revelation (The Biblical Template)***

B) WHAT IS GOD'S MANDATES FOR BELIEVERS?

1 The Cultural Mandate

- Genesis 1:28 *God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

This is a call for them (Adam & Eve) to "image God's work for the world by taking up our work in the world." (Spykman)

2 The Great Commission

- **Matthew 28:19-20** *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, 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.”*
- **Genesis 12:2** *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing*

Impartation: What is the Spirit saying?

1. Work

i. Is Work a curse?

- **God worked** – **Gen 2:2** *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.*
- **God made Adam work** – **Gen 2:15** *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.*

ii. Why work?

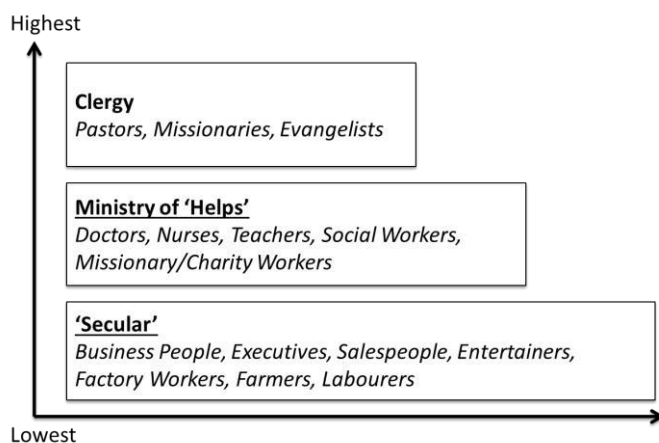
- **2 Thes 3:10** *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*
- **Prov 6:9-11** *How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.*

iii. Our work is our worship

Our work is our worship (avodah)
Our career is our calling
Our posting is our parish
Our position is our pulpit

2. Our Vocation and Calling

The Secular & Sacred Dichotomy *Is There A Hierachy of Calling?*



i. Our business is our mission

Paul saw his tent-making trade or vocation as integral to his calling. Tent making was central to his mission. Using his trade was intentional, not expedient. **Acts 17:17**- *Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.*

ii. Do good business and doo good in business – does your business mirror Christ in culture?

Luke 19:13 - *So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'*

iii. Every believer is called to be a Prophet, Priest and King

1 Peter 2:9- *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

Revelation 5:10 - *And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*

a) Prophet; Represent God to the people

Help organisation to discover what God intends it to become.

b) Priest: Represent people to God

Caring for people and serving as a model

c) King: Jesus the servant king to serve and provide for the people

Serving as a faithful steward of people and resources.

iv. The messenger is the message!

2 Cor 3:2-3 - *You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.*

3. From Egypt to Wilderness to Promised Land

i. God desires to bless His people

God wants to give us His best, don't settle for less.

God wants to give us more than enough, don't settle for just enough

God has a higher purpose in blessing us.

This is not about prosperity theology. In the bible, wealth and riches are spoken of, in both material and non-material terms.



Ps 112:1-3 *Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.*

Deut 28:2-8 *All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.*

ii. Being wealthy is not a sin but being worldly is.

Worldliness is being obsessed with the things of the world.
Abraham was wealthy but not worldly.

iii. Contentment and enjoyment

Prov 10:22 - *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.*

Ecc 5:19 - *Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.*

1Tim 6:6 - *But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*

However, as stewards we are accountable for how we use His money and manage the blessings from God.

Ps 37:4 - *Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.*

4. Stewardship vs Ownership

God is the owner, we are His stewards. He is the owner of everything - 100% and not 10% .

Ps 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.*

1 Chron 29:11-14 - *Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, And You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all.....
But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.*

Good stewardship requires faithfulness and accountability
In God we trust, in you God trust

1 Cor 4:2 - *Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

Lk 16:1-2 - *Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'*

When God blesses us, He expects us to be a blessing to others.

James 1:27 - *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

i. Prosperity Gospel

"Give to get" philosophy - Prosperity Gospel or Theology focuses on the blessings that come with the virtue of giving - sowing and reaping.

Our giving should be motivated by love, gratitude and obedience. God's blessings will only come to those who walk in obedience to His plans and purpose. It is wrong to think that God will bless in proportion to their capacity to give or tithe.

Mal 3:10 - *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and*

pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

ii. **Poverty Theology**

Are you "Poor as a church mouse"

Reaction against materialism. From this came the monastic movement in which people renounced material wealth and even took the vow of poverty. These people have a poverty mentality or a just enough mentality and they will receive just that from the Lord. The Lord will bless you according to your faith. There are some Christians who are afraid to handle wealth and riches. They are afraid of spiritual downfall.

iii. **Debt**

Easy to get into debt but hard to get out of debt

What the Bible does NOT say about debt

- It is a sin to borrow
- It is wise to borrow
- God will bail you out
- Debt is an exercise of faith

What the Bible does say about debt

- Debt may lead to slavery and bondage
Proverbs 22:7 The borrower is slave to the lender

iv. **Standing Guarantee**

Prov 6:1-3 *My child, if you have put up security for a friend's debt or agreed to guarantee the debt of a stranger— if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said— follow my advice and save yourself, for you have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased.*

Prov 11:15 (NASB) - *He who is guarantor for a stranger will surely suffer for it, But he who hates being a guarantor is secure.*

Prov 22:26 (NLT) - *Don't agree to guarantee another person's debt or put up security for someone else.*

v. **Savings & Investment**

Proverbs 21:20 *The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.*

Activation: How does this transform my life?

1. **Bondage**

Are you in financial bondage?

Signs of bondage:

- a. Insecurity
- b. Excessive debts
- c. Fear & Anxiety
- d. Sleeplessness
- e. Envy
- f. Bitterness
- g. Disillusionment

2. Where Are You Now?



Share with your Barnabas

The Kingdom of God As represented by Jerusalem	The Kingdom of the World As represented by Babylon
1. God's first/God's glory	1. Self first/Self glory
2. God in control	2. Man in control
3. Gospel of the Kingdom	3. Humanistic philosophy/ moral relativism
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Activation Prayer

FATHER, I thank you for bringing me out of the kingdom of the world to the Kingdom of God, from the kingdom of satan to the Kingdom of Heaven with Jesus Christ as King of all Kings. I thank you for freeing me from the bondage of sin, from the chains that satan had bound me with into perfect liberty and abundant life. I gladly declare that I am Christ's bondservant, no longer needing to please man, but doing Your will from the heart. AMEN.

FOCUS

What are the revelations I received that requires me to take action?

REFLECT

List out Life, Living & Livelihood issues...

ACT

My commitment to God to follow up with actions...

