

What Is Your Mission?



Week Four

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Acts 7:20–36

IDENTITY BEFORE MISSION

A pattern emerges in the creation account of Genesis 1: first God identifies what He is creating, and then He gives its purpose or mission. First He called out the light, which, divided from the darkness, was to demarcate the day from the night. The identity of what He was creating (i.e. the firmament) was established before He elucidated its purpose (i.e. to divide the waters from the waters).

Given the sequential manner in which God creates—the light before the plants, and the plants before the animals, for instance—it becomes apparent that He is intentional. God already knows the purpose of His creation and creates with that purpose in mind. The pattern of introducing the identity of the creation before its purpose is maintained throughout the chapter. We may deduce that God intended for the reader to recognize that identity precedes mission.

Before we are introduced to Adam and Eve's mission to “be fruitful, and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...” (Gen. 1:28), we are introduced to their identity (Gen. 1:27) as beings created in the image of God. This differentiates their mission to “be fruitful and multiply” from that given to the sea creatures and winged fowl (Gen. 1:22). Whereas the mission is limited to physical fruitfulness and multiplication for the fish and birds, it has intellectual and spiritual implications for humans who are created in the image of God.

Mission cannot be understood fully until identity is understood. By the same token, a misidentification will lead to a mischaracterization of the mission. Put differently, we do not know what we should be doing if we do not know who we are.



inScribe

Write out Acts 7:20–36 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Acts 7:35, 36. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Acts 7:20–36. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are the fears that keep you from pursuing your goals?

Are you more easily swayed to abandon your mission by fear of discomfort or by the promise of greater comfort in disobedience?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/will4-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What answers does the Bible provide about the continuity, uniqueness, and affiliation aspects of your identity?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will4-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Exodus 2:11-14
- Exodus 3:9-4:14
- Hebrews 11:23-27



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Acts 7:20-36?

Review your memorized verse from Acts 7:20-36.

A large grid of small dots for writing answers, covering the right two-thirds of the page.



Where do you see Jesus in
Acts 7:20–36?



How is Jesus like Moses, as well
as unlike him?

How do you see Jesus differently
or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to
seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at
www.inversebible.org/will4-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of the
chapter, what are personal
applications you are convicted
of in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your public
and social life?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/will4-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What does the command to be fruitful and multiply mean for your intellectual, emotional, and spiritual life?

If nothing could stop you, what would you dream of accomplishing for God?

Is there a situation in your life right now that seems as impossible as the likelihood of baby Moses living through Pharaoh's death decree on all newborn boys? What are you doing about it?

Do the people closest to you understand your God-given mission? Why or why not?

How do you define yourself? Where do your ideas about yourself originate?

To what extent should our families and societies shape our identities?