



Communion

March 24, 2024

“This cup . . . the
New Covenant in my Blood”

*26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NASB 1995)



Earlier Paul had declared

*²³ but we preach **Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NASB 1995)



Before the last supper Jesus had declared

¹⁸ “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,¹⁹ and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

Matthew 20:18-19 (NASB 1995)



Jesus looked through his death to the joy beyond.

*¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on **Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB 1995)



At the last supper (first communion) Jesus said

¹⁹ *And when He had taken some **bread** and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “**This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**”*

²⁰ *And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “**This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.**”*

Luke 22:19-20 (NASB 1995)



The blood of the Old Covenant

¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'
Leviticus 17:11 (NASB 1995)



This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

*¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because **they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.** ¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

Hebrews 8:10-12 (NIV) quoting Jeremiah 31:32-34



27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." John 10:27-30 (NASB 1995)



*¹³ “I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, **One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days, and was presented before Him.** ¹⁴ “And to Him was given **dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him.***

His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14 (NASB 1995)



After his resurrection Jesus declared

*¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB 1995)*



At His ascension to heaven angels declared

*⁹ And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. ¹¹ They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? **This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.**” Acts 1:9-11 (NASB1995)*



10 days later at Pentecost Peter declared

³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ . . . ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”’

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” Acts 2:32-36 (NASB 1995)



Jesus identified the Throne and the Footstool

*³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either **by heaven,** for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the **earth,** for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.*

Matthew 5:34-36 (NASB 1995)



Summary so far

1. New Covenant declared at the last Supper (first communion)
2. Jesus Crucified
3. Jesus Resurrected
4. Jesus declares He has all authority in Heaven and on Earth, and announces the great commission
5. Jesus Ascends to heaven
6. Jesus is Seated at the right hand of Father God waiting until His Enemies are made a footstool for his feet



What's our role?

Jesus said . . .

¹² *"I can assure you that **whoever believes in me will do the same things I have done. And they will do even greater things than I have done, because I am going to the Father.***

John 14:12 Easy-to-Read Version



Paul identified the real fight that is going on

¹² Our fight is not against people on earth. We are fighting against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness. We are fighting against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12 Easy-to-Read Version



We have been rescued from this world's darkness

*He rescued us from the domain of darkness, **and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**
Colossians 1:13*



So – where do we start?

*¹⁶ and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. ¹⁷ And He began to teach and say to them, “Is it not written, ‘**My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations**’? But you have made it a robbers’ den.” ¹⁸ The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching. Mark 11:16-18 (NASB 1995)*



Jesus expected us to seek His guidance

When you pray . . .

Matthew 6:5-7

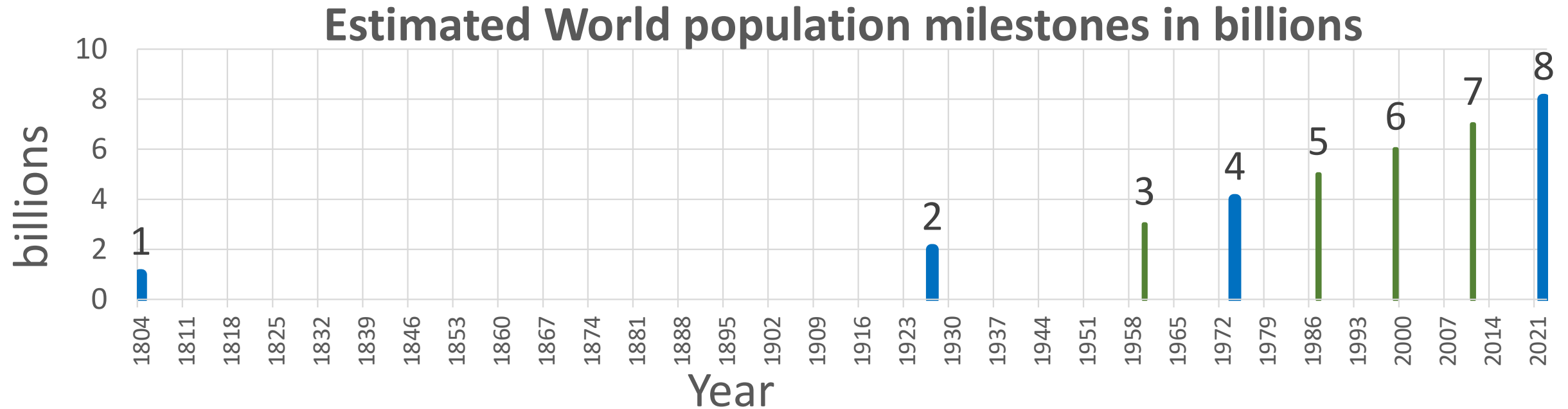
When you fast . . .

Matthew 6:5-7

These are disciplines that help us hear His voice and guidance



For what reason? Let's look at the big picture!

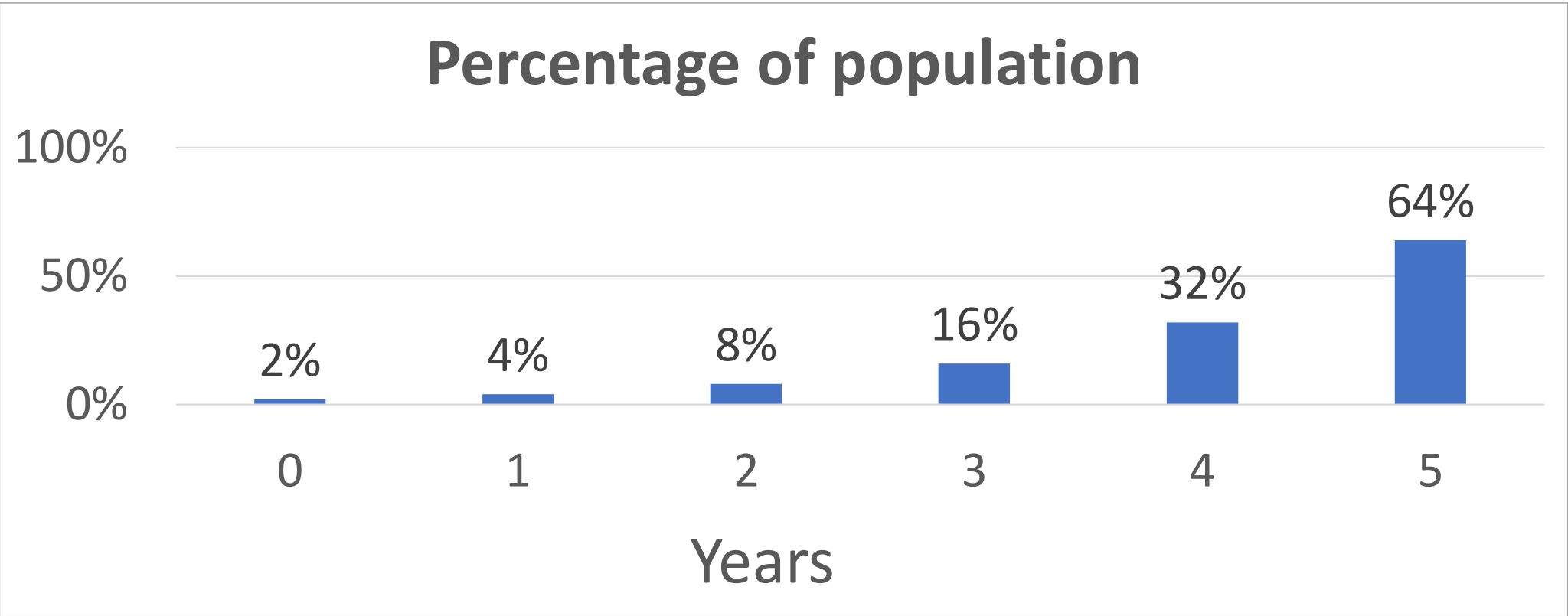


World population milestones in billions (Worldometers estimates)								
Year	1804	1927	1960	1974	1987	1999	2011	2022
Population	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Years elapsed		123	33	14	13	12	12	11
Years to double		123	47					48



The world coming to Christ – One person at a time

If 2% of our society were Christians that were able to lead one person a year into a relationship with Christ and these new Christians in turn did the same



Things we can do

1. Pray and listen for Jesus's voice and do what He tells us to do!
2. Pray for those who are going out and making disciples
3. Pray for those who are oppressed and persecuted
4. Pray for wisdom and guidance in how to participate in the fight against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly places so that Father God will make Christ's enemies a footstool for His feet.
5. Pray for revival!



Being aware of the poor and needy

³⁴ 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

Matthew 25:34-36 (NASB 1995)



Like it was for Joshua, it is an ongoing process

² “. . . cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. ³ Every place on which the sole of your foot steps, I have given it to you . . .” Joshua 1:2-3 (NASB)



Paul's closing prayer in Ephesians 1

¹⁸ I pray that God will open your minds to see his truth. Then you will know the hope that he has chosen us to have. You will know that the blessings God has promised his holy people are rich and glorious.

¹⁹ And you will know that God's power is very great for us who believe. It is the same as the mighty power ²⁰ he used to raise Christ from death and put him at his right side in the heavenly places. ²¹ He put Christ over all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings. He gave him authority over everything that has power in this world or in the next world. ²² God put everything under Christ's power and made him head over everything for the church. ²³ The church is Christ's body. It is filled with him. He makes everything complete in every way.

Ephesians 1:18-23 (Easy-to-Read Version)





Communion

Keep hold of the elements and
we will pray together

Personalised prayer based on Ephesians 1:18-23

¹⁸ Our Father in Heaven we pray that you will open our minds to see your truth. Then we will know the hope that you have chosen us to have. We will know that the blessings you have promised us your holy people are rich and glorious. ¹⁹ And we will know that your power is very great for us who believe. It is the same as the mighty power ²⁰ that you used to raise Christ Jesus from death and put him at your right side in the heavenly places. ²¹ Father God, you put Jesus Christ over all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings. You gave Jesus authority over everything that has power in this world or in the next world. ²² you have put everything under Christ's power and made Him head over everything for the church. ²³ We the people of your church are Christ's body. We are filled with Him. He makes everything complete in every way.

