Introduction

Men have tried to complicate a very simple assignment of Elohim, to the point the message has lost its cutting edge. Yeshua, Jesus came essentially as the Paschal Lamb, to die for the sins of the whole world.

John 1:29 (KJV) *29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

After His death and resurrection, He charged the Church to declare the good news of a solution to the hitherto intractable Sin problem to humanity so "whoever" believes shall be saved.

Mark 16:15-16 (KJV) *15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

The Great Commission is therefore, first and foremost, a declaration of the good news of salvation. However, the going forth of a believer is enhanced if he or she is first a witness to the power of Yeshua to save from sin as Acts 1:8 demands.

Acts 1:8 (KJV) *8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

It is essential to affirm that salvation of souls is just part of the whole picture and should never be treated as an end in itself. The reason is Yeshua, Jesus came not just to save the lost but also to ensure their transition from the kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God and from darkness to light!

Colossians 1:12-14 (KJV) *12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:* Ultimately therefore, there is need to have this full picture in focus, so the Church does not end up producing people who are "saved" and yet live by the philosophies of men driven by the influence of the Prince of the Power of the air.

A. The 'Cheapened Gospel' which is not based on the Great Commission

One of the reasons the Body of Yeshua seems to have been boxed into the corner of gathering Milk drinking babes is the utilitarian gospel is the wrong perception of what the Great Commission is. The outcome of this error is the wrong emphasis on numbers at Evangelistic meetings. In effect, most evangelists have rated their core assignment as merely to have the largest possible number of people fill out "decision cards" and say the "sinner's' prayer" and they consider their work done.

Nothing could be further from the truth. That someone filled a decision card or said the sinner's prayer does not make that one a saint. The broken lives which follow many who have done those two rituals attest to this truism. The careless way in which major ministers and ministries seem to have cheapened the process of entry into the Kingdom – in which repentance from Sin is not emphasized but rather certain rituals such as filling out 'decision cards' or mass repetition of the 'sinner's prayer' said with speed may be a function of what Yeshua warned against in the parable of the Tares.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (KJV) *24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed*

tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The reality that Satan is actively planting 'Christian Tares' is dawning on many saints across the world as they see many called by the Name of Yeshua live in active Sin as a lifestyle with no restraint! While those who are deceived remain blinded to their own sad states, Elohim is lifting the veil so His remnant can understand that scripture is being fulfilled through the watered-down gospel that is based on drawing crowds of people to popular preachers and ministries that are projected as 'successful' through the Mass and social media. In another passage of the Holy Scriptures, Yeshua clearly warned that two ways would be before all who desire to be part of His Kingdom and recommended all sincere seekers should choose wisely:

Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV) *13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

Further explanation of the two ways:

i. The Strait Gate and Narrow Way: This is one which requires true heart conversion with evidence in the fruit of a changed life and lifestyle based on choices which glorify Elohim.

Matthew 3:2, 7-8, 10 (KJV) *2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

ii. The Broad way which would not require people to experience heart change. In this case, they would be deceived into a false sense of security to flock around men and women who lead 'Churches' or 'Ministries' engaged in various kinds of religious activities in His Name but essentially not of Him!

Matthew 7:15-23 (KJV) *15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy*

name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Course Synopsis

It is needful therefore for us to wait on the Lord and download from His Throne a proper understanding of what the Great Commission is. Through various chapters we will examine different aspects of this critical course.

We shall therefore examine, among others, these issues: • What is the Great Commission? • What are components of the Great Commission? • Who is to execute the Great Commission? • In the post-modern Western culture, what are the range of tools that can be deployed? • What does it mean to be a witness? • What is the role of miracles, signs and wonders in the Great Commission?

The Great Commission: An Overview; Definition of terms

B. Understanding the Great Commission Question: What is the Great Commission?

Answer: The Great Commission is "the mandate Yeshua, Jesus gave to the whole Church to preach the full gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim to the whole world and make disciples of all nations as a prelude to His return to rule and reign on planet earth."

Matthew 28:**18-20 (KJV)** *18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Explaining this definition

A proper understanding of this working definition will clear much of the confusion which surrounds this critical mandate. Satan has laboured relentlessly to induce so much confusion amongst Christians to the

point what should have united all who claim to belong to Yeshua is now the very epicentre of controversy and division. Pentecostals are at war with Evangelicals; some who claim they are Kingdom citizens refuse to speak of the Great Commission. Where they do at all, it's to focus on gaps in the understanding of traditional Christian teachings on the gospel of Salvation to rubbish everything else about personal salvation. Satan must be laughing at those who claim to belong to Yeshua as they bicker with strident voices of self-righteousness!

If we all humble ourselves and allow the Word of Elohim to be the final authority over our lives, theologies and practices, all the divisions will disappear. This working definition postulates as follows:

1. Yeshua, Jesus is the one who mandates the Great Commission. His capacity to give the mandate flows directly from these realities: the fact He successfully completed the redemption mission by His unique, sinless life and role as teacher of the gospel of the Kingdom (John 14:30; Matthew 28:18).

- His passion and death as an appropriate sacrifice for the redemption of all who believe on Him (John 1:29; John 19:30).

- the fact that He rose again as proof that the Father received His shed blood as sufficient to atone for the original sin of Adam (1 Corinthians 15:12-23; Hebrews 9:1-28);

His Ascension to heaven to sit at the place of glory and honour until the day He returns (Acts 1: 9-11; Hebrews 10:11-18). **2. The Great Commission is a mandate**. It is not a suggestion. It is not something any true saint can opt out of or be excused from. It is a mandate or Command which is tied to the very reason why we were saved in the first place and translated from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Elohim and left here on planet earth. In Yeshua, Elohim poured out His love in order that we will be saved and translated into His Kingdom (John 3:16; Colossians 1:12-14, 21-23).

In the economy of Elohim, the love He poured out to us embraces and grips us to be channels through whom that same love is transmitted and expressed to those who are yet in darkness (2 Corinthians 5:15-21).

We are saved to serve Elohim and be instruments of saving as many as can receive Him and also become citizens of His Kingdom.

3. The Great Commission is a Mandate to the Whole Church. The Church is the Body of Yeshua – the totality of all who have put their faith for salvation from Satan and sin in the atoning work of Yeshua, Jesus at the Cross. The Church is beyond human comprehension and can only be received by revelation and by acceptance of the testimony of the Word of the Lord. The Great Commission is for every single person within the fullness of the Body of Yeshua to execute. It is not just for healing evangelists; it is not just for "evangelicals" neither is it an exclusive preserve of a select few. All saints are called to identify their appointed places in the Great Commission and fulfil it! The corporality of The Great Commission is defined clearly in the wordings of this passage. Please note the use of 'they', 'them':

Mark 16:15-18 (KJV) *15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

4. The Great Commission mandates us to preach the full gospel of the Kingdom of Elohim. It is unfortunate that Christian Religion, otherwise known as 'Churchianity' has operated largely in the dark concerning the Kingdom

Matthew 24:14 (KJV) *14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* This message is the awesome opportunity for lost humanity to reconnect back to Elohim through the blood Yeshua Jesus shed and be translated from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of Elohim. It is a message that provides solutions to the present needs of mortal man so he/she can find and live out the present phase of an eternal life. It is also a message which gives meaning to life as it switches from blind loyalty to self and Satan and makes pursuit of Elohim and His Kingdom a priority (Matthew 6:19-34).

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) *33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

This takes away pressure arising from the rat race to "succeed" and releases righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17-19) into the heart or spirit-man of a saint. It is also a message of hope that answers the question of the ages concerning what next after this life as we receive assurance of the roles we will play when Yeshua, Jesus returns physically to rule and reign as

King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Whoever will leave off this holistic package to preach only about salvation from sin is not doing well and will only produce babes who are ever consumers of the grace of God, unable to mature as sons in the Kingdom of Elohim!

5. The Great Commission mandates us to make disciples of all nations!

Yeshua did not just send us to gather crowds of milk-drinking babes. The sad state of most believers is described in this:

Hebrews 5:12-14 (KJV) *12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

While sinners come into the Kingdom as Babes needing milk, embedded in the Great Commission is a strategic plan to be intentionally pursued which grows those who believe on Him to one day transition to be followers of Him!

Matthew 28:**19-20 (KJV)** *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: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

- Two aspects of this discipleship deserve further examination: **We are not just to help people to be saved.** That they should be disciples of Yeshua is not an option. It is the focal point of our work. But, our aim should not to be for them to fill decision cards or just pray 'sinner's prayers' with cameras rolling. That is but the beginning of a process. The Lord wants those who believe in Him to be nurtured to become saints who take responsibility for furthering the cause of the Kingdom. Again, we are to locate our own part in this holistic process and play it well.

Ultimately, we must rise in the dimension of the Spirit to subdue all opposition to ensure whole nations and people groups are discipled! As Elohim provides opportunity in response to our right understanding and earnest prayers, we can be given on behalf of Yeshua, the nations for an inheritance. That way, the ethics of the Kingdom can be brought to bear on such peoples and nations and they can enjoy the righteousness, peace, joy and prosperity of those whose believe in the Elohim of the Holy Scriptures. Elohim will also raise up many of His saints to prominence at various levels of society, so they can exert Kingdom influence on their peers, systems and generation. It needs to be explained however that the majority of humans will reject the ways of Elohim and the free Salvation offered through Yeshua. They will suffer the consequence of such rejection. A day is coming when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of Yeshua!

Revelations 11:15 (KJV) *15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

6. Yeshua, Jesus will return to rule and reign on earth!

The mandate given to the Church is time bound. Elohim has appointed a date and time which no man knows when Yeshua will return to subdue all rebellion and establish the full phase of the Kingdom (Matthew 24:36,44; Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:8-11).

The period between the day Yeshua ascended to heaven and poured out the Holy Spirit till when He will return in Majesty and Power to rule and reign from Jerusalem is called the Church age of the Kingdom. The dominant instrument on earth through which Elohim manifests Himself and reveals Yeshua is the Church. The Church is not the building but the sons of Elohim who are called out of this world system and its evil ruler, Satan. Any preaching that does not announce His return is incomplete and potentially open to satanic manipulation! (Matthew 24:1-51)

- When saints are persuaded that the King will return on a date known to no one and He will rule and reign with overcomers, they will Live holy, stay unspotted from the world system, watching and praying like the wise Virgins of Matthew 25.
- They will invest all at their disposal – life, money, time and other assets to fulfil the Great Commission, knowing full well that reigning with Him is sufficient compensation!

Selected critical readings: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:36-53;

Please read also these parables and illustrations: Luke 19:11-17; Further readings include: Luke 14:15- 35; Luke 15:1-32; Luke 16:19 -31; Luke 17:20-37

Review Questions

1. Please discuss the cheap 'Alternative Gospel' which makes many tares to be planted in the Church, bound for destruction on the Last day

2. What is the Great Commission?
3. Please discuss any 3 of the 6 bases on which the Great Commission rests.