

God's Eternal Purpose for Us

Ephesians 1:9

1. God knew billions of years ago what He was going to do in time. There never was a time when God didn't know what He was going to do. He knew all about us, what we would and would not do.

LET'S DEFINE HERE THE MEANING OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE AND PLAN – *"IT IS THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL HE IS ABOUT – HIS DESIGN AND TOTAL FORMULATION OF EVERYTHING IN THE ETERNAL AGES PAST."*

2. The plan and purpose centers in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in [1 John 3:23](#) and [Ephesians 1:4-6 & 9](#).
3. Entrance into the plan can only come by means of God's Grace. Here the Sovereignty of God and the free will of man meet at the Cross. They meet without any merit on man's part – a marriage of Grace and Faith. In Grace the work is accomplished by God while man receives, enjoys and gains the benefits totally apart from his own efforts. Man's works, talents, thoughts, organizational abilities will not gain the GRACE and FAVOR of God. Man receives totally because of Grace.
4. The Father's Plan was so designed in the past to include all events, actions, related to their causes and conditions as a part of an indivisible system, every link being a part of the integrity of the whole. NOTE HERE A THEOLOGICAL DEFINITION FOR THIS PLAN: "The purpose, design of God is His eternal, wise, holy and sovereign plan, comprehending at once all things that ever were or shall be in their causes, conditions, succession and relationships and determining their certain futurism. (Futurism defined: "a recent artistic doctrine requiring complete abandonment of traditional usage and reconstruction of art and life on the basis of the dynamic, revolutionary, mechanical present and future.")
5. Without interfering with human choice in any way, God has designed a plan so perfect that it does not interfere with choice, includes cause and effect, directive, provision, preservation, and function for all believers. None excluded.
6. In His plan, God has decreed to do some things directly and some things through the agency of Israel and the Church and some through individuals.

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7. Therefore, there are primary and secondary functions within the plan of God.
8. The Plan of God is consistent with human freedom. God does not limit or coerce human freedom, but a distinction must be made between what God causes (the CROSS) and what God permits (SIN). God created man with free will and permits human choice to function and this is how Adam sinned. **GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SIN. MAN'S CHOICE IS THE SOURCE OF SIN.** God does not tempt or authorize sin.
9. Man does have free will and God never condones sin in the human race. God always warns man of sin and its consequences.
10. Distinction should be made between the eternal purpose of God which is related to the design of God, and divine laws which regulate human conduct and function in the universe. The laws of nature and establishment are for blessing in a national entity.
11. As a principle of logic, God's does not come from His foreknowledge. The foreknowledge makes nothing certain, it simply perceives in eternity past the things that are certain.
12. There is a difference between foreknowledge and foreordination – the decrees made certain; foreordination establishes certainty while foreknowledge does not. Nothing can be known until it is decreed. I Peter 1:2; Romans 8:29; Acts 2:23
13. Therefore, the elect are foreknown and the foreknown are elect. God knew ahead of time which way every free will would decide at any given point in history. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN DIVINE COERCION!** (Jude 1) God's plan anticipates every decision and as free will decides so God decrees (purposes). John 3:36; I John 3:23
14. Since God cannot contradict His own character, He plans the best for the believers. God is perfect and His plan is perfect. His plan is to take every believer to the mountain peak of the EZ Life as rapidly as possible and keep him there as long as possible. This is the reason the Lord has given to us the books of Ephesians and Hebrews – as parallel epistles. In Ephesians, we see God and the decrees – His design, and in Hebrews we see the universal priesthood. God cannot contradict His own character and therefore He has designed

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the best for every believer. Since God is perfect, full and complete, His plans and provisions are perfect, full and complete.

15. The cross was designed (decreed) in eternity past, but the human volition of Christ decided for the Cross at Gethsemane. (Matt. 26:39; Matthew 26:42) God provided salvation for you through the cross, but you must choose (John 3:36) in time.
16. No design of God opposes human freedom, but once a choice is made from free will, then your entrance into the plan of God by faith in Jesus Christ means that the function of the decrees does limit your human freedom – while at the same time giving you your volition, your freedom to serve God. You are limited because your limitation is designed to put you on the GRACE HIGHWAY AND KEEP YOU THERE. As a believer, you can never be satisfied with anything other than that which was designed for your satisfaction – which includes:
 - Cleansing of sin
 - Filling of the Holy Spirit
 - Saturation with the Word
 - Occupation with Christ
 - Wisdom
 - Spiritual House of the Soul
 - Grace Abounding Life – the Echo Zone Life

For a believer to have inner happiness, he or she must choose to function under God's plan. Non-perceptive Christians, or those deliberately opposing God's way, will be on a frantic search for happiness and *will not find it*. ***THIS IS THE REASON FOR SO MANY PERPLEXED, MISERABLE AND CONFUSED CHRISTIANS TODAY!!!***

THE SOONER A BELIEVER GETS ON GOD'S GRACE HIGHWAY, THE SOONER GOD IS FREE TO POUR BLESSINGS UPON HIM!!!