

CHAPTER 1

**NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF
THE BIG PICTURE**

A biblical theology of mission



WATCH PART 1 OF THE VIDEO

1. In our world of pain, what gives you a sense of security and purpose?

Read Isaiah 2:5. In Israel's world of the eighth century BC, half a century of peace suddenly ended. Aggressive Assyrian kings descended on the ten Northern tribes of Israel and subjected them to brutal foreign rule. The southern kingdom of Judah looked to unholy alliances for their protection. But Isaiah proclaimed the word of the Lord to the kings of Judah. In this world of pain and of change, 'look not to earthly security, but to God alone (see for example Isaiah 2:5, 7:4 and 55:6) for you are God's chosen people and you are to be witnesses to God's redemptive purposes.'

- 2a. **Read Isaiah 55:1-7**

Look at verses 1 to 5. Why are the people of God being 'glorified' (verse 5)? Is this passage relevant to us today as we face the changes of a new century?

Read Isaiah 55:6-7 again

- b. In the light of the 'big picture' described in the first chapter of the book *God's Mission and Ours*, identify why God wants us to 'seek him'.

- c. Do we really want others (our friends and people of other religions) to 'seek him'?

Read Isaiah 55:11

3. God's word was made known to Abraham and to the children of Israel. It was proclaimed by Jesus and by Paul to the Gentiles (as outlined in this first chapter of the book *God's Mission and Ours*). What are some of the ways in which you are part of this big picture, passing on to others the promises of God?

Read Isaiah 55:12

- 4a. When have you been or will you be filled with joy?

- b. When is God filled with joy?

5. God knew that Adam and Eve would disobey him and from the foundation of the earth he determined how redemption would occur and planned the new heaven. God could have decided not to create humans—was it worth all this effort and pain?