

GOD SENDS

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Before the beginning of time and space, God stood at the edge of vast nothingness

and imagined a universe teeming with living possibility
and envisioned a companionship walking in a garden of perfection
and God said: "Let us make human beings in our image"¹
and so, God begins his mission in the world today.

God sends the Spirit to hover over the formless void²

and in the darkness of the deep, the Spirit brought forth life³
and out of the breath of his mouth, the Spirit brought the world⁴
and with the creativity of the artist, the Spirit adorns the heavens⁵
and out of the depths of the ground, the Spirit brings streams of living water⁶
and by the breath of his Spirit, he sustains the world⁷
and through the breath of his Spirit, he renews the earth⁸
and by the power of his Spirit, he convicts people of sin⁹
and by the power of his Spirit, he convicts people of righteousness¹⁰
and by the power of his Spirit, he convicts people of judgment¹¹
and by the power of his Spirit, he guides people to truth¹²
and by the regeneration of his Spirit¹³, he removes our heart of stone¹⁴
and by the renewal of his Spirit¹⁵, he makes us a new creation¹⁶
and so, the Spirit continues in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends his Son, Jesus, as the image of the invisible God¹⁷

and in the obscurity of a manger, the incarnate Son of God brings great joy¹⁸

and out of the backwaters of Nazareth, the Son came to save sinners¹⁹

and out of the darkness of the world, the Son brings light²⁰

and in the social networks of the despised, the Son came to seek and save the lost²¹

and in the pain of the brokenhearted, the Son brings good news to the poor²²

and in the captivity of the prison, the Son brings a message of deliverance²³

and in the midst of corruption and sinful desires, the Son enables his people to partake of the divine nature²⁴

and in the midst of everyday circumstances, the Son reveals the glory of God²⁵

and in the midst of his trial before Pilate, the Son bears witness to the truth of who he is²⁶

and throughout his mission, the Son does the will of God the father who has sent him²⁷

and towards the end of his earthly mission, the Son sends his followers, just, as God sent him²⁸

and at the end of his earthly mission, the Son gives his life as a ransom for many²⁹

and so, the Son continues in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends the followers of Jesus to join his mission wherever they are³⁰

and when facing people who rebel against God³¹, they announce God's reign over the world³²

and when seeing people worshipping the creature³³, they announce God as the creator of all things³⁴

and when seeing people defiling the environment³⁵, they announce that we are to be stewards of God's creation³⁶

and when hearing people denying the image of God within them³⁷, they announce that humans are God's image bearers³⁸

and when hearing people defiantly turning away from God³⁹, they announce the need for repentance⁴⁰

and when watching people who are enslaved to sin⁴¹, they announce freedom from the power of sin⁴²

and in the brokenness of human life⁴³, they share God's love and grace to those who are in need⁴⁴

and so, the followers of Jesus continue in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends the followers of Jesus to be his ambassadors⁴⁵, the visible replica of God⁴⁶

and in the hopelessness of estranged relationships⁴⁷, they announce the message of reconciliation⁴⁸

and in the hopelessness of fractured families⁴⁹, they announce the hope of restoration⁵⁰

and in the hopelessness of destroyed lives⁵¹, they announce the hope of renewal⁵²

and so, the followers of Jesus continue in the mission of God in the world today.

God sends the the followers of Jesus to share the good news of salvation⁵³

and in the midst of human rebellion⁵⁴, God's kindness leads to repentance⁵⁵

and in the midst of human sinfulness⁵⁶, God's mercy endures forever⁵⁷

and in the midst of repentance⁵⁸ and faith⁵⁹, we are saved by God's grace⁶⁰

and when we are saved⁶¹, we become a follower of Jesus⁶²

and we turn from darkness to light⁶³, and we are called to mission as a light to the nations⁶⁴

and we turn from blindness to sight⁶⁵, and we are called to mission as a witness for God⁶⁶

and we turn from deafness to hearing⁶⁷, and we are called to mission as a proclaimer of the good news⁶⁸

and so, the followers of Jesus continue in the mission of God in the world today.

God designed you for mission. God sends you on assignment. God gifted you for a reason.

How will YOU join God at work today?

Endnotes

1. Genesis 1:26: Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”
2. Genesis 1:2: The earth was without form and void, darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
3. Genesis 1:2: The earth was without form and void, darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
4. Psalm 33:6: By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the stars by the breath of His mouth.
5. Job 26:13: By His Spirit He adorned the heavens
6. Psalm 104:10: You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills
7. Job 34:14,15: If He were to set His heart to it and withdraw His Spirit and breath, all flesh would perish together and mankind would return to dust.
8. Psalm 104:30: When You send Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.
9. John 16:8: And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
10. John 16:8: And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
11. John 16:8: And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
12. John 16:13: But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
13. Titus 3:5: he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
14. Ezekiel 36:26-27: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances.
15. Titus 3:5: he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit
16. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation
17. Colossians 1:15: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
18. Luke 2:10-11: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!”

19. 1 Timothy 1:15: This is a trustworthy saying, worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.
20. John 12:46: I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should remain in darkness.
21. Luke 19:5-7: When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry down, for I must stay at your house today.” So Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him joyfully. And all who saw this began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinful man!” But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will repay it fourfold.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
22. Isaiah 61:1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners
23. Luke 4:18-19: The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.
24. 2 Peter 1:4: Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
25. John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
26. John 18:37: Then You are a king!” Pilate said. “You say that I am a king,” Jesus answered. “For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.”
27. John 6:38: For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of Him who sent Me.
28. John 20:21: Again Jesus said to them, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so also I am sending you.”
29. Mark 10:45: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.
30. Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
31. Isaiah 59:12-13: For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us. Our transgressions are indeed with us, and we know our iniquities: rebelling and denying the LORD, turning away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering lies from the heart.
32. Matt 4:17: From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

33. Romans 1:25: They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise! Amen.
34. Revelation 4:11: Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist and came to be.
35. Isaiah 24:4-5: The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and fades; the exalted of the earth waste away. The earth is defiled by its people; they have transgressed the laws;
36. Genesis 2:15: The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
37. Romans 1:21: For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
38. Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
39. Isaiah 59:13: turning away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt,
40. Acts 3:19: Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped away,
41. John 8:34: Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."
42. Rom 6:6: We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.
43. Isaiah 64:6: Each of us has become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.
44. Psalm 36:7: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
45. 2 Corinthians 5:20: Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.
46. Genesis 1:26: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."
47. Colossians 1:21: Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.
48. 2 Corinthians 5:19: that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation
49. 2 Chronicles 30:7: Don't be like your fathers, and like your brothers, who trespassed against the LORD, the God of their fathers, so that he gave them up to desolation, as you see

50. Joel 2:25-26: I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.
51. Philippians 3:19: Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things
52. Colossians 3:10: and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him
53. Mark 16:15: He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”
54. Isaiah 59:13; Psalm 107:11: Transgressing and denying the Lord, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words. Because they had rebelled against the words of God, And spurned the counsel of the Most High.
55. Romans 2:24: Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?
56. Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
57. Lamentations 3:21-23: But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
58. I John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
59. Romans 10:10: For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
60. Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.
61. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
62. Titus 2:11-14: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
63. 2 Corinthians 4:4: The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

64. Isaiah 49:6: “I will also make You a light for the nations, to bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.”
65. Isaiah 42:16: And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
66. Isaiah 43:10: “You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may consider and believe Me and understand that I am He.”
67. Isaiah 55:3: Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.
68. Isaiah 57:7: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”