

Do you know who Timothy Berners-Lee, Robert E. Kahn and Vint Cerf are?

They are, along with many others, the concept designers of the www. We are relying on the World Wide Web of the Internet these days a great deal. Developed to be an exchange of information between Universities and scientists it is today the center of communication the world over. It was made open to all in 1989 – only 31 years ago but today we do think we can live without it.

Thousands of years before the www God was putting together a web that leads us to salvation. Before the creation of the world it was in God's heart. Christ carried it to the cross, the tomb and the resurrection. Today the Holy Spirit spreads it around the world with power that can only be explained as God's power.

Biblical setting

Time – probably midway through the 40 days Christ was on the earth after the resurrection

For two Sundays He was in Jerusalem with the disciples – then they went to Galilee

They returned to Jerusalem before the end for He ascended from the Mount Olivet **Acts 1:12**

Location – a (the Mountain) near the sea of Galilee – most likely mount of beatitudes

Announced before to the apostles in **Matthew 26:32** and by the angels at the tomb

Probably announced in Galilee and was the gathering of over 500 **1 Corinthians 15:6**

Reaction – When they saw him they **worshiped** – word is base to the English word “to prostrate”

Used 12 times in Matthew – It is what you do before a **King**

Wisemen -worshiped in chapter **2**

Leader of the synagogue pleading for his daughter in chapter **9**

The disciples after Jesus walked on the water in chapter **14**

The Gentile woman pleading for her daughter in chapter **15**

The women who saw Him right after the resurrection in chapter **28**

- some **doubted** – not rebellious disbelief but a state of uncertainty and hesitation

Used by Jesus speaking to Peter after he sank in the water

Understandable for many who were seeing Him for the first-time post-resurrection

I. The King establishes His Authority

A. All authority in heaven and on earth

Jesus always spoke from position of authority

Teaching with authority **7:29**

Healing with authority **8:1-13**

Authority to forgive sin **9:6**

Delegating authority over Satan **10:1**

B. Authority in heaven

Over the woes we fight – **Ephesians 6:12**

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

C. Authority over earth

Includes people, passions, principles, and political movements of mankind

Includes wind, waves, diseases, disasters of nature

II. The King commissions Action

A. To whom – all you (plural) 500+ there and we today

Jesus said, “GO” to some very imperfect disciples. “Who is to go out of that first band of disciples? It is Peter, the rash and the headstrong. It is John, who sometimes wishes to call fire from heaven to destroy men. It is Philip, with whom the Savior has been so long, and yet he has not known him. It is Thomas, who must put his finger into the print of the nails, or he will not believe him. Yet the Master says to them, ‘Go ye; all power is given unto me, therefore go ye. You are as good for His purpose as anybody else would be. There is no power in you, I know, but then all power is in me, therefore go ye.’” (Spurgeon)

B. The real task – 4 verbs but just one imperative

Go – is passive aorist participle “having gone”

Baptizing – active present participle “keep baptizing”

Teaching to observe – active present participle “keep teaching”

But Make disciples – active imperative (command) “keep making disciples”

Having gone into all nations **Make Disciples** baptizing and teaching them

C. How to make disciples

Go – it takes contact to spread the gospel, but it we do it all the time

Go into your world, work situation, school, neighborhood

Baptizing – an outward declaration of an inward transformation

Literally “immerse” them into the Name (singular because God is one)

Name or “authority” of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

This is the incorporation into the family and under the salvation of God

Biblically it was done immediately after a profession of faith in Christ

Teaching -not for knowledge but to do (observe) all that Christ taught

Should be done as Christ did it – lifestyle training – it is a process

Always includes training, correcting, redirecting, and affirming in the Word

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Timothy 3:16

D. Scope of our commission – All nations

Better – to all ethnic groups of the world – not political but people centered

III. The King promises the Ability

A. Based on His person “*I am*”

God is the great I AM - the ever present one – before time began and forever

B. Powered by His presence “*with*”

From the beginning Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us.

His presence means privilege – children of the King

Protection – never out of His sight

Power – working in His strength

Peace – His peace keeping us

Think of how you would feel with Him by your side – joy, comfort, confidence, direction

C. Designed for us personally “*You*” plural but individual as well

God created you – talents, strengths, weaknesses, flaws to accomplish His plan

Paul explained it like this - *I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his. Philippians 3:12 NCV*

E. Lasting in perpetuity “*Always even to the end of the Age*”

Always – means the whole day every day - not just sometimes but all the time

The end of the age (not world since He already said all nations) means the end of time

Conclusions we can draw

The King launched this web of authority, action and ability thousands of years ago with you in mind

He sent out disciples to make disciples to make disciples

It was the instruction Paul gave to his disciple Timothy *You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. 2 Timothy 2:2*

The King expects every disciple (YOU) to carry on this commission today

No audits allowed, *Pastor Tony Evans says, “People want salvation but don’t want to put in the time to be strong disciples of Jesus Christ. What many Christians want to do is to audit the Christian life. An audit is where a person goes to class to get information but is not required to do any of the work. They do not have to take a test or do any homework. They are only attending for informational purposes. They want the data without the responsibility. That is an audit.*

No excuses – He designed you and you can fulfill His commission – He molds you by:

Birth - Nick Vujicic has no arms or legs but serves the Lord

Accident - Joni Eareckson Tada two months before she was 18 dove into shallow water and broke her neck making her a quadriplegic – written 48 books runs great ministry

No substitutes – not just for others – pastors, Bible scholars, missionaries – but everyone

The Web of the King is woven to identify you and to enable you to Make Disciples

Galatians 3:26-27 We are to be clothed in Christ – His love and good deeds.

Are you continuing to learn to obey all that Christ commanded?

Are you active in the life of someone else to make them a disciple of Christ?