



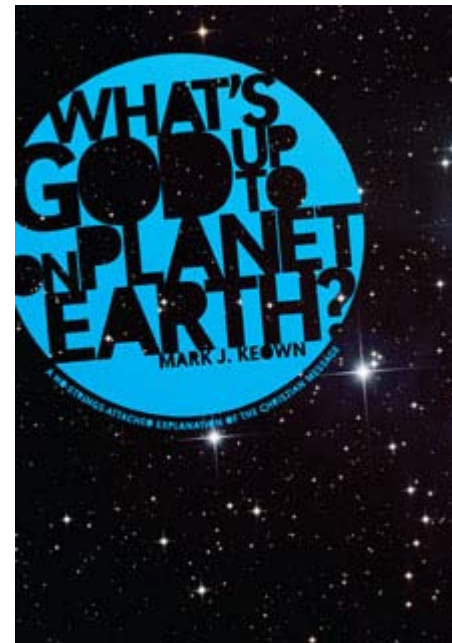
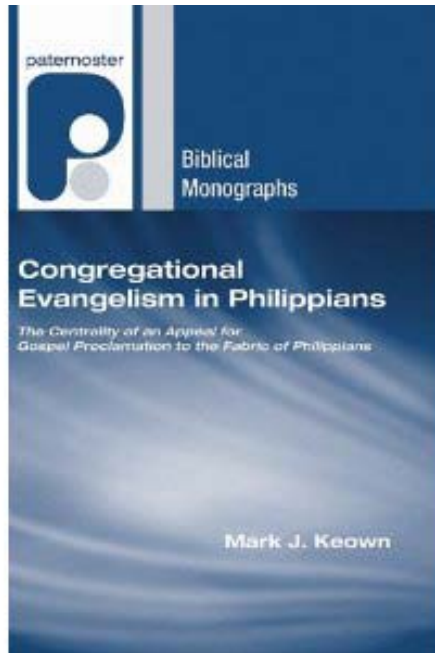
Telling the Story of Jesus

a fresh look at evangelism in New Zealand

CHURCH LEADERS' DAY

EVANGELISM AND THE BIG STORY

Mark Keown



Telling the Story of Jesus: a fresh look at evangelism in New Zealand



A great tool for evangelism in today's world.

Have you ever wondered, 'Why am I here? What's gone wrong with the world? What is the answer? How will it all end? What do I have to do to know God?' *What's God up to on Planet Earth?* is a no-strings-attached presentation of the Christian message written for those who are seeking answers to questions like these.

Mark Keown gives a compelling vision of a loving God whose vision is the restoration of the whole world. This tract focuses on the individual person and how they fit into this inspiring vision. It is a must-read for those seeking to better understand the Christian faith.



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Dr Mark J. Keown's new 16 page tract is available as an A6 booklet and can be ordered online from www.castlepublishing.co.nz/whats-god-up-to-tract.html

Indicative image only



Telling the Story of Jesus: a fresh look at evangelism in New Zealand

What is the place of evangelism in the Big Story?



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The Big Story

- *A Former Narrative*: ‘God is in the business of saving people so evangelism is really all that matters.’
- *A Modified Narrative*: The Great Cosmission of God.
- ‘God’s great project’ (Wright, *Romans*, 596-97).
- The Great Cosmission: God’s mission to restore his *kosmos* (Keown, *What’s God Up To*, 66).
- *Missio Dei* (God)—*Missio Trinitatis* (Trinity): *Missio Patris* (Father), *Missio Christi* (Christ), *Missio Spiritis* (Spirit).
- Cosmission: ‘The mission of God, Father, Son and Spirit, to restore his fallen world and humanity through the power of love and goodness.’



1. Relationship

- The original intention of creation can be summed up with the word ‘relationship:’
- With God
- With Each Other
- With Creation (filling, building, caring)
- With Self
- ‘We are working with God for the restoration of all four elements: restoration of relationship with God, personal restoration, the restoration of human community and the restoration of creation.’



2. Rupture

- ‘The sad truth of the Big Story; is that there has been a “Fall,” a “Rupture” of “universal” or cosmic proportions whereby the original intention has been violated and evil has now penetrated every aspect of the created order.’
- Relationship with God shattered
- Human relationships torn apart
- Created order under threat
- Humans are sinful and broken
- ‘It is as if the virus “Evil” has been downloaded into the mainframe of planet earth corrupting God’s world.’



3. Restoration

- ‘Moved by his enormous compassion our missionary Triune God is at work restoring his world. He has not given up on it. He never will. He isn’t like that.’
- Seen in the new heavens and earth (Rev 21-22)
- Liberation from corruption (Rom 8:19-23)
- Kingdom of God (Mark 4:30-32; Matt 5:13-16; 13:24-33)
- Noah’s Flood and Judgment (Matt 24:36-44; 2 Pet 3:1-9)
- Jesus! Transformer of the heart, restorer of friendship with God, creator of a new humanity, renewer of creation.
- Spirit!



4. Return

- ‘At this time, when the big story has penetrated God’s world to his satisfaction (Mark 13:10), God will move decisively to complete the work of restoration dealing with every resistance to his rule, whether spiritual or human’ (Rom 8:19-23; 1 Cor 15; Rev 20-22 etc).
- Everything otherwise will be swept away, removed eternally—a destruction followed by renewal i.e. Death and resurrection.
- ‘In the present, out of grace and mercy, he withholds this day, giving time for the Big Story to penetrate all parts of his world to his satisfaction.’



The Elements of Cosmission

1. Being Spirit-Led
2. Love and Service
3. Restorative Communities (the Church)
4. Worship, nurture and growth
5. Partnership—local, national, global
6. Social Justice
7. Building and Restoring Society
8. Hope and conviction in suffering
9. Ecological responsibility
10. Preservation of the Big Story
11. Evangelism



What Is Evangelism?

- The *euangel-* set of Greek terms: announcing the good news.
- A definition: ‘Led by the Spirit and motivated by love, evangelism is the communication of the good news of the salvation and lordship of Jesus Christ with an invitation to every person to submit to God for the ultimate restoration of human society and God’s world.’
- ‘Evangelism is the primary vocation of some... Who lead the mission by *preaching* the gospel... And *equip* the rest of the body to evangelise ...’
- ‘Evangelisation is an imperative which all believers carry with them in every situation... Which will shape the way that they relate to the world.’



What is the Place of Evangelism?

- All elements are vitally important
- Mission works best when *all* elements are working together in harmony
- It is *one mission* made up of *many* parts, functions and roles e.g. A body, a team, an army, a business, a government i.e. Fluid, dynamic, many parts



What is the Place of Evangelism?

- ‘Evangelism is an absolutely non-negotiable and central element of God’s Cosmission’
- The Great Commission lies at the heart of the Great Cosmission!



Why It is Non-Negotiable and Central

1. All elements of mission depend on evangelism
2. God has placed humanity at the centre of His story
3. Jesus prioritised evangelism
4. Its importance to the early Christians
5. The story demands its own proclamation
6. It is the power of the gospel that saves



So Evangelism...

- Evangelism is a non-negotiable in all ages of the church
- The church dies without it
- In every generation it must be retold
- It is the starting point for mission
- It is the hub of the wheel that is mission
- It is the head of the river that is mission
- We don't wait to have everything in place, for 'what counts, is that in every way, Christ is proclaimed' (Phil 1:18)



Some Thoughts on Evangelism in NZ Today

1. We must not underestimate the challenge of the times
2. Evangelism and gift of evangelist is marginalised
3. The saints are not equipped as they could be
4. The gospel is often reduced (holiness, prosperity)
5. A flawed and imbalanced attraction model dominates
6. The gospel has become abstracted from the big story: people need to see, experience, and hear the gospel
7. We need to pray more and be more Spirit-led
8. Children's, youth and university ministries
9. A rising new opportunity



A Final Thought (Col 4:5-6)

Pray for us...

That God might open a door for our message

So that we might proclaim the mystery of Christ

That I might proclaim clearly, as I should.

Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders;

Make the most of every opportunity.

Let your logos be always

be full of grace,

seasoned with salt

So that you may know how to answer everyone.



Question, thoughts, responses



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