Course CM Egypt Sept. '08 (1) Biblical essentials of Mission

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1. *Genesis*

Genesis 1: God the Creator, Owner and Sustainer of the World. The Bible doesn´t start with Abraham´s calling, or with the creation of angels.

- Ⓟ Reflection: Why God created heaven and earth, why angels and men? Why am I here?

Genesis 2:4, 5 and 10: list of generations and people groups. God is the Owner of the nations.

Genesis 12:3: calling of Abraham: ´in you all generations of the world will be blessed.´

2. *Psalms*

Many psalms contain a call to the nations to honor God. ´Let the whole earth praise God´ Look at: Ps. 2, 18:50, 22, 67, 96, 98, 100, 117 etc.

3. *De prophets*

In nearly all the books of the prophets we find annunciations of judgment and salvation for the nations. Look at Isaiah 15, 17-21 etc, Jeremiah 46-50, Ezekiel 25-32 (to mention only the main prophets). Particular prophecies: Is. 2:2; 11:10; 19:19 and 25:6. In the second part of Isaiah we find the calling of the ´Servant of the Lord to be a light for the nations: Is. 42:6 and 49:6. Who is this Servant of the Lord?

The book of Jonah breaks through ´particularism (the notion that God´s salvation is only meant for the people of God). Jonah has a strong universalistic motive. Gods intention is to save the nations, not only His own nation, not only the individual believer.

- Ⓟ Refelcetion: why Jonah refused to go to the great city Nineveh? How the Lord brought him back to answer His call?

4. *Matthew*

The list of generations in Matth. 1 contains representatives from non-Jewish nations. Matthew tells the story of the magi from the East. Matthew is the most explicit in telling the Great Commission: ´Make disciples of all the nations..´ (Matth. 28:16-20), but striking is also how he describes Jesus´ ministry in Matth. 9:35vv and chapter 10. Jesus is not only dealing with the soul, but with the whole person.

5. *Luke*

The gospel of Luke particularly is the gospel of God´s attention for the poor and the lost (compare Luke 6:20 ´blessed are you, poor´, and Luke 14:13, 21 ´invite the poor´; Luke 15: the parables of the lost; Luke 19:19 etc. Striking is the mission of the disciples in Luke 10:1-20 ´The Kingdom has become near´ and vers 18: ´I saw Satan falling from heaven like lightning´.

- Ⓟ Reflection on Luke 16 vers 19-31 The rich man and the poor Lazarus. Let us look at the three persons mentioned and share what we know about them from the text.

6. *Acts*

Acts is the book of the acts of the risen Lord or the Holy Spirit, at the same time of men and woman called by God. We deal in particular with four questions: 1. Who are the persons who bring the Gospel? 2. In which circumstances the gospel is proclaimed? 3. Do they always have the same message? 4. How are they led by the Holy Spirit; is there a certain strategy?

7. *James*

James 1:19-27; 2:14-26 etc. Faith without hands and feet is dead! Show you fait from your deeds!

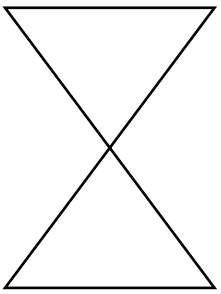
8. *Revelation*

See especially Rev 4 and 5. The throne in heaven, the scroll and the Lamb. God work of salvation has a cosmic dimension: the whole of creation is involved in it, angels and humans. The breaking of the seals are the sigs of the coming of a new heaven and a new earth.

Conclusion:

1. In God's plan of salvation, His aim is not the individual person, nor the church but the Kingdom of God, the restoration of creation, the time that God ´will be everything and in all´.

The model of the sand clock (hour-glass) of the missiologist Johannes Blauw.



Misson is the movement of God Three-in-One in which He once and for all establishes His Kingdom. The Father is the missionary Father, the Son the missionary Son and the Spirit the missionary Spirit, the church the missionary church. It is Góds mission in which He wants to use us.

Speaking about ´kingdom´ you also speak about social, cultural, political implications. Still the pattern of the coming of Gods Kingdom is very different form the world´s patterns (very important in a muslim context). It is hidden, it is like a leaven. The Lion of Rev. 5 is at the same time the Lamb. Key to understand the nature of Gods Kingdom is Luke 4:1-15 (also in other Gospels). An important theme in one of the stories in the famous novels of the Russian author F. Dostojevski ´The Karamazov brothers´ (in which Jesus appears in secret to the Catholic population of the Spanish place Sevilla, but the main Bishop, the great Persecutor of dissidents, wants to banish him, because He hinders the structure and authority of the church.)

Ⓟ Reflection: In what places, circumstances, for which persons God can use you as a little link in the chain of His coming Kingdom? What joys, fruits, what obstacles you want to share?