**1) MISSIONS DOWN THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY**

2) Introduction:The Resurrected Christ gve a Great Commission to His disciples before He returned to heaven: ”Go ye into all the world & preach the gospel” – Mark 16:15

Mat 28:18-19 “All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth.” Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”

The course of World Missions down through Church History tells us the stody of how this Great Comiision is becoming fulfilled.

3) The Temple of Solomon gives us a prophetic picture of the history of World Missions

The Temple of Solomon was prophetic of the Church, 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Cor.3:16. So when we study the O.T. Temple of Solomon, we learn what the New Testament Church is to be like, 1 Cor.15:46

4) In the court of the temple was a huge brass bowl filled with water, 1 Kings.7:23-26.

5) The Prophetic significance of the Sea of Cast Bronze in Solomon’s Temple:

 THE PRIESTS= every born-again Christian

 THE WATER = the Word of God, Eph.5:25-26.

 It stood on 12 OXEN. An OX = minister, 1 Cor.9:9-10. The ministry are to carry the Word of

 God to the four corners of the world, Mt.28:18-20, Mt.24:14.

 12 = government. There are 12 apostles, 12 tribes, 12 hours, 12 months, 12 musical notes.

 All the church leadership together are to send the Word of God throughout the nations.

From Solomon’s Temple at Jerusalem these 12 oxen faced out to the 4 corners of the earth: This began to be prophetically fulfilled when Jesus sent His 12 Apostles out from Jerusalem, Acts 1:8

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

6) The Oxen faced north, west, south, & east. This is prophetic of the order in which

 the Word of God will be carried to the ends of the world:

7) 1) NORTH [EUROPE] 2) WEST [AMERICAS] 3) SOUTH [AFRICA] 4) EAST [ASIA]

8) Direction # 1- NORTH = EUROPE, the first continent to be Christianized.

 PAUL: MACEDONIAN CALL… sent by God to Europe to start missions there.

 ST PATRICK, Evangelized Ireland in the early 5th century. Ireland was an evangelical

 nation for for centuries…

 BONIFACE, the Apostle of Germany, sarted his ministry there in 715 AD…

 King Vladimir converted to Christianity in 988 AD, the Russian church soon established

 By the end of the 11th century AD, all the nations of Europe declared that they were Christian!

9) Direction # 2- WEST = THE AMERICAS, the next continents to be Christianized

 -**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS:** wrote 1 book- a book about Bible Prophecy

Christopher Columbus wrote that he had received a vision while he was yet a young man. The

Holy Spirit spoke directly to him in these words: “God ... will cause your name to be wonderfully proclaimed throughout the world ... and give you the keys of the gates to the ocean which are closed with strong chains.”

Columbus felt that God had directly brought about his journey to the Americas: "With a hand that could be felt, the Lord opened my mind to the fact that it would be possible sail west.”

In 1501 Columbus wrote, "I am only a most unworthy sinner, but ever since I have cried out for grace and mercy from the Lord, they have covered me completely. I have found the most delightful comfort in making it my whole aim in life to enjoy His marvelous presence."

As he later wrote to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, "I spent six years here at your royal court, disputing the case with so many people of great authority, learned in all the arts. And finally they concluded that my plans were all in vain, and they lost interest. In spite of that it later came to pass as Jesus Christ our Savior had predicted and as he had previously announced through the mouths

of His holy prophets....I have already said that reason, mathematics, and maps of the world were of no use to me in the execution of the enterprise of the Indies. What Isaiah said was completely fulfilled."

The prophecy in Isaiah that he referred to as being fulfilled was Isaiah 60:9--"For, the islands wait for me, and the ships of the sea: that I may bring thy sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the Lord thy God." In Columbus's mind, the islands were waiting for him; he would bring their sons to the Lord (and bring their silver and gold as well). Columbus felt that spreading the gospel to new nations and the wealth that would come would strengthen the worldwide church against the attacks of Islam. (The great Christian city of Constantinople had fallen to the armies of Islam when he was a young boy, they were trying to conquer all of Europe).

After Columbus and the Spanish had opened the Americas to exploration, Britain and other European nations also brought their missionaries and colonizers to the Americas

The Moravians were the first Christian group to get on fire for world missions in 1732. THEY STARTED A PRAYER MEETING THAT LASTED A HUNDRED YEARS! They were never a big community in Germany, but few hundred accomplished much! Then Pilgrims, Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, North American revivalists…

By 1700 AD all the nations in the Americas said they were Christian nations!

10) Direction # 3- SOUTH = AFRICA, the next continent that is becoming Christianized

- Livingstone, missionary & explorer

- AFRICAN KING VISITED QUEEN VICTORIA IN ENGLAND: He asked her, “What is the secret of your nation’s greatness?” She walked over to a table and picked up a Bible, and told the African king, “This is the secret of my nation’s greatness, and if your people will follow this book, your nation can become great also.”

- In recent years REINHARD BOHNKE SAW OVER 75 MILLION SAVED!

Recent research has shown that sometime between 2000 AD and 2010, the continent of Africa has become more than 50% Christian!

11) Direction # 4- EAST = ASIA, the last continent of the world to be evangelized & Christianized.

The water of God’s Word will soon bring cleansing throughout Asia! Most of the greatest revivals in the world are arising in Asia, Lk.13:30, Eccles.7:8, Jn.2:10.

12) LANGUAGES WITH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS- The New Testament has now been translated into

 the mother tongue of over 87% of the world’s population. Bible translation have exploded in the

 last few centuries!

 - 54 Bible translations by 1500 AD, now over 2,500 languages have books of the Bible

 - 1200 languages have the entire New Testament!

13) CHRISTIAN RADIO AND TV

 - CHRISTIAN RADIO covers at least 91% of the worlds population in their own languages

 \* Billboard in Mayanmar a few years ago when it was a communisdt nation: “Down with

 subversive foreign radio broadcasts!” (FEBC Christian broadcasts from Manila)

 \* Millions in Middle East watch Christian TV: they say Islam teaches hate, Christianity love!

14) Born-again Christianity is growing 2X as Bhuddism & Hinduism, and much faster than Islam

15) True Christianity is growing very fast in non-western nations- exploding in many areas of the

 world!

 -CHINA: 1 million believers 65 years ago, now about 100 million!

 -NEPAL: 50 years ago had 200 Christians… now about 500,000!

 -KOREA- has 4 of the 10 largest churches in the world, including the largest church in

 the world, the Yoido Full Gospel Church with 750,000 members.

 -INDIA… some great revivals- the state of Nagaland went from 3% Christian to 97% Christian

 in 2 years! (Patrick Johnson, Operation World)

16) LET US DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD- MAY WE EACH HELP COPLETE THE GREAT

 COMMISSSION- THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH!