

# You Are Part of the Story

By Kyle Bailey  
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Most of us are very familiar with the last two verses in the book of Matthew. Jesus tells his followers to, **"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"** (Matthew 28:19–20). The book of Acts and other historical records confirm their obedience to this Great Commission. They carried the Good News of Jesus throughout the world with zeal and abandon. And, with the exception of John (who died in exile on the island of Patmos), all the original apostles were martyred because of their allegiance to Jesus.

As we read their stories, we may ask ourselves, "Why?" What empowered and motivated these disciples to follow Christ and make Him known—even unto death? The disciples heard Jesus, trusted Jesus, witnessed His crucifixion, and, against all hope, they saw Him alive again, risen from the dead. Yet, even with all their first-hand experience walking alongside Jesus, they still were confused. They could not see how it all fit together. It was not until Jesus revealed to them the full meaning of Scripture, that they understood the big picture.

A few days after the resurrection, two followers of Christ were given a preview of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and introduced to the Grand Narrative of God's Word. Walking on the road to Emmaus, Jesus, **...beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, ...interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself** (Luke 24:27).

After hearing the story of Jesus in context they exclaimed: **Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?** (Luke 24:32).

A few days later, Jesus gave His disciples the same gift. **[H]e opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should**

**be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."** (Luke 24:44–48).

In doing this, Jesus broke through their crushing disappointment that came from their false expectations of the Messiah. Jesus opened their eyes to the rest of the story—the full arc of His redemptive plan, from the Garden to the New Creation. God desired to use His chosen ambassadors to make His name known.

After Jesus opened their hearts to see the full story of Scripture, they understood the words of Jesus as they could not before. They saw how the Great Commission fit within the testimony of Moses and the prophets. They believed He was the Creator God, Yahweh, Messiah, and that He loved them and chose them and was inviting them to take part in changing the world and advancing His Kingdom on earth. And they responded to His Great Commission with joyful obedience. The Book of Acts tells their story. The Book of Acts also foreshadows your story.

God is inviting you into the Grand Narrative of redemptive history. As you follow God's calling to love your neighbors and reach the lost, you will have a story to tell—a testimony—of His work in and through you.

Dawson's Missions team would love to talk with you and discuss how God is calling you to serve in missions this year. We encourage you to join in the story that will continue to the New Creation, where we will see **a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, worshipping the Lamb of God for all eternity** (Revelation 7:9).



**Kyle Bailey** is Dawson's Associate Minister of Missions. Originally From Marietta, GA, Kyle graduated from Beeson Divinity School in 2013 with a Master of Divinity. Kyle and his wife Ali served primarily with mission partners in South Asia and Latin America. They have two children, Thomas and Claire, and a Goldendoodle, Gus.