



FEBRUARY 9, 2020 | DAVID SCHALLER

GOD GUARANTEES IT!

The four passages we'll study today, three from the Matthew's gospel and one from John's book of Revelation, will help us put into very clear focus the inevitability of God's plan for the nations.

We can be absolutely sure God will accomplish his purposes for each people group of the world!

A. Fact One from Jesus:

Matthew 16:18b "... I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

1. "Church" (ekklesia) = an assembly of people called out for a particular purpose.
2. "Build" implies the gradual formation of these "called out" ones on Christ, the foundation stone.
3. Satan and his hosts doing their most powerful work of opposing would not prevail over the church.
4. The implication is that Jesus and His church are on the offensive, and hell is on the defense.

B. Fact Two from Jesus:

Matthew 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations and then the end will come."

1. This comes from a description of the end times based on a question from his disciples.
2. All people-groups means every tribe of people. There are still over 7,000 people groups without an effective witness.
3. Not that our obedience or disobedience to missionary work among the nations necessarily speeds up or delays the end, but the main point is the universal reach of the gospel.
4. Jesus' guarantee seems to require that these groups must hear the gospel.

C. Fact Three from Jesus:

Matthew 28:18 "Jesus said, 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"

1. The ground of this inevitability is the sovereign authority of the risen Jesus.
2. Jesus is the CEO of the universe, in complete control of the world.
3. As his disciples, we are in the closest possible association with the One who DOES have ALL power.
4. We can have GREAT confidence as we go. Our resources are NOT meager.

D. A Snapshot of Heaven

Revelation 7:9-10 "After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They were shouting out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

1. John gives us a snapshot of a great multitude worshipping and serving God from every nation in heaven who come out from the great tribulation.
2. No matter what you believe about the timing of the Rapture and the Tribulation, this paragraph tells you that people from every people group will be saved before or during the Tribulation.
3. John Piper – "Missions exists because worship doesn't."

God's purpose to be known and praised among the nations cannot fail! It will happen!

A. Be a Part of the Story!

- a. The only thing that is in question regarding this great truth is our participation.
 - i. Will you and I be a part of the story of what God is doing to reach the nations or not?
 - ii. Will you and I delight ourselves in the things that delight the Father's heart?
 - iii. Will you and I be a part of this HUGE thing that God is doing that is SO MUCH BIGGER than ourselves?
- b. The motive to be a part of the story is our new redeemed hearts.
 - i. The Holy Spirit planted in EACH OF US is a desire to obey the commands of God the moment we believed, including the command to "make disciples of all nations."
 - ii. There is something DEEPLY SATISFYING to do something that we were designed to do as redeemed people of God.

B. Our Missions Breakthrough Prayer

- a. Prayer for this decade: "Father, use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030."
 - i. Reproducing: one is able to verify third and fourth generation churches being planted from the first church with 5 years between generations.
 - ii. Unreached (two possible definitions)
 - 1. (Joshua Project) a people group among which there is no local community of believing Christians with adequate numbers/resources to evangelize them without outside assistance.
 - 2. (Africa Inland Mission) there are less than 2% born again believers in the people group and no reproducing local Christ-centered Church that will be able to reach the rest of the tribe.
- b. Prayer for this year: "Father, lead us to the people group you'd like us to focus on the next 10 years."

C. Our Missions Breakthrough Prayer and You

- a. Please, please, please . . . download the Joshua Project prayer app: "UNREACHED of the Day"
- b. Prayers for COD's unreached people group:
 - i. While we wait for God to reveal that people group to us, we pray these requests for that people group. Father please:
 - 1. Bring forth your blessing – strengthen and heal families and communities within our people group and cause your abundant life and love through your Son, Jesus to be widely embraced by the families and clans of our people group.
 - 2. Deliver the families and communities in the people group you lead us to from false perceptions of the gospel as a threat to their identity and their family clan.
 - 3. Pour out your blessing on the religious and secular leaders of our people group. Bless the families of these leaders, and inspire whole communities to welcome salvation through faith in Jesus.
 - 4. Lead the people of the group you choose for us to love your word and spread its influence so that this people group will love you with their whole being and walk in obedience to you.