

Theme: To fulfill the Great Commission, we must give special emphasis to reaching those people groups that do not have access to the Gospel at present.

## I. Intro - George McClellan

- A. Leading Union General early in Civil War
- B. Loved drilling army, preparing for battle
- C. Indecisive in conflict; never engaged Lee fully
- D. Lincoln - "If General McClellan does not want to use the army, I would like to borrow it for a time."
- E. This indecisiveness prolonged the war, increased casualties
- F. He lost sight of the fact that he was supposed to lead the army into battle - not just prepare for battle
- G. It is important that we understand where the battle lies spiritually today and that we engage in that battle

## II. The Goal: Church for Every People Group

- A. John's vision - worshippers from every people group  
After this I looked and there before me was **a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.  
<sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "**Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**"  
Revelation 7:9–10
  - 1. The goal is a great multitude of worshippers
  - 2. From every nation - ethne - tribe, people, language
    - a. Nation - ethne - not political nation but people group

- b. Reinforced by three terms - tribe, people, language
    - c. Map of Africa by political boundaries
    - d. Map of Africa by people groups
  - 3. These are believers - worshipping God
  - 4. Goal of great multitude of worshippers comprised of people from every people group - it will happen!
- B. This was God's Gospel promise to Abraham long ago  
"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.  
<sup>3</sup> 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 12:2–3
  - 1. God will bless all peoples on earth through Abram
  - 2. People - מִשְׁפָּחָה (extended family/clan); Greek - ἔθνος - ethnic people group
  - 3. Paul says this is about the Gospel!  
The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."  
<sup>9</sup> So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Galatians 3:8–9
    - a. The promise to Abram is the Gospel
    - b. All ethne - people groups - blessed through you
    - c. The Gospel must go to every people group on earth
    - d. John's vision tells us this will happen!!!
    - e. God is on mission to reach every people group - we are called to join in that mission!

### III. Understanding and Reaching People Groups

#### A. Understanding 'people groups'

##### 1. Defining people groups biblically

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Revelation 7:9

- a. Notice they are not nation states - broken down much further
- b. This is similar to the definitions above

In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD takes shall come forward clan (mishpahot) by clan (mishpahot); the clan that the LORD takes shall come forward family by family; and the family that the LORD takes shall come forward man by man. Joshua 7:14

- a. Mishpahot is smaller than a tribe within Israel, but larger than a single family.
- b. God blesses all mishpahot through Abraham
- c. The mission sends us not to political nation states, but to people groups - to mishpahot

##### 2. Defining people groups culturally

A significantly large grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation, etc., or combinations of these.  
Ralph Winter

3. Defining people groups evangelistically/missionally  
The largest group within which the gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

##### 4. Some people group stats

- a. 7.4 billion people in just under 200 countries
- b. 16,500 people groups (9,800 unique people groups)

#### B. Understanding reached and unreached people groups

##### 1. Unreached people group

A people group among which there are no churches with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without requiring outside (cross-cultural) assistance. (Ralph Winter)

- a. Many people groups do not have sufficient resources - people, finances, desire - to reach their own people
- b. Groups like this require the assistance of others from outside their own people group to provide help - people, finances, instruction, and prayer

##### 2. Reached people group

A reached people group has a church with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize the remainder of the group with little or no outside (cross-cultural) assistance. (Ralph Winter)

- a. Many people groups have sufficient resources - people, finances, desire - to reach their own people
- b. The goal of mission is to move people groups (and nations) from being unreached to being reached
- c. An example would be South Korea, which entirely comprised of unreached people groups 100 years ago, but is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest mission sending country in the world!

## IV. The Current State of the Mission

### A. The bad - unreached people groups

1. 6,700 unreached people groups (4,000 unique)
2. 40% of world population unreached people groups
3. About 2 Billion people in groups with few to no known believers
4. About 2/3 of world population live in religiously restrictive countries
5. The 10/40 window
  - a. Many unreached people groups live in one particular geographic 'window' the 10/40 window
  - b. Map of the 10/40 window
  - c. This has become an area of particular concern for many groups - BRCC included!

### B. The good - God is moving all over the world!

1. Estimated that more Muslims have come to Christ in the last 15 years than in the previous 15 centuries combined!
2. Nigeria - one Anglican diocese at end of WWI - now 156 diocese with 20 million worshippers each Sunday!
3. China is probably the largest evangelical church in the world, and is growing rapidly!
4. Many missiologists think the fastest growing church in the world is in Iran. Estimated that more Iranians have come to Christ in the last 35 years than in the previous 1400 years combined!

5. Christians have grown drastically as percentage of the world population as God fulfills His covenant with Abraham. (Graphic from USCWM)

6. There are more churches per unreached people group than ever before! God is on the move!

## V. The Mission: Applying the Word

### A. Receiving the Gospel

1. God promised the Gospel to Abraham and fulfilled it in Christ!
2. God promised to bless people in every people group/clan with the Gospel
3. We were far from Abraham - but the Good News has reached us!
4. If you have never received the Good News - do so today! I want to see everyone around the Throne in worship!

### B. Spreading the Gospel to every people group

1. We have been blessed with the Gospel - so we can spread the blessing
2. This certainly starts with evangelism, but goes beyond that
3. We are part of God's world wide mission - reaching every people group with the Gospel!
4. There are only three types of Christians: radical goers, radical senders, or the radically disobedient!
5. Take your place - by going, or by sending in prayer and with finances

C. Praying for the flourishing of the Gospel in all people groups

## The Unfinished Task of Mission: the Unreached Peoples

Revelation 7:9-10

October 23, 2016

Prayer

Psalm 67

Teaching keywords: Evangelism & missions; great commission; church planting

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, Selah <sup>2</sup> that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. <sup>4</sup> May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. Selah

<sup>5</sup> May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. <sup>6</sup> Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. <sup>7</sup> God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him. Psalms 67

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9–10