

GOD'S PLAN

for Growing the Christian Church



C H U C K B R O W N



Summary 1



CHRIST THROUGH GOD'S PLAN

Summary 1 chapters express the relationship Jesus has with his disciples. Christ the King and his disciples were given a mission and a plan for creating and growing the Christian Church.

Christ

Jesus Christ is the King of both the Jews and the believers. He has the authority to issue commands and teachings that have to be obeyed. The Jews did not accept or obey him as King because he did not meet their expectations of a king. Jesus's disciples accepted him as King because they believed in his teachings and miracles.

Disciples

Jesus was sent from his home in heaven to be the Father's representative here on earth. Jesus taught his disciples to be his representatives on earth too. The Father told Jesus the plan, and Jesus taught the plan

to his disciples. Since Jesus was perfect, he was the personification of God's plan because he lived it. After establishing the Christian Church, Jesus left his home on earth and returned to his home in heaven.

Mission

Jesus was sent to earth with the mission of sharing the good news of the kingdom of God. His mission had three facets to it: preaching, teaching, and healing. His healing authenticated his preaching and teaching messages that he was the Messiah who was sent by God to save his people. Before he went back to heaven, Jesus gave his disciples what is called the Great Commission, which was to continue the mission of making disciples of all nations.

God's Plan

Jesus said that he is the way, the truth, and the life and the only way to the Father. What does this mean? It means that not all "roads" lead to heaven. In fact, Jesus said that narrow is the road that leads to heaven and that broad is the road that leads to hell. He did not say it was the easiest road to follow but that it was the only road to follow if you want to get to heaven.

CHRIST



Jesus is the King of the Jews. He is also King of his disciples. He has the authority to issue commands and teachings that need to be obeyed.

One of the reasons the Jews did not accept Jesus as their King is that they expected the Christ to be a conquering king who would free them from Roman rule. Jesus did not come as a conquering Messiah as they expected; he came as a humble servant who taught and preached a message of repentance and faith and performed many miracles. His disciples observed the miracles and teachings and believed and accepted him as their King, someone to be followed and obeyed. They believed Jesus knew, taught, and lived God's plan for having eternal life. In the beginning, they did not understand Jesus would have to die to fulfill God's plan to make eternal life a reality (Mark 9:31-32).

The good news is that Jesus died and made eternal life a reality and he made it possible for everyone who has ever lived. There is a condition for entering eternal life: one must have put his or her faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord (John 3:16).

The Bible is clear about Jesus being the King, Christ, Messiah, and Son of God. Today's disciples should obey and follow Jesus as he taught and lived, according to God's plan.

Jesus declared to the Samaritan woman, whom he met at the well, that he was the Messiah and Christ that everyone had been waiting for. He explained God's plan to the Samaritans for entering eternal life, and many became believers (John 4:25-26; John 4:39-41).

Jesus declared to the Jewish leaders that he was the Christ, Son of man and Son of God, but they did not believe him (Luke 22:66-71).

Jesus declared to Pilate, the governor, that he was King of the Jews and his kingdom was from another world. He said he had come into the world to testify to the truth of God's plan (Luke 23:1–3; John 18:36–37).

Jesus demonstrated he was the sovereign King by using his authority and power over creation—nature, demons, sickness, and death.

An example of Jesus's authority over nature is when he commanded the waves, in a furious storm, to be still, and they obeyed him (Matthew 8:23–27).

An example of Jesus's authority over demons is when he rebuked them and cast them out. The demons obeyed his command because they knew he was the Christ and Son of God and had the authority to do so (Luke 4:41).

An example of Jesus's authority over sickness is when he touched Peter's mother-in-law who had a fever and the fever left her (Matthew 8:14–15).

An example of Jesus's authority over death is when he was able to bring a dead girl back to life (Matthew 9:23–25).

Discussion Questions

1. Why did the Jews not believe Jesus was the Christ?
2. Why did the disciples believe Jesus was the Christ?
3. In the beginning, what did the disciples not understand about Jesus?
4. What kind of relationship should believers have with Jesus?
5. What caused the Samaritans to believe Jesus was the Christ?
6. Where did Jesus say his kingdom was from?
7. How did Jesus demonstrate he had authority over all creation?
8. Why did the Jewish leaders want to take Jesus to Pilate?