

During Summer 2018, in my effort to follow God's leading, I launched a third iteration of my professional ministry endeavor. I called it MJ3, my third missionary journey for Advancing God's Kingdom™. For me, then, I pivoted from Occupational Cultures into full-time Sabbatical Cultures by Spring 2019. This is what "Follow Me" means to me: leave everything and get to preaching the kingdom.

- I intended to devote my 24/7 energy to the Lord in seeking to persuade other humans to submit to and follow the Lord all the days of their lives – like I was actively seeking to do:
 - to seek first His Kingdom and righteousness (Matt 6:33)
 - to communicate the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt 24:14)
 - to store up treasures for the next cosmos (Matt 25:31-46)
 - to make disciplemakers (Matt 28:18-20).
- In my zeal and fellowship with the Lord, while digging deeper I saw some wonderful connections, not the least of which is God's clear delineation of strategy: what He "sees" (Vision), what He does (Missions), and why He does it (Values).

I. Creator's Vision: When God "looks down the road" what is the ending He is intending?

- Answer: "the new heavens and new earth" (Rev 21 & 22)
- He envisions the Eternal Kingdom, the pre-eminent satisfaction where we reign with Father, Son, Spirit in perpetual perfection (Rev. 22:5).
- I call it Cosmos 2, as I gleaned from fellowshiping with Father.

II. Creator's Missions: Where are we and where do we go from here? From Now to Eternity.

- Since the first Christmas, humans are in the year of our Lord, *anno domini*ⁱ --
- The Church for all Nations to enjoy what the former missions prepared --
 - that God so loves the creatures of this cosmos, particularly the humans driven by DNA, that He provided perfection for us.
 - We just receive Him.
- "But to as many as received Him to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe on His name" (John 1:12-13).
- "He who has the Son has the life" (1 John 5:12).
- "All authority" on heaven and earth has been given to the Son (Matt 28:18-20).

And the testimony is this:

that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

The one who has the Son has the life;

the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

III. Creator's Values: What should we value now? How do we store up treasure in heaven?

- Jesus presents His expectations in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7).
- Here is a **half-page chart** that **exegetes** and **exposits** the *Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5–7), structured around the **topics Jesus covered**, as an expression of **His Values for His People**:

Section	Topic/Theme	Jesus' Value for His People	Scripture
1 Kingdom Character	The Beatitudes	Humility, mercy, purity, peacemaking, joy in suffering	Matt. 5:1–12
2 Kingdom Influence	Salt & Light	Public witness, cultural impact through good works	Matt. 5:13–16
3 Kingdom Righteousness	Fulfilling the Law	Heart-level obedience, surpassing external religion	Matt. 5:17–20
4 Kingdom Relationships	Anger, reconciliation, lust, marriage, oaths	Radical love, forgiveness, purity, truthfulness	Matt. 5:21–37
5 Kingdom Generosity & Grace	Retaliation, love for enemies	Non-retaliation, proactive love, reflection of God's mercy	Matt. 5:38–48
6 Kingdom Devotion	Giving, prayer, fasting	Sincere, God-centered worship and dependence	Matt. 6:1–18
7 Kingdom Priorities	Treasures, anxiety	Eternal perspective, trust in God's provision	Matt. 6:19–34
8 Kingdom Relationships with Others	Judging others	Gracious discernment, humility	Matt. 7:1–6
9 Kingdom Prayer	Asking, seeking, knocking	Persistence in prayer, trusting God's goodness	Matt. 7:7–12
10 Kingdom Discernment & Commitment	Narrow gate, false prophets, wise builder	Discernment, wholehearted obedience to Jesus' words	Matt. 7:13–27

Summary:

God's Vision: creating a new cosmos in which perfection stretches into eternity.

God's Mission: seek and save humans from deception.

God's Values: conducting a perfect rescue operation.

One Further Distinction

God's Vision, Mission, and Values reveal a pattern for faithful stewardship.

Individuals, families, organizations, churches, businesses, and communities all benefit from thoughtfully defining their own vision, missions, and values in ways that reflect the character and purposes of the Creator. Writing them down promotes clarity, strengthens accountability, and encourages intentional action.

Leadership is practiced through daily stewardship. Individual decisions become consistent habits; habits shape character; character influences culture; and, over a lifetime, faithful stewardship leaves a legacy.

Jesus taught that the greatest investments are not measured solely by earthly success, but by eternal significance. Every act of compassion, every word of truth, every faithful responsibility, and every opportunity to serve another person becomes an investment in treasures that endure.

Most Kingdom work is not dramatic. It is found in ordinary conversations, quiet acts of kindness, patient encouragement, faithful labor, and practical care for people carrying burdens that may be invisible to others.

The Good Samaritan illustrates this pattern of life. Having first received God's mercy, His people are called to extend that same mercy through faithful stewardship of the opportunities He places before them each day.

As God's Vision shapes our vision, His Mission shapes our mission, and His Values shape our values, our lives increasingly reflect the character of the One who created us and entrusted us with the privilege of serving others for His glory.

ⁱ The following is from ChatGPT: "The term "**Anno Domini**" is Latin and indeed became widespread in **medieval** and **early modern Europe**, including the **16th century**. Let's break it down:

 **Meaning: Anno Domini** = "*In the year of (our) Lord*"

- **Anno** = year
- **Domini** = *of the Lord* (genitive of *Dominus*, meaning *Lord*, referring to Jesus Christ)

📖 It is usually abbreviated as **A.D.** and placed *before* the year number in older English usage:
A.D. 1500 = *In the year of our Lord 1500.*

Historical Background

- The system was devised in **AD 525** by **Dionysius Exiguus**, a Scythian monk, to calculate the date of **Easter**.
- He sought to replace the previous system, which counted years from the accession of **Emperor Diocletian**—an emperor known for persecuting Christians.
- Dionysius chose to **count years from what he calculated as the birth year of Jesus Christ**, although modern scholars believe Jesus was likely born a few years earlier.

Usage in the 16th Century

By the **16th century**, *Anno Domini* was a common term in European legal documents, religious writings, and scholarly texts. It served several purposes:

- To **Christianize the calendar**, framing all of time around the incarnation of Christ.
- To mark important legal and royal documents with an explicit **reference to Christ's lordship** over history.
- To provide a **unified dating system** in international and ecclesiastical correspondence.

In **Latin**, you would often find phrases like: *Factum est hoc anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo quinto.* (*This was done in the year of our Lord 1595.*)

A Few Notes

- The phrase *Anno Domini* was part of a broader worldview that saw **Christ at the center of history**.
- It was typically used in **formal contexts** (not everyday speech).
- The corresponding "**Before Christ**" (B.C.) terminology came **later**—in the 17th century.