

How Did the
Apostles Teach
ALL Nations?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Christ commanded the apostles to go and teach all nations (Mat28:19). However, given the rudimentary means of travel and communication then available to them how would they have been able to reach all nations? Let's together examine what information is given us in the Bible about how the Great Commission was carried out.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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It has always been somewhat mysterious how it could have been possible for the apostles to teach all nations. In the first century, there were no printing press, no automobiles, no jet planes that allowed people to travel great distances in a relatively short time and there was no television, no Internet and no social media that could be used for a message to be easily and quickly broadcast to all nations. The means of communications and travel were rudimentary and it took a lot of time to travel even short distances and for messages to be sent from one town to another. So how could the apostles possibly be able to fulfill the Great Commission given them?

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

In passing, I should mention that both God the Father and God the Word (Jesus-Christ returned to His former glory after being resurrected by God the Father) are both holy and spirit. They are the holy spirits that dwelt in eternity before the creation of the material universe and of mankind. They are not “holy ghosts”, they are the holy spirits that existed before all things that were created.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same [**the Word**] was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him [\[the Word\]](#); and without him [\[the Word\]](#) was not any thing made that was made.

The Godhead is made up of only 2 beings, not 3 according to your Bible so how do we explain the mentioning of the “holy ghost” in the Bible? If we look at how we refer to others we find that many people usually have several names. They have a first name, a family name and in many cases, nicknames given to them by family and friends or based on the work they do, the sports they play, etc.

Jesus of Nazareth was also Jesus the Christ, Jesus the carpenter, the Word of God, the Son of God, and is a holy spirit. These different names for God are used singly or in different combination at different places in the Scriptures but they all refer to one person, not many. So, when we read that the apostles were to baptize men in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, the words “Holy Ghost” here are used to simply reflect attributes of the Father and of the Son i.e., they are both holy and spirit and those baptized are being baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and of course of the holy spirit which they both are. Being holy and spirit are defining characteristics of the nature of God and the Word and not a being in the Godhead. ([Who or what is the Holy Spirit?](#) [Who is God’s Holy Spirit?](#))

The First NT Day of Pentecost

Following the ascension of Christ back to His Father after His resurrection and glorification, the apostles were together in one place.

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Please notice that they were not attending the ceremonies being conducted in the temple by the Old Testament Levitical priesthood where all other Jews were gathered on that day. They were by themselves in a room. This is a clear indication that OT rituals and ceremonies were not to continue in celebrating Pentecost. OT Israel celebrated the holy days but never knew their spiritual meaning.

A great change was to happen on the day of the first NT Pentecost which shows us how God would proceed to make salvation accessible to mankind. OT rituals and ceremonies never gave Israel the righteousness of God or forgiveness of sin and so it is that they were not maintained as part of the celebration of God’s annual holy days in New Testament times. They were physical, laborious, repetitive and symbolic rituals for the physical, unconverted nation of Israel but in NT times, God has a

spiritual nation of Israel whose members are from the nations of the world and who are to worship God in spirit and in truth, not through physical rituals.

Php 3:9 And be found in him [Christ], not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, [which is the result of observing the Old Testament (OT) laws of animal sacrifices and ceremonial offerings which does not forgive sin and cannot lead to salvation] but that [the righteousness] which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: [which results in the forgiveness of sin and makes salvation possible.]

Salvation is by faith, not by the works of the ritual and ceremonial laws of the OT.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Now back to our review of the events of the first NT day of Pentecost.

Then on the first day of Pentecost, for the first time since the days of Adam and Eve, men chosen by God the Father were given access to the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman and this is described in the following figurative way in the book of Acts.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman and the holy spirit God the Father came to dwell in the apostles.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

God the Father is the one who calls men and He and the Word will dwell in those that follow their calling and remain faithful to it.

Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

And God the Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit of the Godhead that will teach all things to the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Who is the promised Comforter which is also called the Spirit of Truth?

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [I, Jesus] dwelleth with you, and [I, Jesus] shall be in you.

Here Christ plainly tells His disciples who is the Comforter and Spirit of truth that was to come to them after His ascension to heaven. God the Father would send them the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who dwelt as the man Jesus of Nazareth with the disciples.

Jesus told the disciples that they knew who the Comforter and Spirit of truth was. He said they knew him because he dwelt with them and that He would be in them. On the first NT day of Pentecost the glorified Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman came to the apostles.

What happened after the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman came to them?

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

All of a sudden the apostles were able to speak with other tongues i.e., they were able to speak in other languages which could be understood by those who heard them. It was not senseless, unintelligible gibberish.

Act 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language.**

Act 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Not only were the apostles speaking in other languages but those hearing them heard them in the language in which they were born, in their mother tongue. They could have been able to speak in other languages too, but the one in which they heard the apostles was the language in which they were born. So, what the apostles were saying was very clearly understood by those who heard them.

Who were those who heard them?

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**

And what did they hear?

Act 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

Act 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Act 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**

They heard the apostles speaking in their individual mother tongues the wonderful works of God.

And then what happened?

Act 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, **and hearken to my words:**

What was the result of Peter's speech to them?

Act 2:41 Then they **[not all of them did]** that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Of the many who heard the apostles and Peter some gladly received his word and were baptized. These were men from out of every nation under heaven.

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**

Here in these men we had represented the nations of the world.

The Fulfillment of the Great Commission

Christ commissioned the disciples to teach all nations and baptizing those who gladly receive their words.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

We know full well that it was impossible for the apostles in their lifetime and with the means of travel and communications available in their days to be able to teach all nations. Also, it should be noted that Christ sent *them* those whom He personally trained and who were chosen by God the Father (John 17:6). It was not a religious organization of men who appointed some of their own as apostles with the mission to teach all nations.

Apostles are not appointed by men.

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

God in NT times is not using prophets nor has anyone being personally commissioned by God to be an apostle.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath **in these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

God is speaking to His called out and chosen ones by His Son, Jesus-Christ. How is that being done since Christ is no longer on the earth? Christ is the Word, God the Father's Spokesman and the holy Bible is the word of God or Christ in writing.

It is the means by which God communicates with His called and chosen ones as they study their Bible with their minds enabled to understand God level spiritual truth by the in-dwelling presence of Himself and of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman whose role is to teach all things to truly converted Christians.

Joh14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

God and the Word are the pastors that were to be given to the NT spiritual nation of Israel who would never abuse and exploit them as the human pastors had done to the physical nation of Israel.

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

These pastors according to God's heart are not men. God gave mankind absolute free moral agency which means that He will not force them to obey Him; they must self-willingly decide to submit to Him once given to know His spiritual truth. Therefore, no man can be forced to be after God's own heart or to remain that way. God's NT spiritual nation of Israel is to be taught directly by God and the Word who will never deceive them, exploit them or abuse them.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they [truly converted NT Christians] shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things; not men and this, since the first NT day of Pentecost.

In Ezekiel, God tells us why the shepherds of His NT spiritual nation of Israel will no longer be men.

Eze 34:2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Eze 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and **cause them to cease from feeding the flock**; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

In NT times, the times in which the world has been living since the first NT day of Pentecost, the shepherds or preachers and teachers of God's spiritual nation of Israel are God and the Word, not any men, converted or not.

Sorry for the digression but I thought it was important to show that NT Christians would be taught by God and the Word and not by men.

Now, let's get back to explaining specifically how the apostles fulfilled the Great Commission given them. In order to do so, we have to look at the requirement for the unconverted nations of the world to attend the Feast of Tabernacles under penalty of their countries being afflicted by drought.

The Valley of Hamongog

Zec 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations **which came against Jerusalem** shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zec 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, **even upon them shall be no rain**.

Zec 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zec 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and **the punishment of all nations** that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Keeping the Feast of tabernacles (FOT) was a requirement for the unconverted nation of OT Israel. During the Millennium God will make it an obligation for the unconverted nations of the world. God says that these unconverted nations of the world are to come to Jerusalem to worship the King. Their worship of course is not spiritual are they are uncon-

verted. They are worshiping God in that they are obeying His command to attend the FOT. It should be noted that these nations are not being made to attend the FOT in an effort to get them to become converted. The converted attend God's feasts because they have freely chosen to do so. And, conversion is by the holy spirit God the Father who calls men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches them all things.

Why are the unconverted nations forced to attend the feast?

In going to the feast, they will pass through the valley of Hamongog.

Eze 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it the valley of Hamongog.

This valley will be for a sign unto the unconverted nations.

Eze 39:21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

They will then fear to attack Israel as Gog and Magog had done so as to not be suddenly and completely destroyed as they were. And, they will fear to engage in war among themselves fearing sudden destruction from a new and very powerful weapon they think Israel possesses and which they think was used to destroy the armies of Gog and Magog. These nations are not converted and don't believe the destruction of Gog and Magog was the doing of God.

This is why there will be peace during the Millennium; not because everyone except a few stubborn individuals have become converted and are zealously obeying God. Christ clearly tells us that many are called, few are chosen, and of the few chosen, few remain converted.

Your Bible says the unconverted nations of the world will be forced to attend the feast but we know it is impossible to fit all the unconverted nations of the world around the city of Jerusalem. It is not whole nations but representatives of those nations who will attend the FOT. These representatives will then fulfill the requirement stated by God in the Bible that all unconverted nations attend the FOT during the Millennium as a constant reminder of the fate of those who came against Jerusalem and as a warning to them not to engage in war against Israel or among themselves.

This now brings us to considering Christ's great commission to the apostles. They were to teach all nations and on the NT first day of Pentecost, they taught representatives from the nations of the world.

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**

The apostles through teaching these men out of every nation under heaven fulfilled the great commission given them in the same way that the representatives of the unconverted nations during the Millennium attending the FOT, will fulfill God's requirement for the unconverted nations to attend the feast.

Though the word "nation" is being used in Mat 28:19 and in Zech 14:19, in actual fulfillment, the requirement for teaching all nations and for all unconverted nations to attend the FOT is met through *representatives of the nations*. It was physically impossible for the apostles to go through all the nations of the world in their lifetime and it will be impossible during the Millennium to fit all the unconverted nations of the world on the territory of the physical nation of Israel.

Conclusion

It stands to reason that it was impossible for the apostles to fulfill the commission given them by personally traveling to every nation of the world and teaching its inhabitants. This would be a near impossible task even today with our modern modes of travel and communications. And, the great commission was given to *them*, the apostles; not to other men who would come after them and self-appoint as apostles to continue the fulfillment of the Great Commission, especially that in NT times, men are called to conversion by the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word teaches them all things. God is no longer sending prophets nor are any new apostles being appointed by God; none but the original apostles are mentioned in the NT with no word of there being any other ones who were to come after their death.

The fulfillment of the Great Commission given the apostles will be by the holy spirits of the God family. Hearing and believing the Gospel is a condition for salvation. The only ones who can reach each and every human being that has ever lived are the holy spirits of the God family. Those who have died in the first 4,000 years of man's existence as well as those who from the day of Pentecost to the Christ's 2nd Coming who were never called will be given their first and only opportunity for salvation in the resurrection to flesh-and-blood existence that occurs at the

beginning of the Last Great Day. They will then all be called by God the Father and taught all things which includes the Gospel by God the Word and Spokesman.

The apostles taught the men in Jerusalem who were representatives of all nations on the earth on the first NT day of Pentecost and, in this way, fulfilled the Great Commission given them. And, in a similar fashion, the representatives of the unconverted nations attending the FOT during the Millennium will fulfill God's requirement for the nations to attend the FOT given that the unconverted nations of the world cannot be made to fit on the territory around Jerusalem.

The Great Commission given the apostles was fulfilled by them in their days and there is no need for anyone to take on the task of continuing a work which has been completed. In NT times the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman are the teachers of all true Christians, not men. God's nation is a spiritual nation and its teachers are spirit beings.

Men have shown themselves to be unreliable teachers of God's truth as well as having the tendency to exploit their followers for financial gain. God Himself has taken on, along with the Word, the task of teaching true Christians as they study their Bible so as to have growth in knowledge and understanding of God's truth which is essential for salvation as made evident in the parable of the talents. A "talent" here represents the measure of knowledge and understanding of God's truth given true Christians at the time of their calling.

Mat 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Mat 25:23 His lord said unto him, **Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

Mat 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Mat 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, **Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:**

Mat 25:27 **Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.**

Mat 25:28 **Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.**

Mat 25:29 **For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.**

Mat 25:30 **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Of the unprofitable servants who lose their salvation, some will be crying realizing how foolish they were not to have made any effort to grow the talent(s) given them. Others will be gnashing their teeth being angry at God for having lost their salvation thinking God to be unfair in not having respected their fear of losing the talent(s) given them.

The parable of the talents is a strong warning to all true Christians to make their calling and election sure by being about their Father's business while they live out their natural physical lives in this present evil world and not let the cares of this world take up all their time as they did before they were called and chosen.

Finally, the many and different Christian churches of this world believe they have a duty to preach the Gospel to the world and that the work that they do is the means used by God to bring men to conversion and save them. They appoint some of their own as apostles and evangelists and go on crusades to spread the Gospel to the world thinking that in doing so they are participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

As we have just seen, there is no continuing requirement for men to spread the Gospel to the world. This work since the death of the original apostles is being done on an individual and personal basis by the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Men's role in spreading the Gospel ended with the death of the original apostles and of the evangelists they had appointed to assist them.

