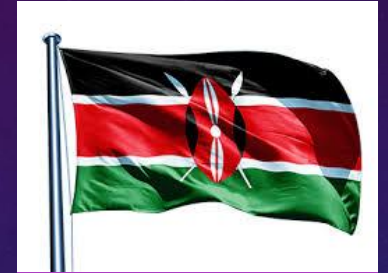


NAIROBI, KENYA

APRIL 30 – MAY 4, 2018

STEVE SPAULDING, RESIDENT MISSIONOLOGIST, OC INTL



MISSIONAL RESEARCH

&

Kingdom Impact

A new KIND of research?

ONE QUESTION:



... with all of this research we're doing,
what exactly are we after?

MANY THINGS WE'RE EXCELLING AT, IN OUR FIELD

- Pioneer data: UUPGs
- Ethno-graphic profiles
- Bible-translation, orality contexts
- Radio and media coverage; Jesus Film and other 'distribution'
- All 'church-growth' related data: CPMs, SCP/DAWN
- Other demographic and social measurements
- Spiritual mapping & certainly much intercessory data

• ...

BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS, WHAT ARE WE REALLY AFTER?



NOT MUCH (ACCORDING TO ...) JOHN PIPER, IN HIS BLOG ARTICLE:
“HOW MUCH IS LEFT TO DO IN THE GREAT COMMISSION?”

“Missions, on the other hand (vs. evangelism) relates to people groups, not just people, and the number is finite, and relatively stable—
like the “every people, tongue, tribe and nation” of Rev. 5:9

So missions is crossing a culture, learning a language, and planting the church through preaching the gospel among people groups, that have no churches strong enough to evangelize their group.

According to the Joshua Project (*as of Feb 16--?*) there are 16,598 people groups in the world. 7,165 of these are “unreached” (fewer than 2% evangelical)....”

from Piper’s blog-site: Desiring God, 2013

I WOULD POSTULATE THAT MISSIONS IS SOMETHING MORE

It is, also, **God's call to the nations**
(both ethno-linguistic & geo-political)
**to be reconciled to God and
to learn—as nations—obedience to Christ,
“all I've commanded you,”
stated by this world's King.**

(Mt. 28:18-20; Gen 49:10; Acts 9:15; Rom 16:25-26, Rev. 21)

HOW DO I HAVE THE COURAGE TO SAY THIS?

... Scripture makes the case pretty clear

STARTING AT THE END . . .

The apostle John is our great portrait artist for how the end looks,
and this is part of his picture.

The city does not need the
sun or the moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God gives it light,
the Lamb is its lamp.
The nations will walk by its light,
and the kings of the earth
will bring their splendor into it
. . . the glory and honor of the
nations will be brought into it.

Nations going to heaven? ... actually the new earth.

How will this have happened?

We go back and look at the greatest missiologist of all time, the apostle Paul.

What are his words at the end of his most popular epistle?

**“Now to him who is able to establish you
by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery hidden...
but now revealed...**

so that all nations might believe and obey him.”

... panta ta ethne!

Romans 16:25,26

BUT, WAS THIS PAUL'S MISSIONOLOGY?

His call to mission came *only* 3 days after his conversion!

But the Lord said to Ananias,

***“Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before
the Gentiles (ta ethne)
and their kings
and before the people of Israel.”***

Acts 9:15

Christ told the greatest missionary of our era: go to three audiences

- 1. The Jew *first***
- 2. The Gentiles (*ethne*/nations)**
- 3. The Gentile kings**

WAS THIS REFLECTED IN THE BOOK OF ACTS?

- **1st third of Acts (1-9):** a. Jews
- **2nd section of Acts (10-22):** b. Gentile nations
(3 missionary journeys)
- **Final part of Acts (23-28):** c. Kings
 - Felix
 - Festus
 - Agrippa
 - governor of Malta
 - Caesar's household

Now, back to the commission of Christ

ALL authority in heaven
and on earth has been given to me.

(almost verbatim in Lk. 4:5-8)

therefore go and
make disciples of (disciple) all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the [Trinity], and
teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you;
and surely,
I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.

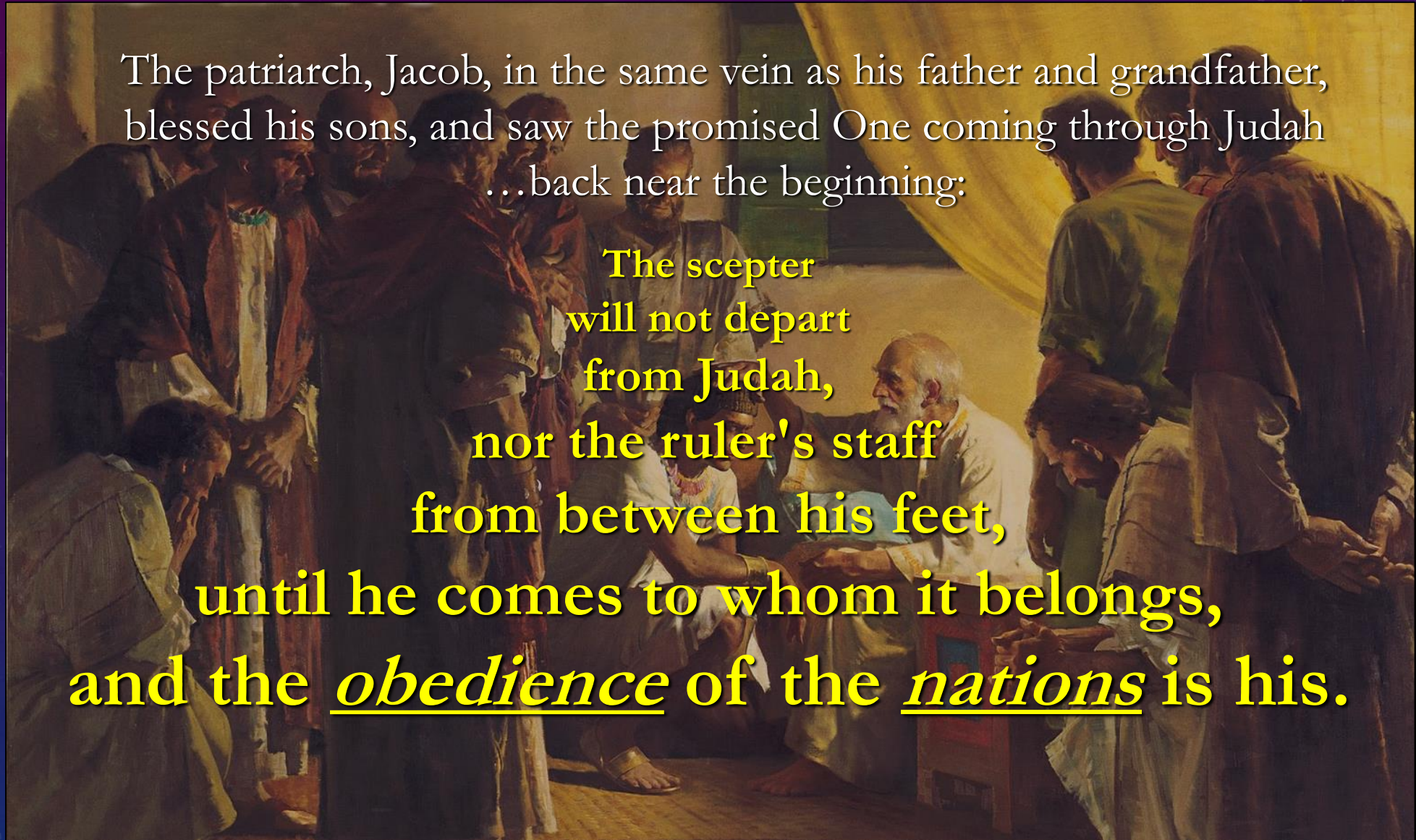
Matt 28:18-20

A clear tie-in between:
EARLY PROPHECIES OF HIS COMING
THE KING HIMSELF
HIS MAIN MESSAGE
HIS ENTIRE TRIAL, DEATH
HIS TITLE AS KING OF KINGS
HIS PASSION FOR THE NATIONS
HIS COMMISSION TO DISCIPLE THEM
AND JOHN'S VISION, A *COMING REALITY*

WHAT ABOUT OUR MESSIANIC PROPHECIES?

The patriarch, Jacob, in the same vein as his father and grandfather, blessed his sons, and saw the promised One coming through Judah ...back near the beginning:

The scepter
will not depart
from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff
from between his feet,
until he comes to whom it belongs,
and the obedience of the nations is his.



A close-up photograph of two hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, gently cupping a small, colorful globe of the Earth. The background is a soft, out-of-focus purple and blue gradient.

**THE SUMMARY
OF MY MISSIOLOGY NOW
IS VERY SIMPLE:**

Obedient nations

Contrasting with what Piper wrote about the mission of God, Lausanne's UK theologian/missiologist, Christopher Wright, says, in *The Mission of God*:

“It is God’s mission in relation to the nations, arguably more than any other single theme that provides the key that unlocks the biblical grand narrative.”

REVIEWING SOME IMMENSE TYING-TOGETHER BETWEEN O.T. FORESIGHT, THE ANOINTED ONE & HIS APOSTLES

Jacob's
prophecy

the obedience of the nations is his.

Jesus'
mandate

“go, disciple all the nations, ... and teach *them* - all the nations - to obey everything I've commanded you.”

Paul's
vision

so that all nations might believe and obey him.

John's
future

kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it ...
the glory & honor of the nations will be brought into it.

NOW... TODAY, WE ARE AT A ***GREAT MOMENT*** IN HISTORY!

Exercise:

***How is today, including:
your world,
the church,
and your work, different
than even a ½ generation ago?***

INSERT TOP FIVE IN LARGER GROUP DISCUSSION

IN THE SAME BREATH, WE CAN SEE THE CHURCH MOVING:

(AND MISSION)

- From decisions to discipling; *done*
- From individuals to corporate realities
- From ecclesiocentrism to basileocentrism
- From one epicenter (*London, Wheaton,??*) to *so many*
- From “the West to the Rest” to everyone/everywhere
- From salvation . . . to heaven to kingdom coming to earth
- From bottom-up to top-down, and everything in between
- From pastor-church fixation to a revival of APEST: 5-fold ministry
- From mostly verbal proclamation to holistic proof & transformation

“we are wholes, not just souls!”

SO, IF WE ARE MOVING TOWARD “KINGDOM IMPACT,”

what does this say to
the way we do our
missional research?

IN REVIEW, WE'VE BEEN PRETTY GOOD RESEARCHING . . .

- All of the 'church-growth' related subjects:
(SPC, CPMs, DMMs, even all the UUPG's)
- Ethno-graphic studies
- Niches like Bible translation
- . . . Orality, Jesus Film, other means of gospel proclamation
- . . . spiritual mapping—the spiritualistic domains
-

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE,

IT SEEMS ALMOST NO ONE IS MEASURING:

our actual, larger task:

“obedient nations.”

“A NEW KIND OF RESEARCH”

A DIFFERENT, LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

(transformation, Kingdom values & obedient nations)

WIDER DATA SOURCES

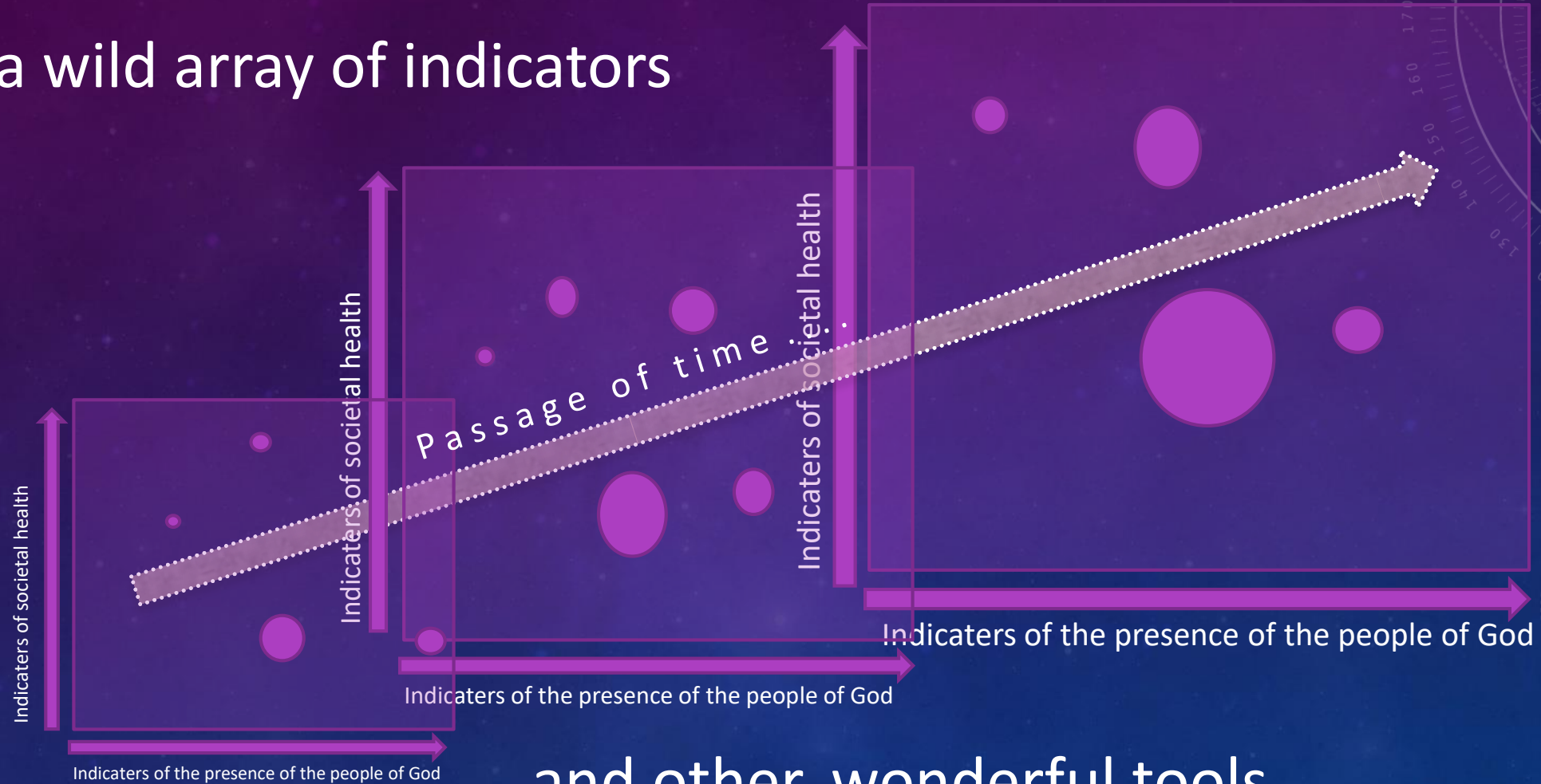
(far beyond harvest force, many arenas, 7+ Mountains, BAM)

FRESH MEANS of SHARING DATA

(more stories & multi-media, over time & democratized computing)

FOR INSTANCE, THIS WOULD LIKELY CREATE MATRICES:

...a wild array of indicators



... and other, wonderful tools ...

See Hans Rosling: /TED talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen#t-1172094

2:15 - 4:47

IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR 'KINGDOM IMPACT,'
WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR, AT LEAST, **BOTH**

proclamation stuff & societal health stuff

both are tied directly to transformation

like the ole' harvest force vs. harvest field categories, integrated.

DR. JUN VENCER HAS BEEN TRAINING IN THIS ARENA
FOR A SEVERAL DECADES

four activities
interacting with a
“Christian presence”



Vencer: you don't get a 'disciplined nation' until you have all five circles engaged and interacting.

WE'RE NOT JUST AFTER ...

“3 YEARS LATER, MORE KINGDOM IMPACT!” ...



**Exploding the myth of just one more “reaching” effort,
into a more ‘obedient nations’ posture,
with its indicators.**

OK, **HOW** DO WE MEASURE “OBEDIENT NATIONS?”

a. Understanding first steps: *(including the complexities of what A... the...?)*

linguistics
pre-evangelism

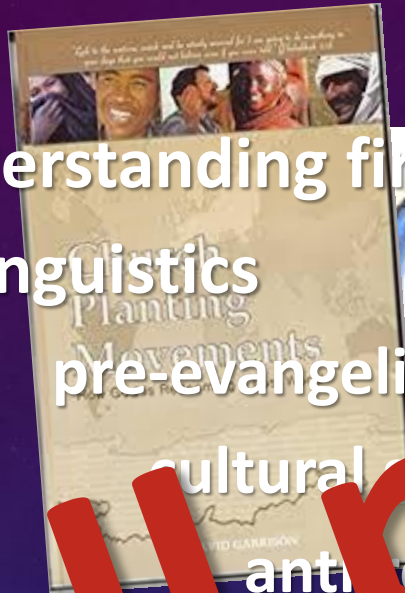
cultural studies
anthropology

frontier missiology

b. Continue the context of DAWN- or CPM-type movements

...from UPGs . . . to national—whole church—initiatives: (GCPN) “planting the Presence in every place”

c. Move the community transformation work up to the national & intl. levels



all preliminary

HOW WE MEASURE...TOWARD “OBEDIENT NATIONS”

1. Looking for signs of synergy—like among the 7 mtns.



HOW WE MEASURE...TOWARD “OBEDIENT NATIONS”

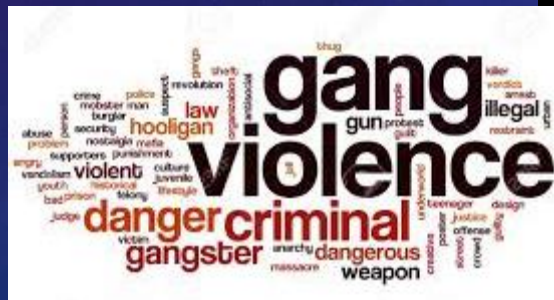


2. WHO is dealing with kings/queens, mayors, governors, influencers?

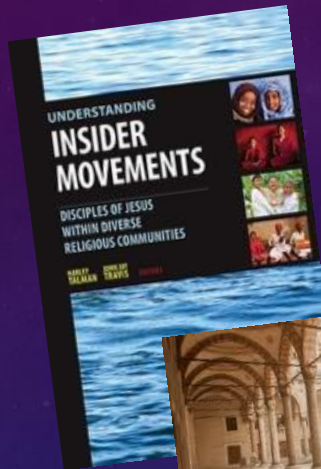
HOW WE MEASURE...TOWARD “OBEDIENT NATIONS”



3. Are there glaring evils—must be addressed in discipling this nation?

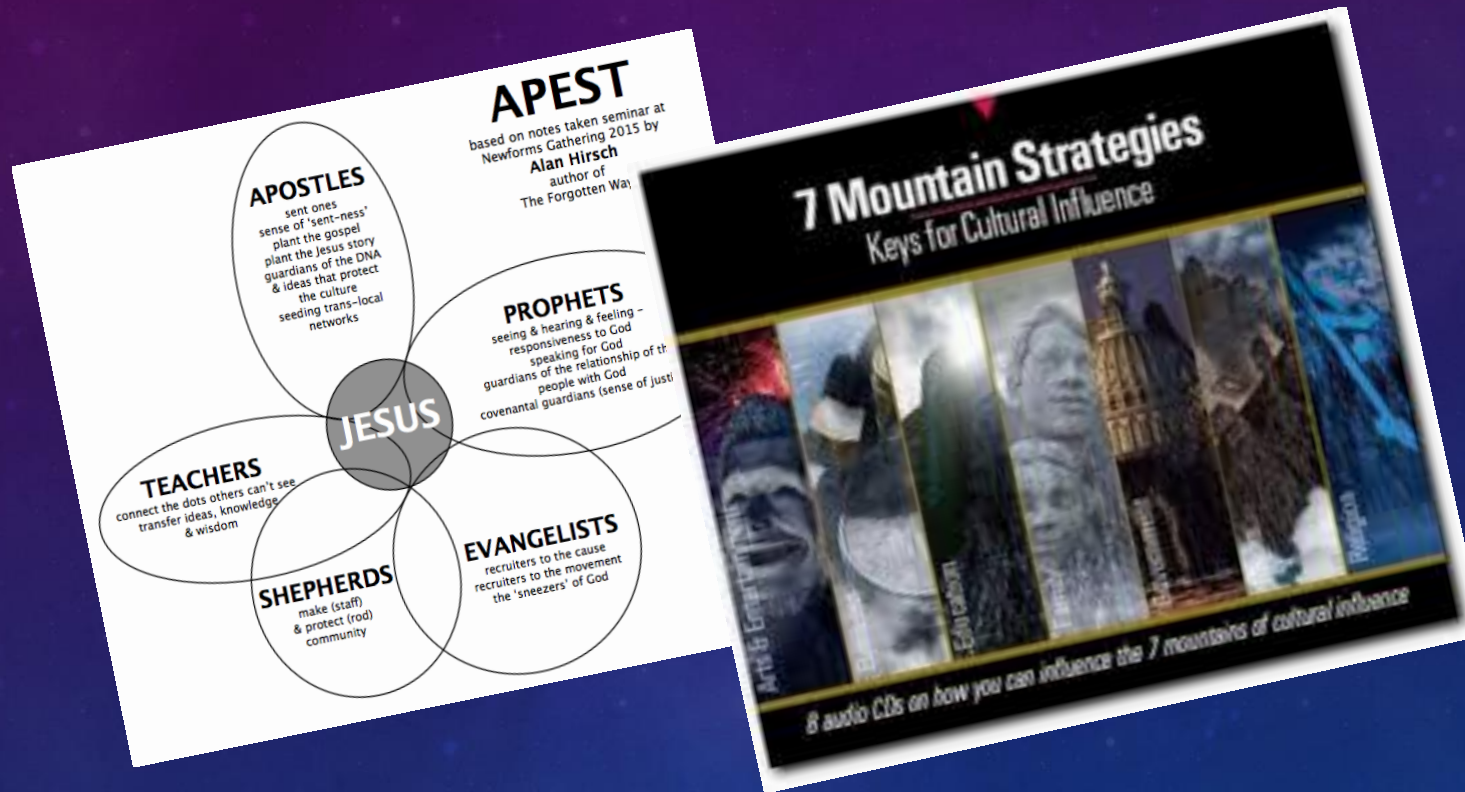


HOW WE MEASURE...TOWARD “OBEDIENT NATIONS”



4. We want to encourage things like BAM and insider movements

HOW WE MEASURE...TOWARD “OBEDIENT NATIONS”



5. Our training institutions need to train a wide range—NOT just pastors—for a return to 5-fold ministry and summing the 7+ mountains!

WHERE ARE YOU . . . in this process?

Could you envision yourself,
giving the rest of your life,
your working relationships,
your mentoring,
your research *m.o.*,
your *purpose* . . .

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a bright path. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow, bold font.

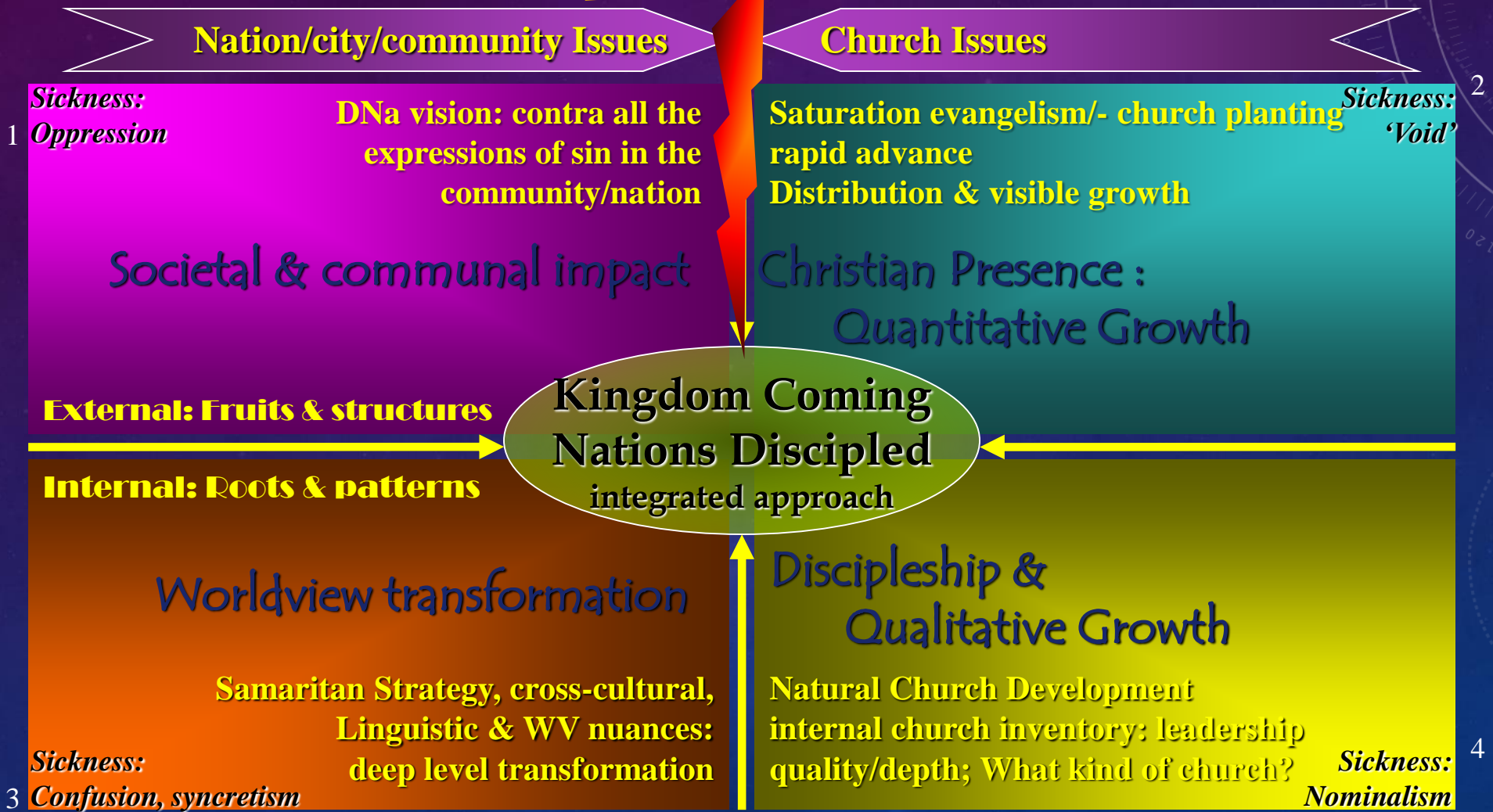
**TO GLORIFYING GOD, DOING HIS WILL,
and being part of the answer to his primary prayer
& great commission:
seeing his will being done,
his kingdom coming to earth,
and whole nations, with their rulers,
their glory and splendor,
readying for their day
to march into the city of God!**

Presentation complete: the slides following are several ways of laying out this entire vision, from:

- A four-quadrant matrix, contrasting four approaches to our larger task: upper right, Christian presence, lower right, foundations of Christian ‘depth,’ lower left, the worldview and foundational beliefs of your society, upper right, the visible fruit of your worldview and accepted truths/lies...only a centered approach sees nations discipled and the Kingdom coming.
- “Rulership and nations throughout the redemptive story” in Scripture, then
- A look at the various, different dimensions of the “obedient nations” posture and task, and finally,
- The synergized integration of our World, our Church, our Task and our Approaches—to the task, as we seek this larger end.

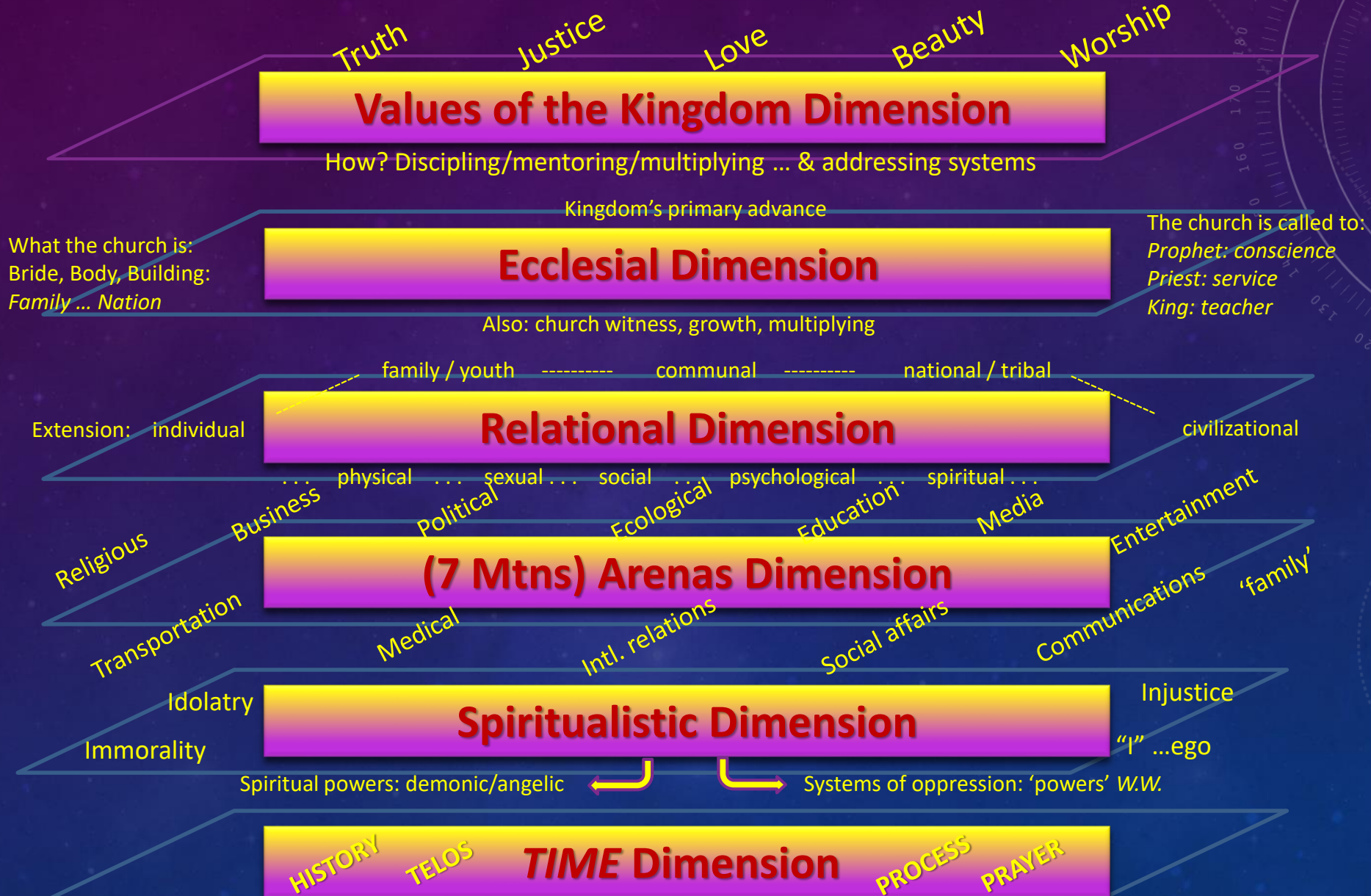
A CHURCH-&-SOCIETY ACTION MATRIX

a radical MIDDLE

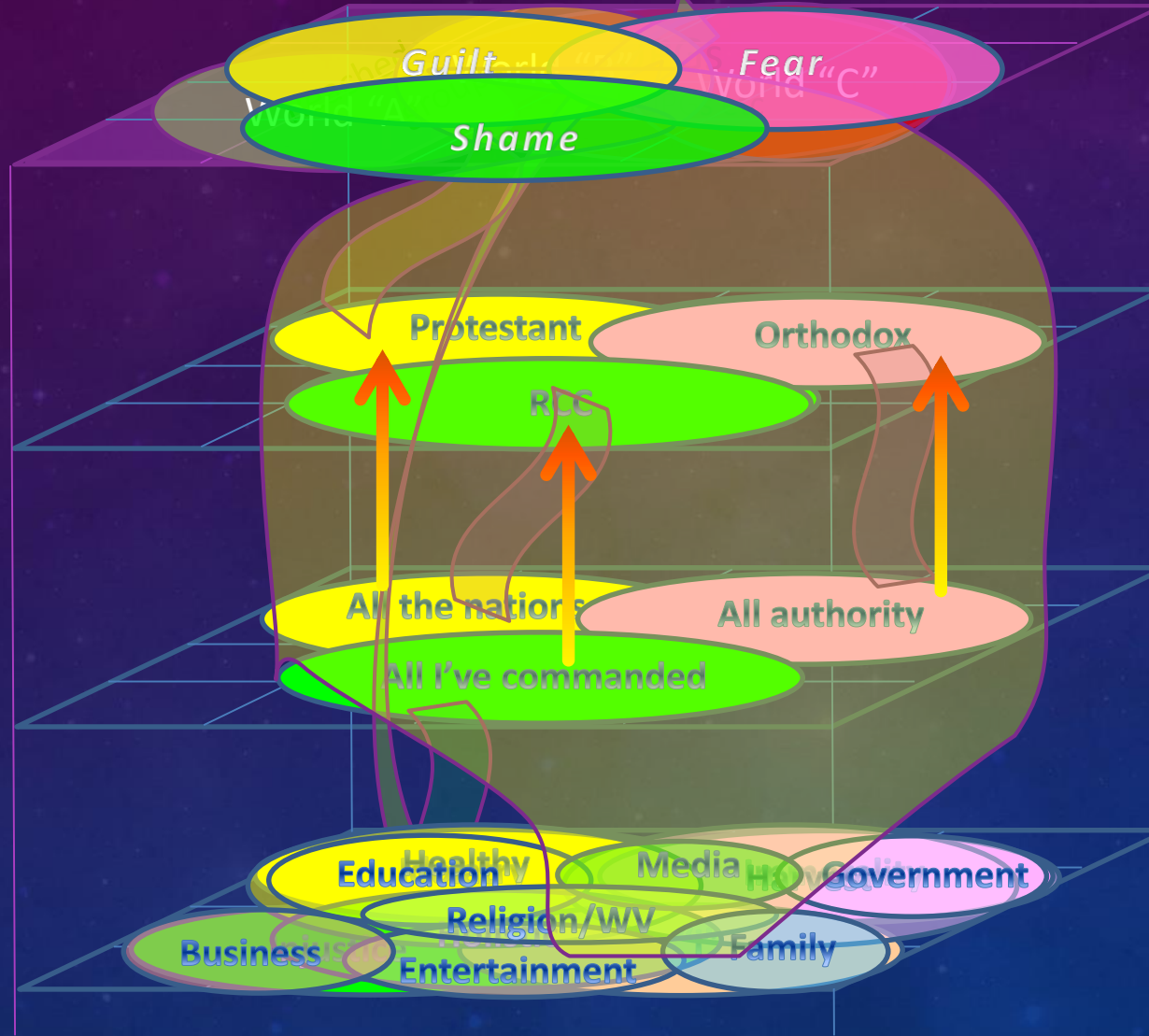




ANOTHER ANGLE LAYING OUT THE TASK



If we're talking about 'obedient nations' ... much to grasp



Our world

Fresh look at biblical & global realities! ...Rom 5:6-10— among many

Our church

A growing reality... 1999 & Francis/Luis Palao (2013 Relevant Mag art.)

Our task (from Mt. 28)

Meeting the church spheres directly

Our approaches

In light of 3 blindspots Western missions: 200 yrs
In light of 3 aha's (kinds of churches) Manila, '01
In light of spheres like "the 7 Mountains"
In tackling the 3 or 4 "I"s in the O.T.

Now . . . synergy