

# THE “WHY” OF MISSIONS



# AGENDA



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- Purpose of the Course
- Missions in Scripture
- Defining “Samaria”
- History of the Samaritans
- Christ Prepared the Way
- The Fulfillment in Acts
- Theological “Samaria”
- Missions Principles

# PURPOSE OF THE COURSE



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Our Vision:

To reveal Jesus from our front door to the ends of the earth by:

- Seeking to live a life worthy of His name
- Sharing the Gospel
- Meeting the needs of our community

# PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

- “Missions” is in our heritage as a church
- “Missions” is in our current vision as a church
- “Missions” is in our DNA as a denomination

# PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

“It is insufficient to proclaim that a church of God has a mission in the world. Rather, the God of mission has a church in the world.”

-Tim Dearborn



# MISSIONS IN SCRIPTURE





# ACTS 1:8

But 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.”



## MATTHEW 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “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.”

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  - Judea – Broader Cultural Region
  - Samaria – Neighboring, but hostile (bridge)
  - Ends of the Earth – Gentiles, rest of the world



# HISTORY OF THE SAMARITANS



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- The Samaritans descended from a mixed population formed after the Assyrian conquest of the northern kingdom of Israel (722 BC).

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  - Samaritans had their own version of the Torah
  - They worshiped at Mount Gerizim instead of Jerusalem
  - Mutual hostility existed for centuries

# HISTORY OF THE SAMARITANS

- The relationship was marked by:
  - Prejudice
  - Religious rivalry
  - Ethnic suspicion
  - Social separation



**CHRIST PREPARED THE WAY**



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  - Worship would no longer be tied to ethnic centers

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  - Neighbor-love transcends hostility
  - Outsiders may respond to God more faithfully than insiders

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- Peter and John Confirm the Mission

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  - They were “close enough to understand” but “different enough to reject.”

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  - ideological opponents
  - racial or political “others”

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