“Through you all peoples will be blessed”  
(Gen. 12:3)

Howard Culbertson  
Ministry, Church and Society  
Southern Nazarene University

Fulfilling the Great Commission
5 Epochs of Redemptive History

- Romans (0 AD - 400 AD)
- Barbarians (400 AD - 800 AD)
- Vikings (800 AD - 1200 AD)
- Saracens? (1200 AD - 1600 AD)
- Ends of the Earth (1600 AD - 2000 AD)

Concept developed by Ralph Winter

Fulfilling the Great Commission
Winning the Romans
AD 0-400

Fulfilling the Great Commission
Emperor Constantine’s Vision

Fulfilling the Great Commission
Winning the Barbarians
AD 400-800
Winning the Barbarians
AD 400-800

Boniface after chopping down the sacred oak of the thunder god

Fulfilling the Great Commission
Winning the Vikings
AD 800 - 1200

Fulfilling the Great Commission
Winning the Vikings
AD 800 - 1200

- Vikings delighted in
  - killing people in the churches
  - burning churches
  - selling monks into slavery.

- Though England and the Continent were devastated by the Vikings, it was not a victory for paganism
Winning the Saracens?
AD 1200-1600
Winning the Saracens?
AD 1200-1600

versus

The stain of the Crusades

Raymond Lull’s martyrdom in North Africa

St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt

Fulfilling the Great Commission
To the Ends of the Earth
AD 1600-2003

Fulfilling the Great Commission
To the Ends of the Earth
AD 1600-2003

Fulfilling the Great Commission
“Imperfect as they were, nineteenth-century missionaries turned what some thought to be a declining Caucasian religion into the largest and most dynamic religious faith in the world”

-- Ruth Tucker

1792-1914: The Great Century

Fulfilling the Great Commission
William Carey

- Father of Modern Missions
- To India in 1797

The rebuke to Carey:
“When God chooses to win the heathen, He will do it without your help or ours.”

Fulfilling the Great Commission
Hudson Taylor

Middle 1800’s

A Chinese convert:
“What! For hundreds of years you have had these glad tidings and only now have come to preach it to us? My father sought after the truth and died without finding it. Why did you not come sooner?”

Fulfilling the Great Commission
A Guatemalan Indian’s question:  
“How come God doesn’t speak my language?”
Unreached Peoples

“God wants His lost children found!”

Donald McGavran

Unreached Ethnic Groups

Fulfilling the Great Commission