

The Why Behind Missions: World Missions

Objective: To understand why world missions are critical, and how God is calling us to participate.

Intro

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.

Acts 1:8

Intro

1. Jerusalem- Immediate Community
2. Judea- Broader Cultural Region
3. Samaria- Neighboring, but hostile people
4. Ends of the Earth- Gentiles, rest of the world

Overview

1. Why World Missions?
2. What are World Missions?
3. World Missions in the Early Church
4. Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance
5. Unreached People Groups
6. How God is Moving
7. How to Support Missions

Why World Missions?

- God is a missional God

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- God is a missional God

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “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. ³ 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 12:1-3

Why World Missions?

- God is a missional God

“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

Isaiah 42:6-7

Why World Missions?

- God is a missional God
- Jesus commanded us to make disciples

Why World Missions?

- Jesus commanded us to make disciples

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Why World Missions?

- Jesus commanded us to make disciples

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

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“⁹ 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 before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ 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

Why World Missions?

- God will fulfill this mission

“All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.”

Psalm 86:9

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What are World Missions?

- How do we understand world missions?

What are World Missions?

- Many views of what world missions are.
 - Business as mission
 - English classes as mission
 - Critical Response Teams as mission
 - Building and Humanitarian efforts as mission

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- Many views of what world missions are.
 - Business as mission
 - English classes as mission
 - Critical Response Teams as mission
 - Building and Humanitarian efforts as mission
- *The Problem:* If everything is mission, nothing is mission.

What are World Missions?

“Missions is the plan and act of God for redeeming and making disciples from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation by sending His people to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to show them the gracious, redeeming love of a glorious God, and to organize them into biblical, worshiping churches.”

-Craig Sheppard

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World Missions in the Early Church

Persecution that led to world evangelism

“And Saul approved of their killing him.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

World Missions in the Early Church

Paul's commission

“¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.'”

Acts 9:15

World Missions in the Early Church

Paul's Journey's

- 4 Missionary Journeys
- **Purpose:** To preach to the Jews first then the Gentiles
- **Challenges:** Persecution. Deep anxiety for the churches. Tremendous amount of labor/strain. Poverty.
- **Success:** Over 10,000 miles traveled, Witnessed to 10-12 Roman Regions, and established over 20 churches

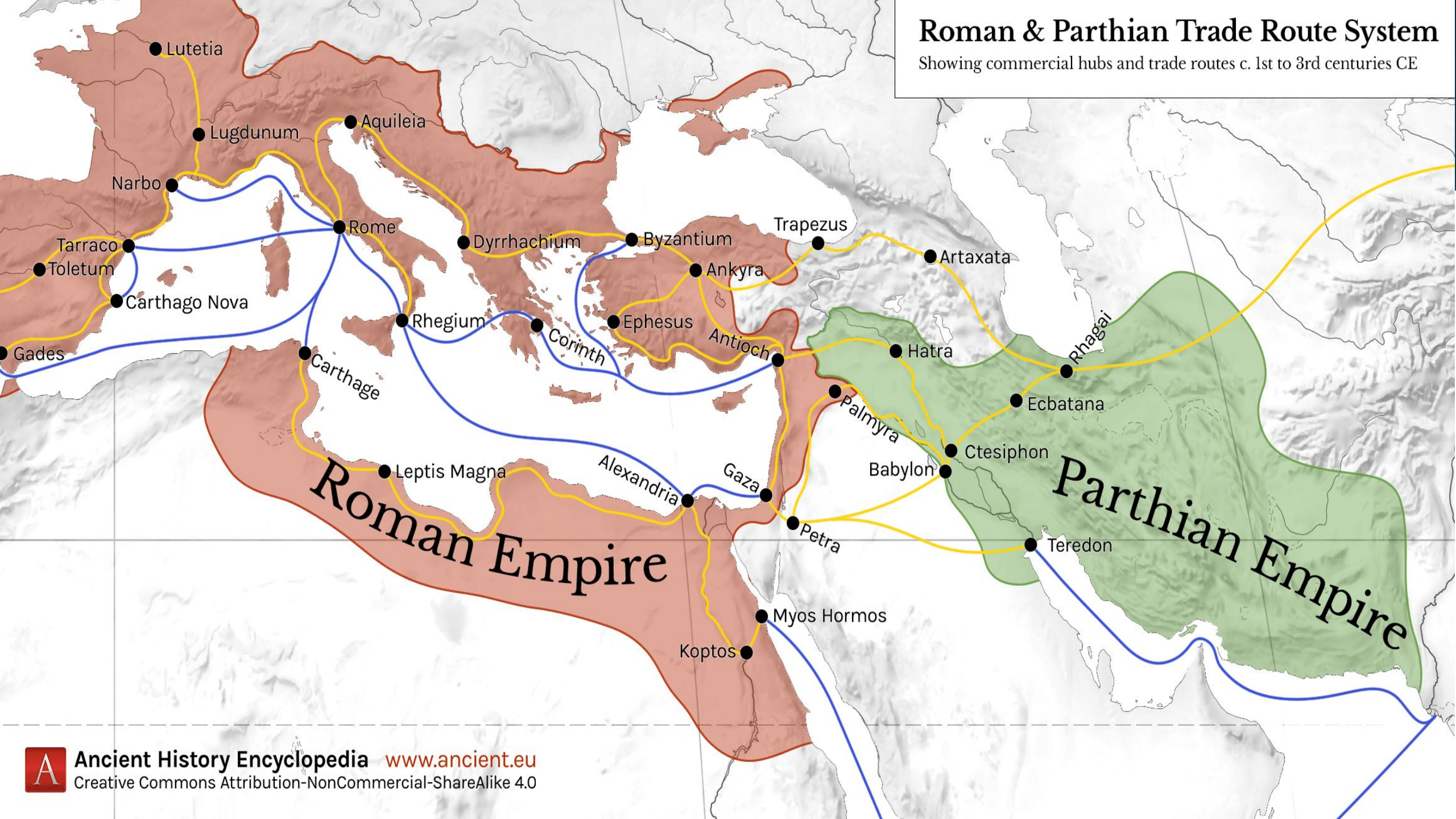
World Missions in the Early Church

God mobilized Christians during the Jewish Revolt

- The Jewish revolt started in 66 AD, and ended after the destruction of the temple in 70 AD
- This caused Jewish Christians to scatter
- Christianity was no longer centralized in Jerusalem and now less connected to Judaism

Roman & Parthian Trade Route System

Showing commercial hubs and trade routes c. 1st to 3rd centuries CE



World Missions in the Early Church

Jewish Revolt (66 AD)

- Parthia and Israel Relationship
- Rebellious nature of Israel
 - John of Giscalla
 - Simon son of Giora
 - Eleazar
- Titus Caesar Vespasianus w/ King Agrippa II & Tiberius Julius Alexandar (both Jews)

World Missions in the Early Church

Destruction of Temple 70 AD

- Battle for 5 months
- Romans destroyed the temple while some remaining Jews tried to escape
- Temple was destroyed and looted
- Christians were scattered with many going to Pella (Jordan)

World Missions in the Early Church

Gospel Spread through:

- Persecution of the Christians
- Paul's missionary journeys
- Scattering of Christians after the revolt

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- CMA was founded in 1887 by A.B Simpson

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"I cannot understand how any man or woman can believe in the Lord's coming and not be a missionary, or at least committed to the work of missions with every power of his being."

-A.B. Simpson

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- Over 2,000 churches in U.S.
- 25,000 churches worldwide with now over 6 million believers
- 180 different languages that are being preached in
- Over 700 International Workers (IW's) in over 70 countries around the world

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- Axxcess (Church Planting)
- CAMA (Relief and Development)
- Envision (Short-Term Missions)
- Marketplace Ministries (Business as mission)

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- Axxcess (Church Planting)

The Strategy: Each Axxcess worker belongs to a team, that lives within villages, towns, and cities finding strategic ways to build friendships and share the gospel.

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- CAMA (Relief and Development)

The Strategy: Demonstrate Christ's compassion through immediate relief and long-term development that transforms lives and restores communities.

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- Envision (Short-Term Missions)

The Strategy: Identifies and develops missional leaders through short-term missions experiences and innovative ministry strategies.

Missions in the Christian & Missionary Alliance

- Marketplace Ministries (Business as mission)

The Strategy: Facilitates marketplace professionals who bring their expertise to a community to disciple those around them.

Unreached People Groups

- “Unreached People Groups” defined:
 - A people group that is less than 5% Christian
 - No self-sustaining church movement

Unreached People Groups

- The reality of unreached areas:
 - No Bible in their language
 - No churches to attend
 - Possibly never hearing the name of Jesus

Unreached People Groups

- 10/40 Window (Resistant Belt)
 - Home to 97% of the world's least-reached people groups
 - 5.44 Billion people
 - 42.3% of the world population within this area

Unreached People Groups

How God is Moving

- According to *Global Christian Relief* these are the regions where Christianity is growing the fastest around the world:
 1. **Nigeria** – Christian Charismatic Movement
 2. **China**- Projected to reach around 100 million believers by 2050
 3. **India**- Growing mostly in rural regions
 4. **Indonesia**- Christian Charismatic Movement
 5. **Iran**-Before 1979 only several hundred believers, today more than 1 million Christians have converted

How God is Moving

Causes for Growth

- Rapid, grassroots-style movements
- Birth rates & population growth
- Education

How God is Moving

- Hmar Tribe (Feb. 1910)

How God is Moving

- Hmar Tribe

“People from our tribe are impacting the world as mothers, fathers, ambassadors, judges, doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, and entrepreneurs—they have gone from HEADHUNTERS to HEART HUNTERS for Christ!”

-Mary Pudaite Keating

How God is Moving

- Hmar Tribe (Feb. 1910)
- The Waodani (Auca) Tribe (Ecuador, 1956)

How to Support Missions

- Go: Discern if God is calling you to missions
- Send: Support missionaries from our church (financially, prayerfully, other)
- Pray: Pray for the unreached areas regularly
- Live Missionally: Recognize that you are on the mission field

How to Support Missions

Community Church Supported IW's

1. Michael & Lia Strand
2. Creative Access Team- K
3. Cheryl Kermeen