

Discipleship: Mission and Multiplication

IGC Discipleship Seminar, part one

MULTIPLICATION COMMANDED || The Cultural Mandate

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28)

"And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.'" (Genesis 9:1)

MULTIPLICATION PROMISED || The covenants promise offspring

a. The Abrahamic Covenant

"Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:1-3)

I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. (Genesis 13:16)

b. The Mosaic Covenant

You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today. "And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb ... You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock. (Deuteronomy 7:11-14)

c. The Davidic Covenant

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever. (2 Samuel 7:16)

MULTIPLICATION CEASED || God's people are cursed because of their disobedience

Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me. (Isaiah 48:18-19)

Childlessness

But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God ... then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you... Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb...(Deut. 28:15-16, 18)

Women have no men to marry (no chance of biological offspring)

“Seven women shall take hold of one man in that day, saying, ‘We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach.’” (Isaiah. 4:1)

Children become eunuchs

“Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house . . . shall be carried to Babylon.. And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you . . . shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” (2 Kings 20:17-18)

MULTIPLICATION RESTORED || The curse is removed

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring... (Isaiah 53:8,10)

Blessing for the infertile woman

“Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married,” says the Lord.... Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. For your Maker is your husband...” (Isaiah 54:1,4–5)

Blessing for the Eunuch

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. (Isaiah 56:3-5)

MULTIPLICATION REDEFINED || The new understanding of family

A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:27–28)

And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:32-35)

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (Mark 10:28-30)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... (Ephesians 2:19)

MULTIPLICATION PROMISED || The Cosmic Commission

*I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.
And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)*

(from Tony Reinke)

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)	The Cosmic Commission (Daniel 7:13-14)
And Jesus came and said to them,	I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.	And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.	that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”	his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

MULTIPLICATION COMMANDED || The Great Commission

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