

4th September,
1993



To the Utmost Parts of the Earth

Acts 1:8

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But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and ***to the ends of the earth.***



Luke 24:46-48

The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are ***witnesses*** of these things.

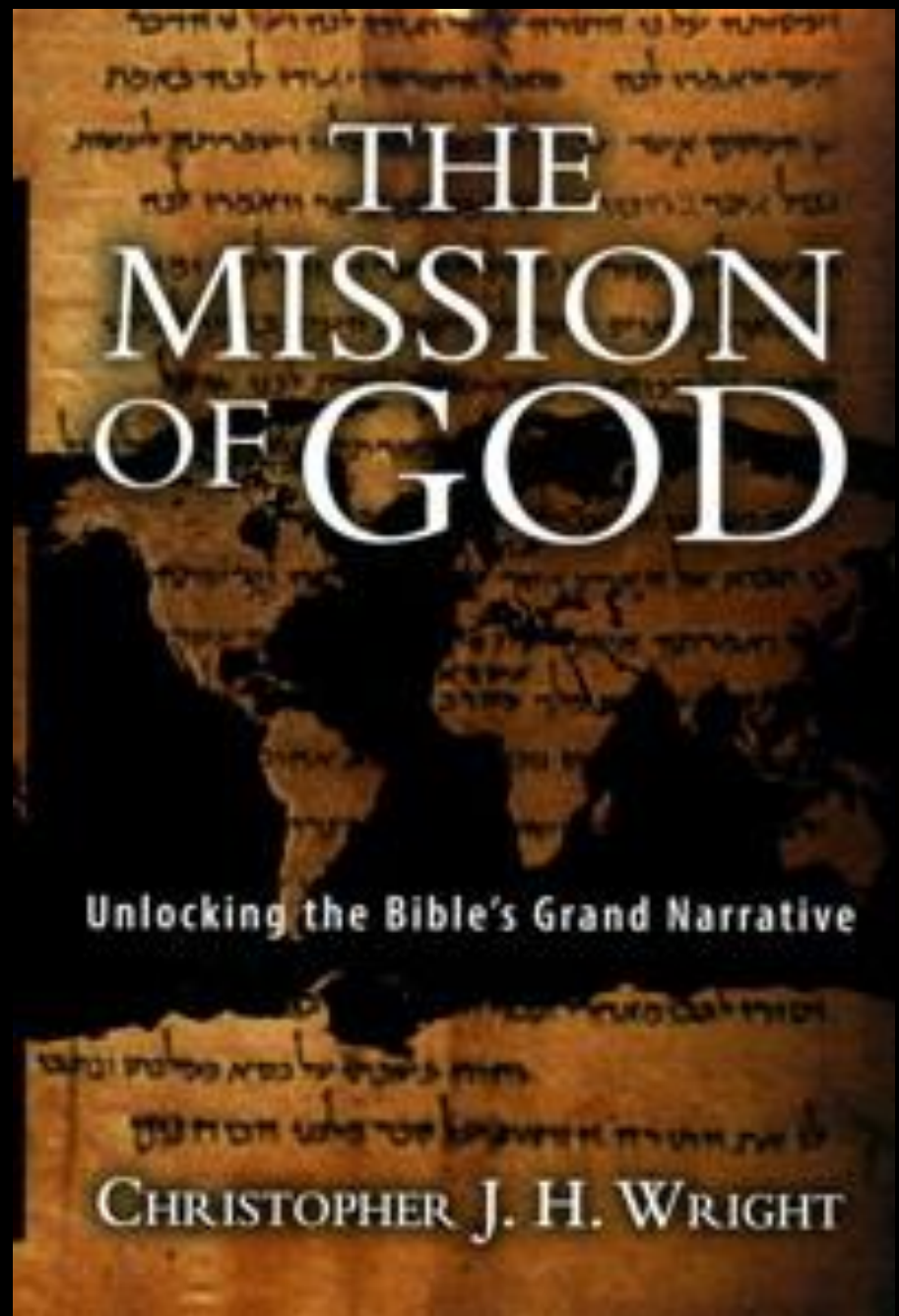


God has bigger fish to fry than the Church



*God's
Universal
Purpose*

To understand
the Bible we
need to
understand
God's
universal
purpose for
the World and
for Humanity



***God's mission is not
incidental to the
story, IT IS the story***

***The earth is the LORD's and
everything...init***

Genesis 1:1:
In the
beginning
God created
the heavens
and the earth.



God uses his people to bless the nations

Genesis 12:1-3: The LORD had said to Abram, "I will make you into a great nation...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."



Blessing on God's people and the nations: Psalm 67

- May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us**
- ² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.**
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with justice
and guide the nations of the earth.**
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.**
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

Even Pagan kings admit it!

- Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4 – “His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.”
- Darius: Daniel 6 – “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.”

New Testament
The Church carries on
God's mission

The Church is commissioned

Matthew 28:16-
20: “go and make
disciples of all
nations”



God's mission to bring all things under Christ

Ephesians 1:9-10: God made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ...to *bring unity to all things* in heaven and on earth *under Christ*.



God's mission to reconcile all things in Christ

Colossians 1:20: and through him [Christ] to ***reconcile to himself all things***, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his [Christ's] blood, shed on the cross.



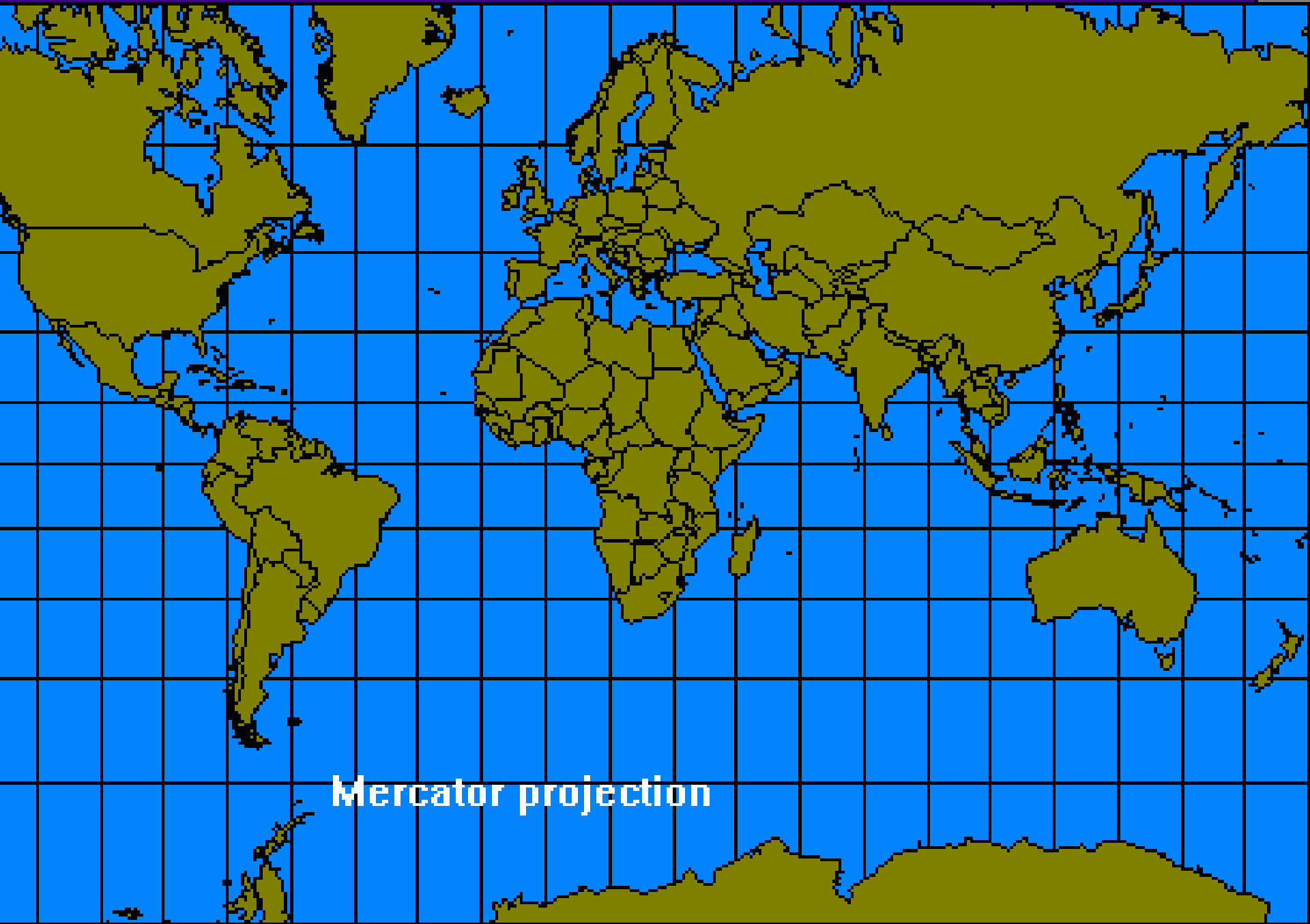
The Ultimate vision!

Revelation 7:9: After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every **nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

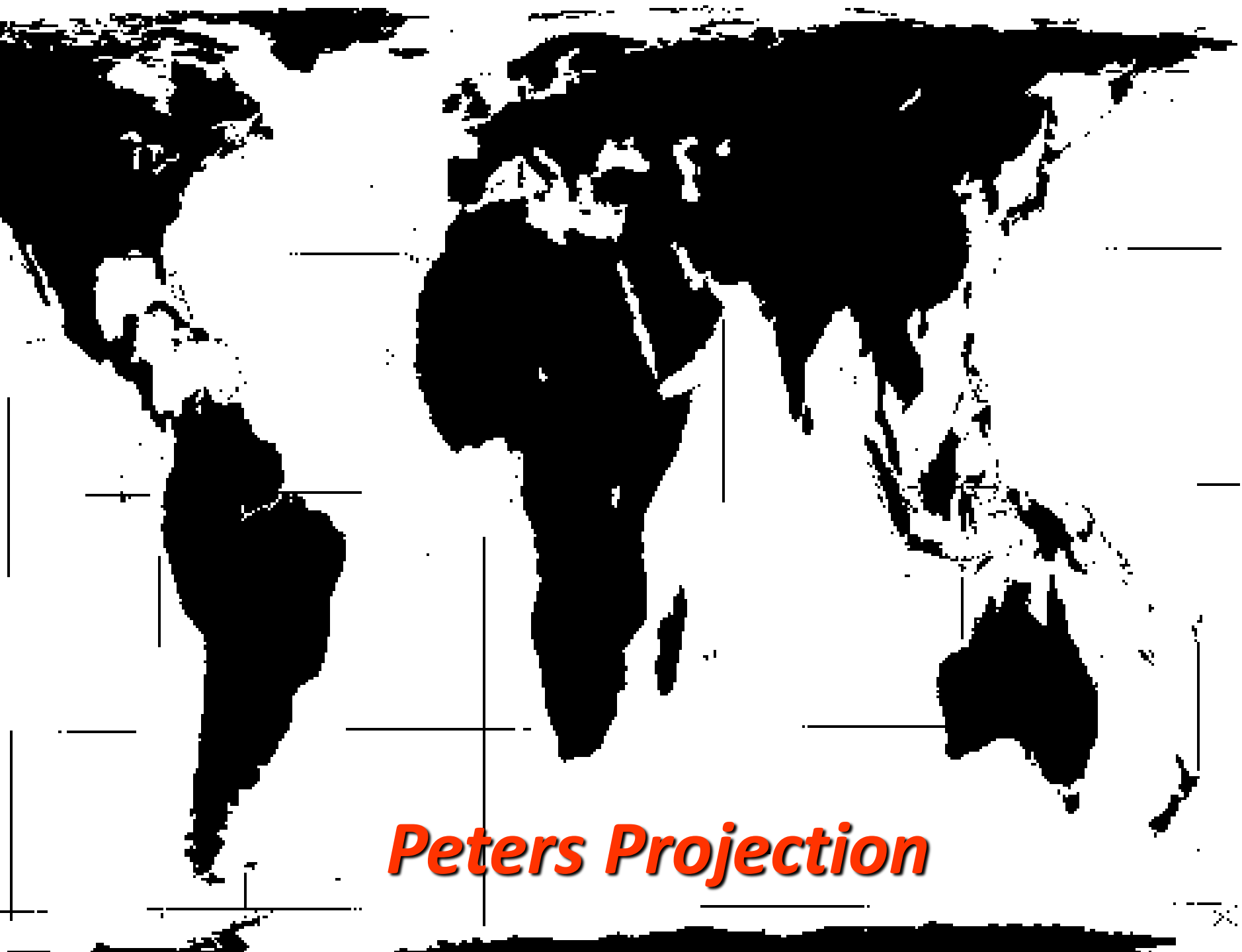


***To the Utmost Parts of the Earth
and to Every Nation***

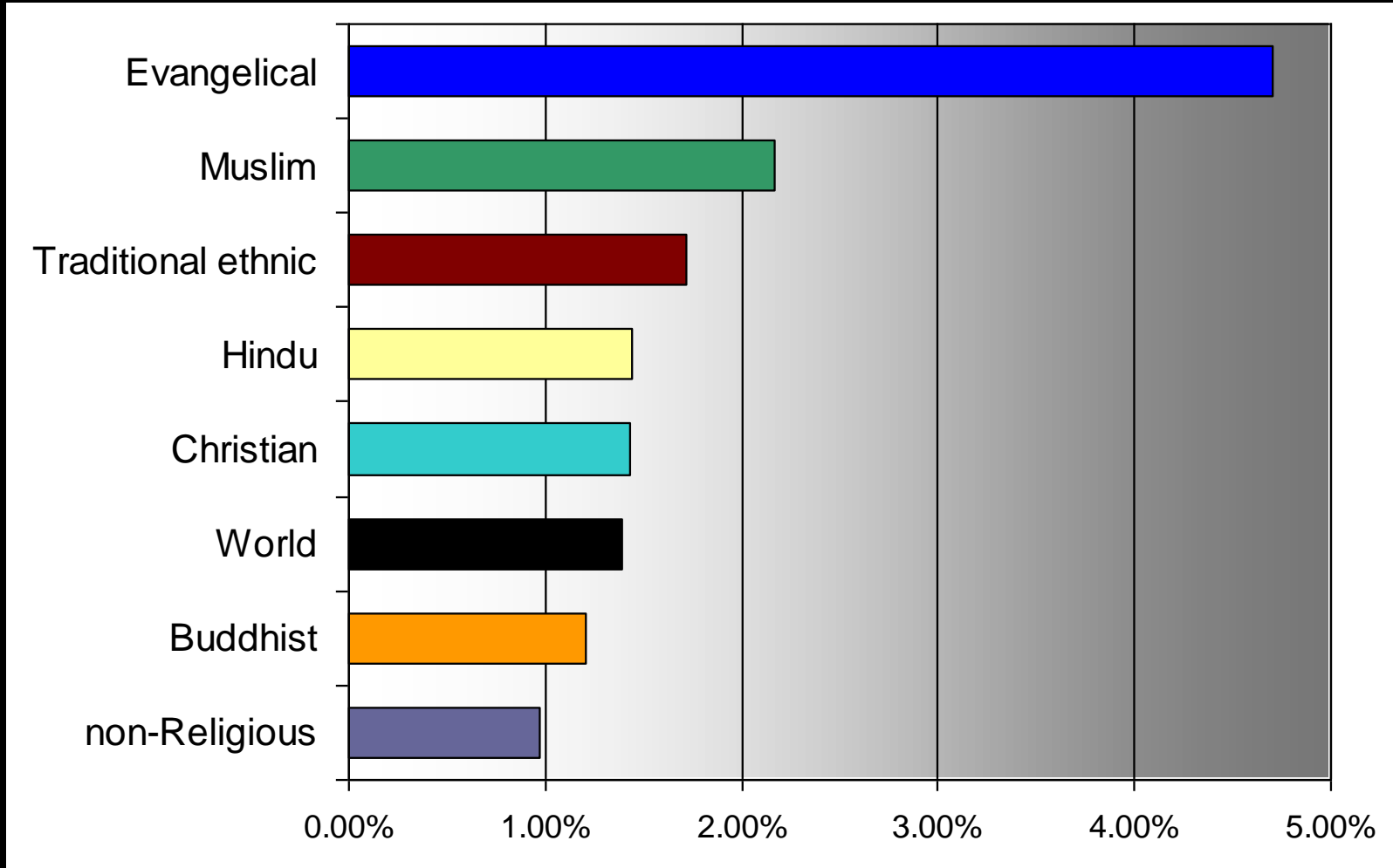
Where are we in the story?



Mercator projection



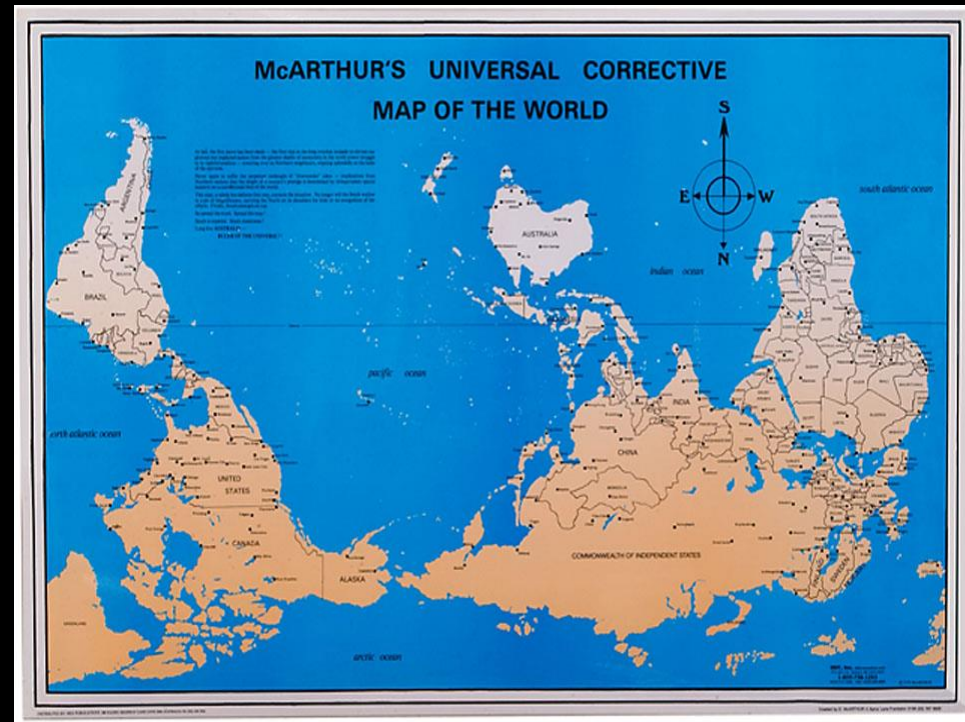
Annual Growth Rate of World Religions



Some facts

100 years ago 95% of Christians lived in the western world (Europe and North America).

Today 70% of Christian believers live in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Statistics

1910 top 10 “Christian countries” were all Northern countries except Brazil.

2010 only three Northern countries remain in top 10 “Christian countries”:
USA, Germany and Russia



Statistics

1910 European
cultures dominated
the church.

2010 African, Latin
American and Asian
cultures dominate.



Statistics

In the Global
South Christianity
is outpacing
population
growth whereas it
is the reverse in
the North



This has led to a change in the mission world

The Nigerian Evangelical Mission Association has more than 3,000 missionaries in 38 countries.



The Iberoamerican Mission Cooperation (COMIBAM) report over 9,000 missionaries from Latin America



This has led to a change in the mission world

The Korean Church reports more than 20,000 cross-cultural missionaries.

The Indian mission movement has over 16,000 missionaries working cross-culturally



From everywhere to everywhere:

“There are now Christian missionaries sent and received by nearly every country in the world- a real globalization of the missionary force!”
(Operation World Appendix 4 p747)



So?

- The Church is witnessing to the “utmost parts of the earth”, to “all nations”, however, the task is unfinished (some have never heard of Jesus)
- The worldwide witness to the Gospel is the task of the worldwide church—that’s us!
- In what way am I (are we) a witness to the Gospel; here and other parts of the world?

So?

- Let us rejoice!
- Let us support
- Let us pray