

GOD HAS A PLAN AND YOU ARE IN IT!

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN?

If you would ask 100 individuals what God's plan was, you may find 100 differing versions of their understanding of God's plan for mankind. Some common answers would be that those who are "Saved" will go to heaven and all others are "Lost". A few who view God's broad love would place all into heaven. And there are those who have become discouraged with world events who would question if there was an Almighty God and if so, what happened to His plan?

God's ways are higher than our ways, His plans are broader, grander, more just and loving than we can begin to conceive or even begin to understand. (Romans 11:33, 34) There was a plan before the creation of Adam. There was a plan from the offer to Abraham to the exiting of the Hebrews from Egypt and leading them back to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. There was a plan with an exact time of the birth and death of the promised Messiah. And there is a plan for the returning of that Messiah to bring about restitution of mankind from sin and death for all the "Saved" and all the "Lost". Yet if there is a plan, how can the truth of God's plan be found and be sure that it is not just some theory of man?

FINDING THE TRUTH

The Bible continues to be the Christian's standard for measuring right and wrong, truth and error. Yet, THE TRUTH—the promise by promise outline of God's plan for humanity, stretching into eternity—has not come easy for followers of the Master.

Anyone who has earnestly sought the deeper understanding of the Scriptures merely by reading page after page, and chapter after chapter, can attest to the difficulties of finding THE TRUTH by such a study. How varied have been the impressions gleaned by even its most ardent students! History is well marked by the heated controversies of those men of valor, and who, finding a truth, dedicated a lifetime to proving and setting it forth.

Who has not heard ...

... of Luther's stand on Justification by faith, leading to his bitter denunciation of the error of indulgences?

... of John Wesley's belief that special favor of the Lord comes to *all* men simply by their acceptance of the blood of Jesus, thus opposing the predestination belief of Calvin, who limited the grace of God to but a chosen *few*?

... of William Miller's revitalization of hope in the promise of our Lord's return?

... of others who went on to prove that the Bible taught that the dead are dead and "know not anything" and that eternal torment is not the penalty of sin?

The Bible has contained, truth by truth, God's plan of salvation. But through all the efforts of past saints since the days of the apostles, THE TRUTH, as a complete outline of our Heavenly Father's drama of the ages, remained obscure until the time clock of the universe struck. Then the secret of topical and chronological study of the Bible was revealed in a writing called, "The DIVINE PLAN of the AGES."

Indeed, GOD HAS A PLAN! By prophecy and promise this plan is woven into his Word not chapter by chapter, but rather, as the Prophet Isaiah related, "precept upon precept; line by line; ... here a little, and there a little."—Isaiah 28:10

Man sinned. Death, cessation of life, followed. Angels tried to solve earth's dilemma, but the Flood of Noah's day erased the tragedy of their vain efforts. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob came on the scene and, with them, the promise of a coming kingdom! But it did not come in their day!

The Jewish nation and the Law followed, with special favors leading unto Christ. And with the First Advent of our Lord, God's great plan of salvation continued to unfold. Here was the perfect life needed to erase the sin of perfect Adam before the blessings of the promised kingdom could flow to humanity. Jesus' life given, man was guaranteed a return "from the land of the enemy"—death.

But 1900 years have come and gone, and still there has been no resurrection of the dead. Why the long delay?

Another part of God's plan was being carried out. A special heavenly call was sent forth, selecting out of the world (both Jew and Gentile) a bride for Christ—calling out one here and one there. The qualifications are strict and the candidates are few, as the Master proclaimed, "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, ...and few there be that find it."—Matthew 7:14

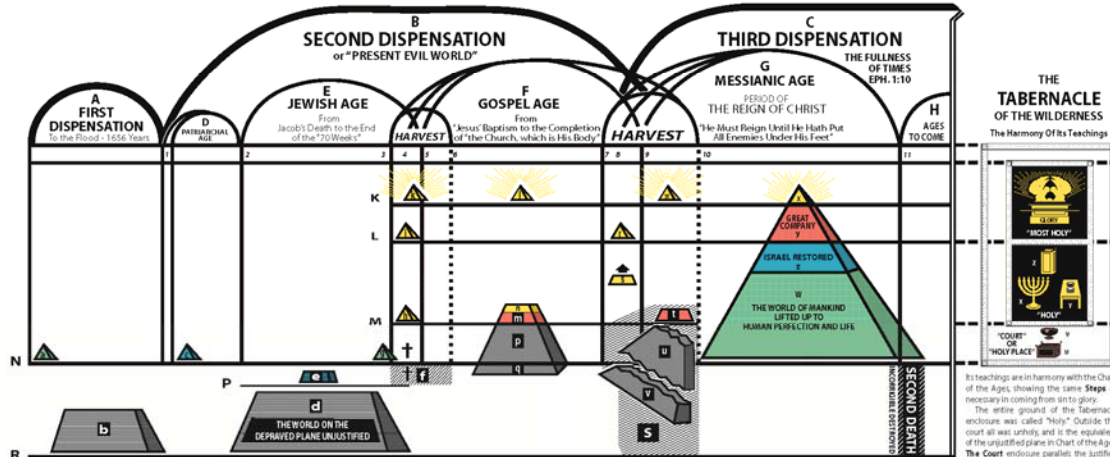
These faithful few (still being called from amongst men) who sacrifice their lives as Jesus did, will be privileged with him on high to lead the rest of humanity out of their graves and out of despair, up a highway called "holiness" to a perfect life on earth, in answer to our mutual prayer: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done *in earth*, as it is in heaven."—Matthew 6:10

Then, together, in that kingdom, will all men find and know THE TRUTH.

The NW Indiana Bible Students invite you to visit WWW.BLESSEDBIBLE.COM for a topical Bible study approach to find answers to your questions about God's plan.

Chart of the Ages

From Paradise Lost to Paradise Restored



"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2

Its teachings are in harmony with the Chart of the Ages, showing the same Steps as necessary in coming from sin to glory. The entire ground of the tabernacle enclosure was called "Holy." Outside the court all was unholy, and is the equivalent of the unjustified plane in Chart of the Ages. The Court enclosure parallels the justified or Perfect Human plane. The "Holy" represents the condition of consecrated Christians; **Begotten of the Spirit**. The **Most Holy**, beyond the second wall, represents the **Perfect Spiritual** condition when "we shall be like Him." The glory plane is still further along the grand climax of hope — "Glorious, Honored and immortal."

Examples of studies offered on BlessedBible.com.

- Chart of the Ages Study
- Hope Beyond the Grave
- Hope For A Fear Filled World
- How To Study The Bible And Have It Make Sense
- I Will Come Again
- No One Is "Left Behind"
- When Death Itself Will Die