

THE PAST IS NOW

Living in a Mission Field

Recap on last session

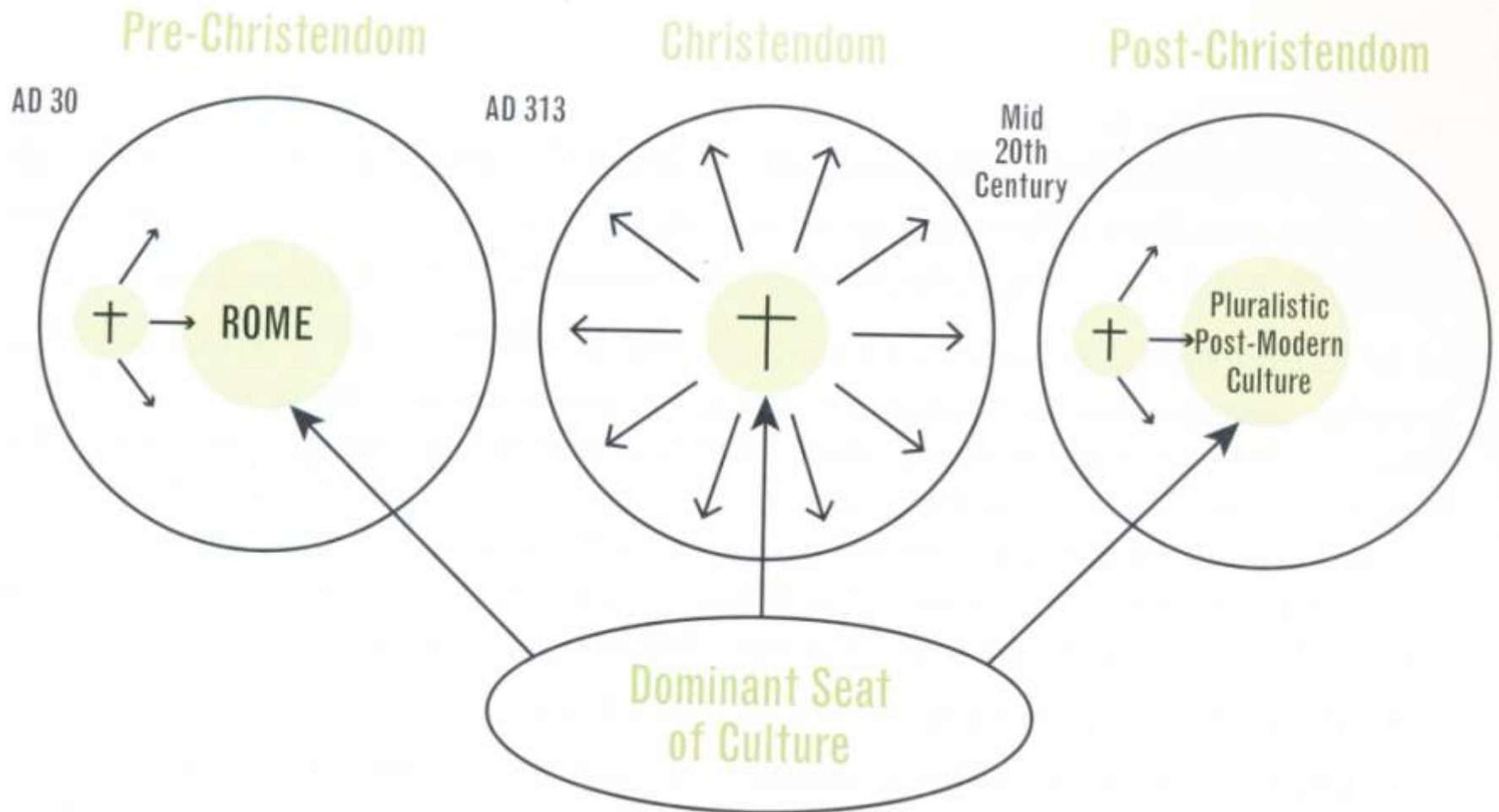
- ▣ **God wants to restore a broken world**
- ▣ **The church as God's missionary**
 - **Past - individuals called by God (DJS/MS parents)**
 - **Today – it's the Church**
- ▣ **Mission is an organising principle so not optional**
- ▣ **Its about being a team; seeing what God is doing and joining in**
- ▣ **Andy and David's take away was a question**
 - **What's your role is this?**

Goals

If as church we are the sent, then we need to.....

- ▣ Recognise that we live in a post-Christian culture**
- ▣ Reflect on influence of Christianity on culture**
- ▣ Reflect on the impact of changes**
- ▣ Look at how we respond to the Missional task God has set us in a post-Christian culture**

Christendom



Pre-Christendom



Christendom



Post-Christendom



Reflection

▣ QUESTION:

What examples come to mind when you think about the influence of Christianity on our society?

Areas of Influence

- ▣ **Calendar**
- ▣ **Language**
- ▣ **Names**
- ▣ **Sports**
- ▣ **Marriage**
- ▣ **Education**
- ▣ **Human Rights**
- ▣ **Women**
- ▣ **Children**
- ▣ **Charity**
- ▣ **Folklore/ Myths**
- ▣ **Government & Law**
- ▣ **Health**
- ▣ **Finance**

Quotation – How Christianity Changed the World

- ▣ **“No other religion, philosophy or teaching, nation, movement, whatever has so changed the world for the better as Christianity has done. It’s shortcomings, clearly conceded by the author, are nevertheless heavily outweighed by its benefits to all mankind.”Alvin J Schmidt**

Reflection

▣ QUESTION:

What things come to mind when you think about the diminishing influence of Christianity?

Diminishing

- ▣ **Calendar**
- ▣ **Marriage**
- ▣ **Family**
- ▣ **Education**
- ▣ **Women**
- ▣ **Government**
- ▣ **Law**
- ▣ **Finance**
- ▣ **Church**
 - **Seen as irrelevant**
 - **Drop in church attendance**
 - **Decline in conversions**

<http://youtu.be/M-5nzBX79m4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYK9iCRb7S4> (**Rivers of Babylon**)

Exiles in a Foreign Land

Jeremiah 29:1-9

- ▣ **Letter from the Prophet Jeremiah to the remaining elders among the exiles in Babylon**
- ▣ **Taken captive in 597 BC by Nebuchadnezzar**
- ▣ **False prophets were saying it's a short captivity**
- ▣ **Jeremiah advises them to settle down and live normal lives**
- ▣ **Because.....exile will last 70 years**
- ▣ **Daniel; Shadrack, Meshack and Abednigo**

Jeremiah 29:1-11

4 This is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God, to all the exiles I've taken from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 "Build houses and make yourselves at home. "Put in gardens and eat what grows in that country.

6 "Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that you'll thrive in that country and not waste away. 7 "Make yourselves at home there and work for the country's welfare. "Pray for Babylon's well-being. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you."

Jeremiah 29....

8-9 Yes. Believe it or not, this is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God: "Don't let all those so-called preachers and know-it-alls who are all over the place there take you in with their lies. Don't pay any attention to the fantasies they keep coming up with to please you. They're a bunch of liars preaching lies—and claiming I sent them! I never sent them, believe me." God's Decree!

Reflection

How do you think you would feel if you were exiled to a place you did not know?

Reflection

As Christians how can we connect with friends and neighbours today in our post-Christian society?