

Session One

INTRODUCTION TO MOBIOLOGY

Welcome to our study on mobiology. We will begin this first session with an explanation of just what mobiology is, its key points and its significance to the Church and to every believer.

A. What is Mobiology?

Mobiology is an expression of theology focusing on God's quest to **qualify a people** for royal status to rule and reign with God over His kingdom of a new heaven and earth, and for all eternity.

- Rulership over God's creation was God's **original design** for those created in His likeness and image (Gen 1:26¹; Hab 2:14²)
- The 'fall' led to mankind's pursuit of his own glory. But the current age of 'man' will come to an end and will give way to the reign of God.

The kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Rev 11:15).

- God will have a people **called, prepared** and chosen, to reign together with Him over His new world (Rev 21:1).

*There will be no more night. They (God's people) will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they (God's people) **will reign for ever and ever** (Rev 22:5).*

God's original design is fully realized for all eternity.

B. Biblical Background to the Chosen People of God

Adam and the Initial Design

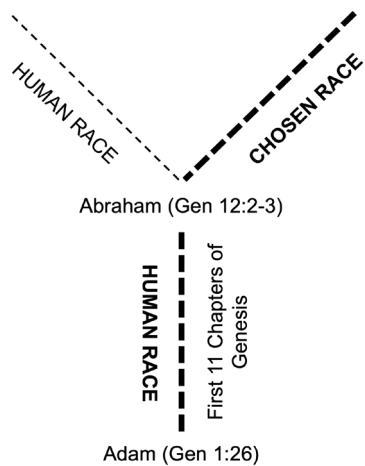
Beginning with Adam, God's quest for such a people becomes a major theme throughout scripture. Being designated a king and a priest in the Garden of Eden, Adam, sadly, failed to fulfil his calling and qualify for this royal inheritance.

Abraham and the Covenant

After Adam, God's quest for a chosen people, continued with Abraham, when, after a focus on the development of the **human race**, recorded in the first 11 chapters of Genesis, the Bible's story branches off to focus on the story of a **chosen race**.

¹ Ge 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness,

² Hab 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.



Genesis 12:2-3¹ makes it very clear that God is seeking a people, referred to as His ‘treasured possession’ (Ex 19:5²), from among all the peoples of the earth.

This people would be a ‘**chosen people**’, a nation wholly for the Lord, in order for God to then, through them, bring His kingdom blessing to all the nations of the world (Ps 67) and, in fact, to all God’s creation (Ro 4:13).

Abraham’s Family Becomes the Nation of Israel

Abraham’s family then morphed into Israel the nation, with King David and King Solomon, providing somewhat of a picture of kingly and priestly rulership over all the nations (1 Kgs 4:34³).

Transition to the New Testament

God’s chosen people, now in Christ, are no longer representing one ethnic people but emerging from every nation, tribe, and tongue (Rev 7:9⁴) and referred to as His glorious inheritance (Eph 1:18⁵).

C. Preparation of God’s People for God’s New World

What makes Mobiology important, as a distinct theological discipline, is its focus on ‘the preparation of God’s **called people** to become His **chosen people**’, chosen for ‘royal duties,’ and qualified to rule and to reign in God’s coming new world. In fact, most of the Old Testament is a record of God working to prepare a people for such Kingdom rulership. And now, in the New Testament, God is continuing this quest with His chosen people, who are now ‘In Christ.’

Jesus said many are called, but few are chosen (Mt 22:14). Progressing from a called people to a chosen people is a journey and a journey that demands completion. For this reason, God’s people are referred to as pilgrims – pilgrims on a journey. Psalm 84 references Zion as the pilgrim's destination, which is symbolic of kingdom rulership (Heb 12:22).

¹ Ge 12:2,3 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

² Ex 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession, although the whole earth is mine.

³ 1 Ki 4:34 From all nations people came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

⁴ Rev 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

⁵ Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

1. The Journey from Faith to Faithfulness

The Race Analogy

Heb 12:1 *Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

Heb 9:15 *...that those that are called might receive the promised eternal inheritance.*

Heb 2:5 *It is not to angels that He has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.*

A Collective Race for All of God's People in Every Age

The people of God in the New Testament must finish the race that was started by the people of God in the Old Testament (Heb 11:40¹). The completion of our 'race' will determine when this age and all ages will come to an end, and God's new and eternal age will begin. As Paul states in 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Upon us the end of the ages has come."

We are running the last lap of a race that started with Adam and continued with Abraham and the children of Israel and now continues with us and concludes with us in the New Testament!

Three Things to Understand about the Race

- We must run as if to win
- Winning results in a prize (1 Co 9:24, 25²)
- Every believer can win and obtain the prize (Heb 12:2; Rev 3:21)

Is it Possible to Miss Out on the Prize?

According to Paul, the answer is yes. Yes, it is possible to miss out!

1Co 9:27, *I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be **disqualified for the prize.***

Paul is not talking here about one's salvation; he is talking about missing out on the inheritance promised by God to those who have 'been saved'.

Sadly, today many Christians incorrectly think that being born again or being saved means that they have finished the race. Not so! Christ has qualified us to enter the race, a race that 'we must run'. Run well and finish. Jesus will 'complete the good work He has begun in us' (Phi 1:6), but we must commit to the race, do the running and not give up! 'Run,' says Paul, 'in such a way as to get the prize' (1 Co 9:24).

So, faith in Christ qualifies us to begin the race, and faithfulness to Christ and the life He has called us to is the race we must run.

¹ Heb 11:40 *...since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

² 1 Co 9:24-25 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

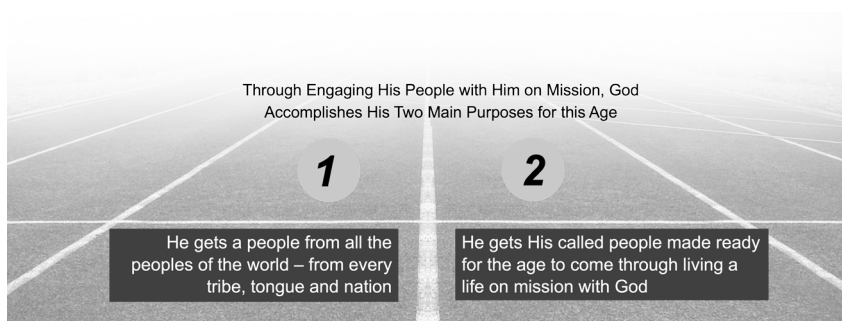
2. The Nature of the Race - MISSION

Scripture is always the best interpreter of scripture. And when it comes to our pilgrimage or the race, scripture is clear, it is **mission** – living a life on mission with God. Mission is the track on which we run, the pathway on which we journey.

Adam was asked to live a life on mission with God, as was Abraham and the Children of Israel, including David and Solomon, as was Jesus and as is every - follower of Jesus.

3. The Transformative Power of Mission

Why is mission so important? Because through engaging His people with Him on mission, God accomplishes His two main purposes for this age.



No wonder Paul said that living God's way (or godliness) holds promise for the life that now is and for the life that is to come (1 Ti 4:8).

And if all God's people need to be living a life on mission with God, then every church needs to be a missional church, facilitating God's people into this missional lifestyle!

Summary and Closing

Mobiology addresses all the critical concerns of 'all God's people on mission with God' and 'every church a missional church,' as we shall see as we journey through our series.

So, the Bible's story, in its simplest description, is a story of God and His people. It is a story of God calling out a people from all the nations of the world and preparing them for His eternal age to come, of a new earth where righteous dwells (2 Pe 3:13). And through this awe-inspiring story, God is not only telling us His story but writing us into the very story itself!

And as we journey, we will discover that God's story provides us with a vision worth living for, a pilgrimage worth committing to, and a race worth running and running well!