

announcing the kingdom the story of gods mission in the bible unknown edition by charles e van engen dean s gilliland arthur f glasser 2003

Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible is a thought-provoking work that delves into the essence of God's mission as portrayed throughout the biblical narrative. Authored by Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Arthur F. Glasser in 2003, this book serves as a crucial resource for understanding the theological foundation of mission work in Christianity. It not only emphasizes the importance of God's mission but also highlights the narrative threads that connect the Old and New Testaments. This article will explore the key themes, structure, and implications of the book, providing insight into its significance for both theological scholars and everyday believers.

Overview of the Book

"Announcing the Kingdom" is a comprehensive examination of the concept of mission in the Bible. The authors approach this complex topic by weaving together various biblical texts, theological reflections, and historical contexts, creating a cohesive narrative that illustrates the overarching theme of God's mission.

The Authors' Background

The collaborative effort of Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Arthur F. Glasser brings a wealth of experience and insight into the study of missions:

- Charles E. Van Engen: A noted missiologist and professor, Van Engen has contributed extensively to the field of mission studies, emphasizing the importance of contextualization in mission work.
- Dean S. Gilliland: As a veteran in the field of mission theology, Gilliland has focused on the relationship between the church and its mission, advocating for a biblical understanding of outreach.
- Arthur F. Glasser: Renowned for his contributions to the academic discussion on missions, Glasser's work emphasizes the narrative of God's mission throughout the entirety of Scripture.

Key Themes Explored in the Book

The authors identify several key themes that run throughout the biblical narrative, which are essential for understanding God's mission.

1. The Kingdom of God

At the heart of the book is the concept of the Kingdom of God. The authors explore how this theme is introduced in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. They emphasize that:

- The Kingdom is both a present reality and a future hope.
- It encompasses God's reign over creation and His redemptive work through Christ.

2. The Role of the Church

Another critical theme is the role of the church in God's mission. The authors argue that the church is not merely a gathering of believers but a vital instrument through which God works to fulfill His mission. Key points include:

- The church's responsibility to proclaim the gospel.
- The importance of community and fellowship in mission work.

3. The Narrative of Redemption

The authors skillfully weave the biblical narrative of redemption into their discussion. They trace God's redemptive plan from Genesis through Revelation, illustrating how each part of Scripture contributes to the overarching story of salvation. This narrative includes:

- Creation and the fall of humanity.
- God's covenant with Israel.
- The coming of Christ and the establishment of the church.

Structure of the Book

"Announcing the Kingdom" is structured in a way that facilitates understanding of the complex themes discussed. The book is divided into several sections, each focusing on different aspects of God's mission.

Part One: The Biblical Foundation

In the initial sections, the authors establish a biblical foundation for the mission of God. Here, they analyze key texts from both the Old and New Testaments, highlighting how these scriptures inform our understanding of mission. Key texts include:

- Genesis 12: God's call to Abraham.
- Isaiah 49: Israel as a light to the nations.

- Matthew 28: The Great Commission.

Part Two: Historical Context

The second part of the book delves into the historical context of biblical missions. The authors examine how historical events and cultural changes have influenced the mission of the church throughout the ages. This includes:

- The spread of Christianity in the early church.
- The impact of the Reformation on mission thinking.
- Modern missionary movements and their challenges.

Part Three: Theological Reflections

The final sections focus on theological reflections regarding mission. The authors discuss the implications of God's mission for contemporary believers and the church. They address questions such as:

- What does it mean to be a part of God's mission today?
- How should the church engage with the world in light of the biblical narrative?

Implications for Contemporary Mission Practice

The insights provided in "Announcing the Kingdom" have significant implications for contemporary mission practice. The authors encourage readers to consider the following points:

1. Contextualization

The book stresses the importance of contextualizing the message of the gospel in different cultural settings. This involves understanding the local context and adapting the mission approach accordingly.

2. Holistic Mission

The authors advocate for a holistic approach to mission that addresses not only spiritual needs but also physical, social, and economic concerns. They argue that mission should be comprehensive, reflecting the nature of God's kingdom.

3. Empowering Local Communities

A key takeaway is the necessity of empowering local communities to take part in mission work. The authors encourage collaboration between local churches and missionaries, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among believers.

Conclusion

In summary, "Announcing the Kingdom: The Story of God's Mission in the Bible" serves as an essential resource for understanding the profound and multifaceted nature of God's mission as detailed in Scripture. Through their thorough examination of key themes, biblical narratives, and historical contexts, Charles E. Van Engen, Dean S. Gilliland, and Arthur F. Glasser provide readers with a deeper appreciation for the role of the church in advancing God's kingdom. This book not only enriches theological discussions but also inspires practical engagement in mission work, making it a vital read for both scholars and practitioners alike. The themes and insights presented within its pages continue to resonate today, reminding all believers of their calling to participate in the mission of God.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary theme of 'Announcing the Kingdom' by Van Engen, Gilliland, and Glasser?

The primary theme of 'Announcing the Kingdom' revolves around the concept of God's mission as revealed in the Bible, emphasizing the importance of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and understanding the narrative of salvation history.

How does the book address the role of the church in God's mission?

The book discusses the church's vital role as a community called to participate in God's mission by sharing the message of the Kingdom, fostering discipleship, and engaging in social justice.

What insights does 'Announcing the Kingdom' provide regarding cultural contexts in mission work?

The authors highlight the necessity of understanding and adapting to various cultural contexts when announcing the Kingdom, encouraging missionaries to be sensitive to the surrounding culture while remaining faithful to the biblical message.

In what ways does the book emphasize the continuity of God's

mission from the Old Testament to the New Testament?

The book illustrates the continuity of God's mission by tracing the narrative from the Old Testament through the life of Jesus and into the early church, showing how each part of the scripture contributes to the overarching mission of redemption.

What practical applications does 'Announcing the Kingdom' offer for modern-day missionaries?

The book provides practical applications such as strategic planning for mission initiatives, building relationships within communities, and integrating prayer and worship into mission work, all aimed at effectively communicating the message of the Kingdom.

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