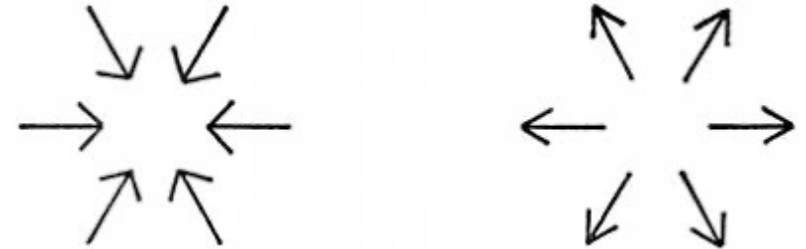




Mission and Missions

- Two views of missions
 - Come and see: The nations coming toward Israel/church.
 - Go and tell: Israel/church sends missionaries into the world.
- God uses two groups
 - Insiders: The faithful remnant (Principal stream of the community of believers).
 - Outsiders: God has His messengers who proclaim the truth.
- Israel's special position in the Old Testament
 - Israel's special assignments: 1) to serve as the family through which the promise and blessing of the Messiah would come; 2) through Him to be a spiritual light to the other nations of the world.
 - I (God) have called you in righteousness...I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6).
 - I will make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:6).

A Twofold of Missions



Centripetal (an Inward Focus)

- An inward, gathering force
 - Drawing people toward a center/authority: People were drawn to Jerusalem and the temple.
 - The queen of Sheba/The Ethiopian eunuch were to be drawn to Jerusalem.
 - Parents were expected to repeat the stories of deliverance to their children
 - A church holding regular worship services to attract members of the community.
- Mainly for Israel
 - Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3).

Centrifugal (an Outward Focus)

- Dispersing force, pushing people outward to spread a message
 - A church sending a mission team to preach the gospel to the unreached people.
- For the other nations
 - The mission was directed toward others who did not belong to the faith community.
 - The Great Commission of Jesus mandated that the church go out into the world and preach Christ to every creature.
 - Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).

Universal Mission in the Old Testament

- Mission to all people to carry the message of salvation to others
 - **Seth** began to proclaim the name of the Lord: At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26).
 - **Noah** called all people to make the right decision for God: Noah entered the ark (Genesis 7:13).
 - The model of God's mission through **Abraham** (God's ultimate wishes to bless all humanity): Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-2, 18:18).
- Abraham's universal mission was repeated throughout the Old Testament
 - The focus mission of Israel: God appoints Israel to be **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation** (Exodus 19:5-6).
 - Like **Abraham**, **Isaac** and **Jacob** were to be a light to the whole world.
 - **Joseph** was brought to Egypt, and he became a savior for Egypt and his family.
 - God sent **Moses** to Egypt to present a living God (Exodus 3:10-15).
 - The Lord's blessing should not be taken selfishly.

Old Testament Missionaries

- Jonah
 - God taught Jonah about the universality of God's salvation, demonstrating His unselfish love for all, even the enemies of His people (Jonah 4:6-11).
- Isaiah
 - God will send missionaries to the whole world.
 - I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians, to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations (Isaiah 66:19).
- Jeremiah
 - He sent Seriah to Babylon with the scroll, so that a foreign land could hear the message of God (Jeremiah 51:59-64).
- Daniel
 - He witnessed the powerful kings (Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus) to know the most high God (Daniel 4-6).
- Naaman's slave girl
 - He commander of the army of the king Aram knew the true God through a young slave Israelite girl (2 Kings 5:15).

Psalms Call for Missionaries among Nations

- Praise and proclaim God among the nations
 - I will praise you, Lord, among the **nations**; I will sing of you among the **peoples** (Psalm 57:9; 108:3).
 - Give praise to the LORD; make known among the **nations** what he has done (Psalm 105:1).
 - We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other **nations** said, “What amazing things the LORD has done for them” (Psalm 126:2).
- The results: All nations will know God
 - **Envoys** will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God (Psalm 68:31).
 - May all **kings** bow down to him and all nations serve him (Psalm 72:11).
 - He breaks the spirit of rulers; he is feared by the **kings** of the earth (Psalm 76:12).
 - All the nations you have made will come and **worship** before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name (Psalm 86:9).
 - When the LORD registers the nations, he will say, “They have all become **citizens** of Jerusalem (Psalm 87:6, NLT).
 - All people may **know** of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom (Psalm 145:12).

Prophets the Missionaries

- Zephaniah
 - The LORD will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands (Zephaniah 2:11).
- Isaiah
 - I will bless the foreigners who commit themselves to the LORD, who serve him and love his name, who worship him... I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer...because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:6-7, NLT).
- Zachariah
 - Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you, and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you (Zechariah 2:11).
- Ezekiel
 - I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes (Ezekiel 36:23).

God's Working with Gentiles

- Melchizedek (King of Salem)
 - Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand (Genesis 14:19-20).
- Jethro (The priest of Midian)
 - Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh... Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods (Exodus 18:10-11).
- Balaam (The pagan prophet)
 - A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel...A ruler will come out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17-19).
- Rahab (the prostitute in Jericho)
 - I know that the LORD has given you this land... so that all are melting in fear because of you...for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below (Joshua 2:8-11).
- Ruth (a Moabite woman)
 - Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God (Ruth 1:16).
- Nebuchadnezzar (a Babylon king who praised God)
 - I praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just (Daniel 4:37).

God's Mission in the Old Testament

- The Old Testament vision of mission
 - God has a mega-plan to bless and save the whole world.
 - Mission is primarily about being, being a special people with a special message that needs to be modeled in real life. The call to an ethical lifestyle and representing the message of God was a crucial focus that is to be emphasized in our modern times.
- The missionary mandate
 - (God to Abram): Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you** (Genesis 12: 1-3).
 - (God to Moses): You have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all **nations you will be my treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:4-6).
 - May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us so that your ways may be known on earth, **your salvation among all nations** (Psalm 67:1-2).

Applying Old Testament Mission to New Testament Lives

- Embrace God's Global Heart from Genesis
 - Understand that God's desire for all nations to know Him isn't a New Testament invention, but deeply rooted in the Old Testament, particularly the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:3).
- Move from "Come" to "Go"
 - While ancient Israel was primarily called to be a light that *drew* the nations in (a "centripetal" force), we as the New Testament church are explicitly commanded by Christ to *go* to the nations (a "centrifugal" force).
- Learn from Israel's Failure, and Act
 - Acknowledge that Israel largely failed in its missional task to be a light to the nations.
- Live as a "Missionary Church" by Definition:
 - Recognize that the church is inherently missional as our very identity. Every believer is called to be a witness, whether in their daily vocations, their neighborhoods, or on distant mission fields. Our lives, our conversations, and our resources should reflect this core identity.