



Chapter 4

OUR BIBLICAL BASIS

What Does God's Word Say about World Missions?

Since the time of Adam and Eve, all people have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

Genesis 2:17 *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

Genesis 3:6-7 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one." (Taken from Psalms 14: 3 There is not one who does good. No, not one.)*

From the beginning, God required that innocent blood be shed for guilty sinners.

Genesis 3:21 *Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

Leviticus 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*

Hebrews 9:22 *And according to the law most all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

Revelation 13:8b *...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

All people on the earth are descendants of Adam and of Noah.

Acts 17:26 *And he has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...*

Genesis 10:32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

God originated languages and nations.

Genesis 11:1, 6-8 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.... And the Lord said... "Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Psalms 86:9 All nations whom you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord.

God is no respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34-35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all.

Romans 10:12-13 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

James 2:1-9 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with a gold ring, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?...But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

God revealed His love for the Gentiles even in the Old Testament Law.

Leviticus 16:29-30 ...And do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you. For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

Leviticus 19:10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 22:18 ...Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his freewill offerings which they offer to the Lord as a burnt offering—you shall offer of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats.

Numbers 15:14-15 And if a stranger dwells with you, or whoever is among you throughout your generations, and would present an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord, just as you do, so shall he do. One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the Lord.

God gave provisions for the "stranger" or Gentile in the Old Testament Passover.

Exodus 12:48 And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land...

Numbers 9:14 And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep the Lord's Passover, he must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land.

God promised that through Abraham and his descendants, all nations of the earth would be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, I will bless you and make your name great: and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 18:18 ...Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.

Acts 3:25 You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Through the mighty signs and wonders in Egypt, many nations heard of God's power, and gave Him honor and glory.

Exodus 7:5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Exodus 15:1, 14 ...I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The people will hear and be afraid...trembling will take hold of them...

Exodus 18:10-11 And Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them."

Through the Old Testament prophets, God revealed His heart for world missions.

2 Kings 5:15 (Captain Naaman of Syria speaking to the prophet Elisha after his miraculous healing of leprosy) And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel..."

Isaiah 45:1-3 Thus says the Lord to His anointed... "To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors... I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places."

Isaiah 45:22-23 Look to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other... that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 16:19 O Lord, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, "Surely our fathers have inherited lies.... Will a man make gods for himself which are not gods?" Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know... My hand and My might; and they shall know that My name is the Lord."

Ezekiel 39:21 I will set my glory among the nations; all the nations shall see my judgement which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them.

Daniel 2:28 (Before Daniel interpreted a dream for King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon) But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days..."

Joel 3:9, 13, 14 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up.... Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.... Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!"

Amos 9:7, 9 Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me, O children of Israel?" says the Lord.... "For surely I will command and will sift the house of Israel among all nations."

David was known as a “man after God’s own heart.” Notice God’s heart for world missions as revealed in the Psalms.

Psalm 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession.

Psalm 8:9 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Psalm 18:49 Therefore I will give thanks to you O Lord among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.

Psalm 22:27-28 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. And all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord’s, and He rules over the nations.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness. The world and those who dwell therein.

Psalm 33:8, 12 Let all the earth fear the Lord. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him...Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.

Psalm 47:1-2 O clap your hands, all you peoples...He is a great King over the earth.

Psalm 48:10 According to Your name O God, so is Your praise to the ends of the earth...

Psalm 49:1-2 Hear this, all peoples; give ear all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together.

Psalm 57:9 I will praise You O Lord among the peoples, I will sing to You among the nations...

Psalm 65:5, 8 By awesome deeds in righteousness you will answer us, O God of our salvation. You Who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas.... They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs.

Psalm 67 God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, and govern the nations on earth. Let the people praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Psalm 72:11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him, all nations shall serve Him.

Psalm 77:14 ...You have declared your strength among the peoples.

Psalm 82:8 Arise O God, judge the earth; For You shall inherit all nations.

Psalm 96:2-3 Sing to the Lord, bless His name. Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among the peoples.

Psalm 98:2 The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

Psalm 105:1 ...make known His deeds among the peoples.

Psalm 117:1 Praise the Lord all you Gentiles! Praise Him all you peoples...

God was glorified in the sight of other nations through Old Testament leaders.

JOSEPH: *Genesis 41:16, 38* So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” ...And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?”

MOSES: *Exodus 7:5* And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.



God's heart for the Gentiles is seen through major Old Testament characters.

ABRAHAM INTERCEDES FOR SODOM:

Genesis 18:32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

HAGAR & ISHMAEL: **Genesis 21:17** And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

JOSEPH: **Genesis 45:8** (Joseph speaking to his brothers) So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

RAHAB: **Joshua 2:18** Unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window....
6:25 And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had..."

RUTH: **Ruth 1:16** ...For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

(Ruth, a woman from Moab, later became the great-grandmother of King David, and is listed in the lineage of Christ—See Matthew 1:5,6)

SOLOMON: **1 Kings 10:9** (The Queen of Sheba acknowledged God after seeing King Solomon's great wisdom) "Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel..."

SHADRACH, MESHACH and ABEDNEGO: **Daniel 3:28** Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

JONAH: **Jonah 1:1-2** Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Ninevah,

that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

4:2 So he (Jonah) prayed to the Lord, and said, "O Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."

Through the birth of Christ, God proclaimed that He came to this world for all people: Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, far and near.

Matthew 2:1-2, 11 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Luke 2:8, 10, 13, 14 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.... Then the angel said unto them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.... And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men!"

Although Jesus' ministry was first to the lost sheep of Israel, He demonstrated God's heart for all nations through his ministry.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: **John 4:9** "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans... (Jesus offered her living water.)

ROMAN CENTURIAN: **Matthew 8:10** (After he asked Jesus to just speak a word of healing for his servant) ..."Assuredly, I (Jesus) say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"



When Jesus died on the cross, His blood was shed for all people on the earth. Only through the blood of Jesus can people be saved.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe on His name.

3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Colossians 1:20 ...And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Revelation 5:9 "...You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

There is only one way to heaven, and that is through salvation in Jesus Christ. Without Christ, our sins separate us from God.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:17-18 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Romans 10:9-10 ...That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 26:39 (Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane) "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.' "

(If there was any other way of salvation, than through the blood of Jesus, why would God have allowed His only Son to die on the cross?)

The final words of Jesus on this earth known as "The Great Commission" verify the vital importance of world missions.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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."

Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Without Christ, the heathen are miserably lost and destined to spend eternity in hell. Their ignorance of the Gospel cannot save their souls. However, it is not their ignorance that condemns them, but their SIN that separates them from God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, He cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 10:14-15 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace..."

Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles (or the heathen) by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

God places within every person a knowledge of God their creator, and a knowledge of their sin, so that none will be without excuse.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in His time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Psalms 19:1-3 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters

speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

Romans 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

It is God's desire for everyone to be saved.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them: "As I live," says the Lord God, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways!..."

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:13 For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The disciples and the early church were actively involved in missionary work.

PHILIP IN SAMARIA: *Acts 8:4-6* Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

MINISTERING TO THE ETHIOPIAN:

Acts 8:26-27, 35 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ... So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia... had come to Jerusalem to worship... Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

PETER AND CORNELIUS: Acts 10:19-22 While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them." Then Peter went down... And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you..."

PETER'S TEACHING: Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth, I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

PAUL AND BARNABAS: Acts 15:36 ... Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing."

PAUL'S WRITING: Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.

Throughout the Bible, the world is referred to as a field "ripe for harvest." We must bring in the harvest of souls throughout the earth, before this harvest is lost.

Proverbs 10:5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.
Joel 3:13-14 "Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe."

Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness is great." Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then He (Jesus) said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Luke 10:2 "...The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Mark 4:29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

John 4:34-36 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."

Revelation 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

In heaven, we will worship together with people from all nations.

Revelation 5:11 ...And have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Revelation 14:6 ...Preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.