

- Missio Dei *Missio Dei is a [Latin](#) theological term that can be translated as the "sending of God." It is understood as being derived from the very nature of God. The [missionary](#) initiative comes from God alone. (www.babylon.com)*
- 1 Peter 1: 19-20
Jn 3:16 Long ago, before time began, in a land that was not yet made, the [great I Am](#) chose [Jesus](#)--His one and only Son--to be the sacrifice to make a way for the peoples of the earth to be made right and brought back into relationship with Him. A way for men, women, and children to be saved.
- Genesis 1-2
Job 38-41 After selecting the Christ through which men could be redeemed, then...*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* He spoke into existence, the heavenly lights, defined the land and the sea and all that was living in both. On the last day of creation, the day before His rest, He created man and woman in His own image. And He gave them dominion over all of creation. *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*
- Genesis 2:16-17 [God](#) commanded [Adam](#), *You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.*
- Genesis 3 Then in the very next chapter of the story, both [Adam](#) and [Eve](#) ate from the tree that was forbidden--breaking the only law that had been given them. Through this, their *eyes...were opened* and they sought to avoid being in the presence of God. For the first time, they covered themselves and hid from God. For the first time, they were afraid of God and began to blame one another and the [serpent](#) for their disobedience.
- Romans 5:12 *Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned....*
- Genesis 4-5;
6:1-5 In the subsequent generations and chapters men were greedy, envious, murderers and filled with lust in their hearts--*every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.*

The Missio Dei Story

Genesis 6-9
Jonah

This set the stage for the first of several events where God showed his power and plan to save. The imagery was powerful in the ark where he saves [Noah](#), his family, and the animals. It was evident in the belly of the whale where God saved [Jonah](#) to go and be on mission--to bring the message of God to a people that were steeped in sin. By the miraculous salvation of one man, God provided a message of repentance to a sinful people in [Ninevah](#) via Jonah, the reluctant missionary.

Genesis 12-50

God was gracious to [Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob](#). He was faithful to [Joseph](#) and saved him repeatedly so that he could be used to save his family from starvation through his leadership as a foreigner in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 2-15

Some 400 years later, God raised up an Israelite boy named [Moses](#) that he had saved from the hand of [Pharaoh](#) to lead the Israelites out of slavery. Having showed his mighty power through 9 plagues, God displayed his justice and mercy in the 10th plague. Telling the Israelites to put the blood of a spotless lamb on the sides and the top post of the doorway, he had the angel of death pass over those who had put the blood of the lamb on the door in faith. But those who had not obeyed the command of God including Pharaoh, lost their first-born. Through this, God changes the heart of the leader of Egypt who lets the Israelites go. The Egyptians were so glad to see this people leave in order for the plagues to stop, that they freely gave them gold, silver, and jewelry. Then to further the salvation and spread the fame of God and fear of the Israelites to other nations, God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross over on dry ground, but caused the walls of water to collapse on the mighty army of Egypt and Pharaoh. A brand new nation that had no weapons and had never fought a battle defeated the most powerful army in the world in a battle that lasted only minutes. Through these mighty acts of salvation, God changed the nationality of a people, their culture, their calendar, their land, their everything both for His glory and their good.

Exodus 20, 24-40

Shortly after this, God gave the 10 commandments to [Moses](#). These were the laws that were to be obeyed by all of the Israelite people. Then Moses, as instructed by God, had craftsmen build a portable temple made of curtains. Inside it was to be a holy place and inside that a place that was the most holy place--known as the [holy of holies](#). In this small room partitioned by curtains, was to be placed the [ark of the covenant](#). This ark was to be made out of wood and then covered with gold both inside and out. It was to have rings mounted to it so that wooden poles could be inserted in order to carry the ark without touching it--because the ark was holy and set apart from the common things of man. The lid was made of solid gold with two angels facing toward each other with their faces pointed down and their wings spread upward. Inside the ark was placed Aaron's staff that budded and a jar of the manna that God had provided out of heaven as reminders of times past when God had saved His people. In addition, the tablets with the 10 commandments, the law of God were to be kept in the ark. On top of this, the cover was to be placed. It was on top of the cover, where the angels' wings met--the mercy seat--where God would dwell. His presence in the temple was in the holiest place on the mercy seat sitting over the law that He had given as the instructions for obedience. As the standard for perfection. The standard for holiness. When the presence of the most high God was in the temple, the people knew because of the cloud surrounding the temple. In this situation, the Israelites were to remain in camp. When His presence lifted, they were to break camp and continue traveling as they were to go.

Isaiah 53:5
Isaiah 52-53

As we jump forward in the story, we see that the prophets foretold of the Messiah that is to come. [Isaiah](#) writes, "[But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.](#)"

Luke 1:67-68,
71-75
Luke 1:67-80

Another religious man hundreds of years later also prophesied about the coming of the Christ. At this time, Jesus was to be born in some three months time when [Zechariah](#) has his voice return after the naming of his baby boy--John the Baptist. Filled with the Holy Spirit [Zechariah](#) prophesied, "[Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. \(He has provided\) salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us--to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.](#)"

- Luke 2:8-20 Then the Son of God was born of a **virgin** with an earthly father that was simply a **carpenter**. In an insignificant town, in the animals' stable, and laid in a feed trough, it was only fitting that Jesus first guests were lowly **shepherds**. These most common of men had been visited by the angels that dwell in the presence of the most high God. The angels sought to both calm and excite the field hands, "**Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**" These shepherds were privileged to be the first ones to share the good news that the Messiah had been born.
- Luke 2:21-39 Others that worshipped the Son of God in the beginning days and months included an **old man** who had been waiting to see "the Lord's Christ." Holding baby Jesus when he was first brought to the temple, **Simeon** said, "**Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**" At this time, an elderly widow, Anna, came and worshipped the Christ and told others about the redemption that he would provide.
- Matthew 2:1-12
Psalm 72:10-11
Isaiah 60:6 God also guided several **nobles or kings** in the East (most likely from modern-day **Yemen**) to come, bow, and worship before the Christ. These **wise men** presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to an infant child. The time, the expense, the position of worship made it clear that Jesus was more than a special child, he was an exalted King--the Promised One.
- Luke 2:52 *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*
- Mark 1:17 Shortly after starting his ministry around the age of 30, Jesus said to some fishermen, "**Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" Formerly fishermen, these new disciples followed Jesus to learn his teachings and his ways.
- John 3:1-21
John 19:38-42 In the cover of night a religious leader came to Jesus. Seeking to make sense of the good news Jesus brought, Nicodemus asked, "**How can this be?**" Jesus explanation included, "**the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**" Later we learn that Nicodemus placed his life under the Lordship of Christ.

- John 14:6 With all types of humanity, Jesus shared, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
- John 4:4-45 When encountering a woman that Jews would have considered a half-breed...that Samaritans considered an immoral, despicable woman, Jesus shared with her the truth but with mercy and grace. Telling her that he was the Messiah, he enabled her spiritual and social redemption as she was the one who brought the others from the town to the Truth--to Jesus. John wrote that, *"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony..."* And many of them believed in Jesus as the Savior--as God with us.
- Luke 19:1-10 As Jesus passed through Jericho, one vertically challenged man ran ahead to try to find a way to see past the crowd. Though a tax collector--every bit the equivalent of today's business professional--this short man continued to disregard his image when he climbed up in a sycamore tree. Jesus called Zacchaeus to come down so that they could go to his house together. Quickly people *began to mutter, "[Jesus] has gone to be the guest of a tax collector."* Zacchaeus shared about his plan to make restoration to those he had cheated. Jesus responded, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*
- Matthew 26:36-46
Luke 22:39-46 On the Thursday before Jesus crucifixion, he went with his disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Knowing that the time for which he had come to earth was at hand, he asked his followers to pray while he went further in the garden and prayed to God in earnest. *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken away from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."* And a second time.... And a third time while sweating as though he was bleeding due to such concern over what was to come, he prayed....
- Matthew 27:33-43
Mark 15:22-32
Luke 23:20, 32-49
John 19:17-22 With Jesus upon the cross, the **missio dei** nature of God cannot be more clear. **The Christ--the Son of God, the Son of Man**--hung excruciatingly suspended between heaven and earth. Jesus said for the benefit of the soldiers and the crowd that had screamed out earlier to *"Crucify him!"*, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* In spite of his undeserved pain, Jesus responded to one of the thieves being crucified next to him. As the criminal sought mercy, *Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."* Just before his death was complete, Jesus said, *"It is finished."* *With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.* His purpose had been fulfilled. The perfect sacrifice had been made.

- Matthew 27:51
Hebrews 4:14-16
- At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.* The place where God dwelled in the holy of holies was now accessible as a result of the sacrifice of his one and only Son. A way had been made for man to come before the Holy, set-apart God who sits on the seat of mercy at this time. The Jewish Passover holiday being celebrated that very weekend had been fulfilled. It was now possible for the *angel of death* to pass over those who had been made right with God through Christ. He was the *Passover Lamb* that made a way for our sins to be permanently washed away.
- Matthew 28:1-10
Acts 1:1-3
1 Cor 15:3-8
Hebrews 7:1-28,
(25)
- Conquering death, *Jesus* rose from the grave at dawn on Sunday. He appeared to *Mary and Mary Magdalene, to John & Peter, to the disciples, and to more than 500* people over a period of 40 days. As the only sacrifice for the removal of sins to be raised from the dead, *“he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”*
- Matthew 28:16-20
Acts 1:4-8
- Before returning to heaven, Jesus instructed his remaining *11 disciples*. His last instructions were representative of the missio dei. Intentionally repetitive, Jesus stressed the role that believers are to fulfill as their nature represents more and more *the missio dei*. He commissioned them by saying, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Additionally, he told them to return to Jerusalem and wait there for the Holy Spirit. He said, *“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*
- Acts 1:10-41
- After Jesus ascension back into heaven, the *disciples* obediently returned to Jerusalem and waited in an upper room for the *Holy Spirit* to come upon them. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit some 10 days after Jesus' left the earth, the disciples began to speak in other foreign languages. These were the languages of the *God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven*. At that time Peter raised his voice and shared the story with the crowd about the plan of God. He shared that *“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* Jews from all nations clearly heard the plan of God that day. Peter clearly communicated the spirit-inspired message for the people: *repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ*. As a result of the Holy Spirit's part in the missio dei, *about 3,000 were added to their number that day.*

The Missio Dei Story

- Acts 10 ff Shortly after this, it became clear that **God** was redeeming not only the **Jews**, but the **Gentiles** as well. God used **Peter** to reach Cornelius, **Philip** to share the truth about the plan of God with an Ethiopian official. God also used **Paul** in numerous ways to lead many Gentiles to Christ. It was clear that the **missio dei** had been designed from before time began to be made available to both Jews and Gentiles alike.
- Revelation 1 Skipping over to the end of time and beyond, it becomes overwhelmingly clear that **God--who was, and is, and is to come--**will see his purpose through to completion. Jesus shares with John and by extension with the church, *“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*
- Revelation 7:9 **John** also records in his vision, *“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.”* Because of the sacrifice of the **Lamb of God** that took away the sin of the world, people from every corner of the world could stand in the presence of the Holy God at this moment at the end of time.
- Revelation 22:17 In conclusion, the **last page** of the **Bible** has these words. Words that are consistent with the missio dei. Words that are consistent from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. John writes, *“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.”*