



## Two Great Commissions

Two commissions were given by God to human beings. The first Commission was given to Adam by God when Adam was created. The second Commission was given by Jesus to his disciples.

These two commissions are different in some ways. The first Commission took place when there was no sin on earth. The second Commission took place when Jesus paid the price for sin and made a way for salvation from sin to all who would believe. The first Commission was given at a time when there were no nations on the earth. The second Commission was given so that Jesus' disciples might spread the Good News to all the nations of the earth.

The two commissions are alike in many ways. Both talk about going into all the world. They both give directions about what should take place in the future.

The Commission given by Jesus is possible because Jesus fulfilled the first Commission by being the last Adam and turning the direction of humanity around, so that human beings could have hope of an eternal future with God. This was only possible because Jesus paid the price of our sins when he died on the cross. Only because of this was it possible to move God's plan for humanity onto what God had always intended, that human beings could spend eternity with Him. God's intention had always been that all the earth might belong to people who believed in Him and served Him.

Let's look at the Commission Jesus gave to His disciples and the commission given to Adam:

<b>Genesis 1:28-30 – God gave to Adam</b>	<b>Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus gave to disciples</b>
<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." <sup>29</sup> And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.	<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

God commissioned His people to go out into the world. In this lesson we will consider:

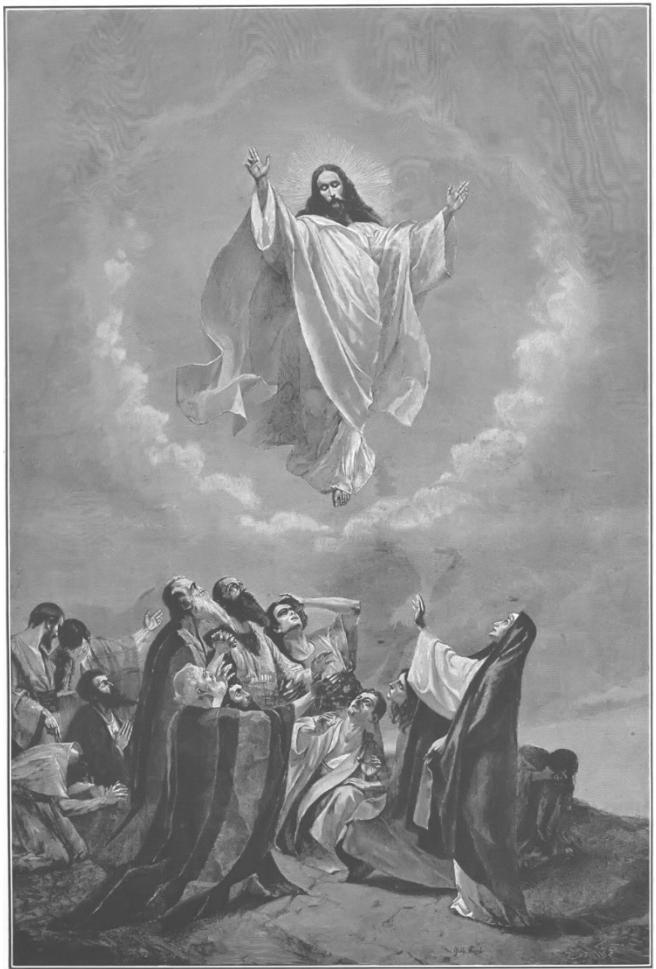
- How did Jesus fulfill the commission given to Adam?
- How can we fulfill the commission given to Jesus' disciples?

## How did Jesus fulfill the commission given to Adam?

God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to guard and protect it (Genesis 2:15). Instead, when an unclean animal, a serpent, entered the Garden, Adam did not drive it out or kill it, as he should have done. Not only did he not drive it out, he talked to it. And, not only did he talk to the serpent but he followed the words of the serpent instead of the words of God.

At the beginning of His ministry Jesus was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 4:1-13). Not only did Jesus resist the temptations of Satan, but Satan left Him alone and departed from Jesus (Luke 4:13). Almost immediately Jesus began to drive evil spirits out of people who were possessed by them. Adam should have driven the serpent from the Garden. Jesus did drive evil spirits out of the land of Israel.

There are many other ways that Jesus fulfilled the commission given to Adam. The greatest example of Jesus' fulfillment of Adam's Commission was when Jesus died on the cross He paid the price of sin (Colossians 2:14). Jesus demonstrated His victory over the power of sin and death when He rose from the grave. Jesus succeeded where Adam had failed.



## How can we fulfill the commission Jesus gave to His disciples?

By fulfilling the commission given to Adam Jesus was able to fulfill God's plan by allowing those who bear the image of God (Genesis 1:26) to bring God's image throughout the world. When Adam sinned, he could not bring the image of God to the whole earth, because he no longer portrayed the image of God. Jesus was the image of God in a way that Adam was not (Hebrews 1:3). This was largely because Adam was a copy, but Jesus was the original. Jesus was God in human flesh. He was the perfect image of God because He was God. When a person believes in Jesus, he bears the true image of God and he is able to do many things Jesus did, including believing in God.

**Receiving** – Believers must receive the Gospel when it is shared with them. No one can believe in Jesus as Savior until they receive the message of the Gospel which is usually when hear someone tell them about what Jesus has done for them. In the "Great Commission" Jesus told His disciples to tell other people everything that He had taught them (Matthew 28:20). So, the first step is to respond the Gospel, or to receive the Gospel message.

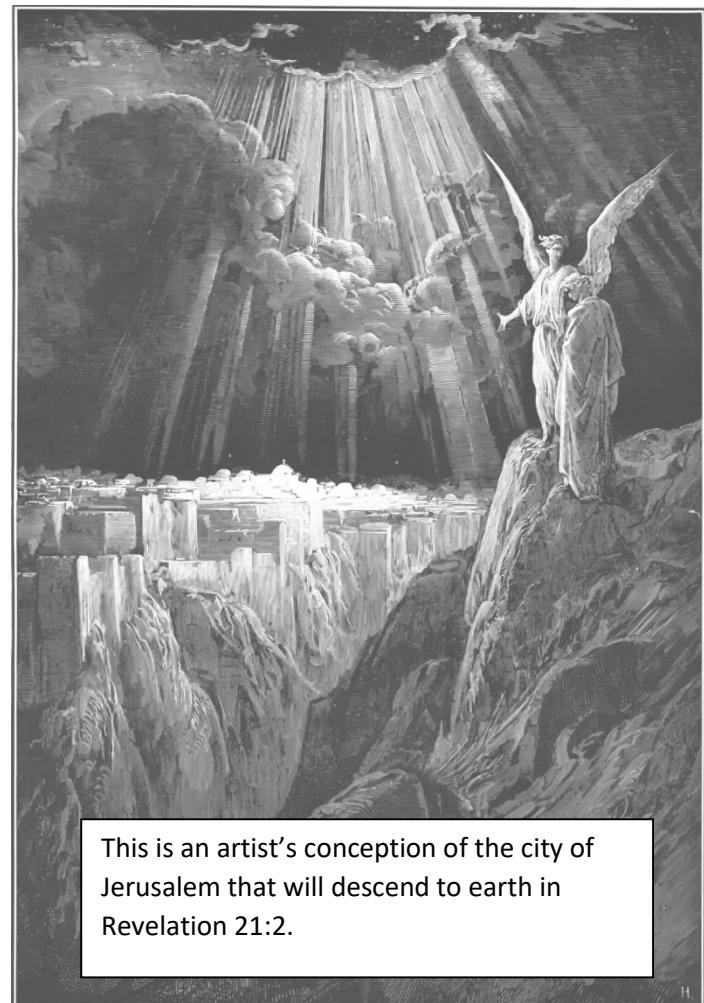
**Believing** – Those who believe in Jesus are saved by faith. It is not something that the believer does. The believer cannot earn His salvation. It comes only by what Jesus has done for the believer, when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. When a believer trusts Jesus to save them from their sin, then everything that Jesus has done for them will make them new.

**Living** – Believers bear spiritual fruit. People know believers by their love for each other (John 13:35). When God the Father looks at a believer He will see only the righteousness of Jesus in that person, because Jesus Christ has made that person into His own image (Romans 8:29). Love for other believers and righteousness are the kinds of fruit believers bear.

So, how do we know if others see the love of Christ in us, or if God sees the righteousness of Christ in us? True believers bear spiritual fruit (John 15:8 & 16). What if you're not sure whether you are bearing spiritual fruit? If you are struggling with this, pray and ask Jesus to help you. He promised that He is with those who believe in Him. He wants you to bear fruit. If you truly want to bear fruit for Jesus don't give up. It may take time and persistence, but Jesus will cause you to bear spiritual fruit.

**Giving** – After beginning with a foundation of love for others, we will see that sharing the Gospel with others is a natural expression of our love for them. We will want to share the joy of fellowship with Jesus with others because we care about them and want them to share this joy with us. Jesus commanded that His disciples share the Gospel with others (Matthew 28:19-20). But this is not a tedious chore. It is something that should flow naturally from living according to the Gospel. We share the love we have received from Jesus when we share the Gospel with others.

God gave a commission to Adam, which Jesus fulfilled. Jesus gave a commission to his disciples which He can give you the ability to fulfill.



This is an artist's conception of the city of Jerusalem that will descend to earth in Revelation 21:2.

## **The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20)**

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And Jesus **came** and **said** to them, “All **authority** in **heaven** and on **earth** has **been given** to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all **nations**, **baptizing** them in the **name** of the **Father** and of the Son and of the **Holy Spirit**, **teaching** them to **observe** all that I have **commanded** you. And **behold**, I am with you **always**, to the end of the age.” ([ESV](#)) -- Exported from [Logos Bible Software](#).