



ETERNITY PAST

1

God's Plan In Eternity Past

- God foreknew (1 Pet 1:20) and loved Jesus before the foundation of the world (John 17:24)
- saints were chosen by God before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4)
- names written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8; 17:8)
- wisdom was established "from the earliest times of the earth" (Prov 8:23)



JEWISH AGE

2

God's Plan For Israel

- revealed to Abraham (Gen 15:13–16)
 - appointed length of the Jewish Age (Dan 9:25)
 - plan for Egypt (Isa 19:12)
 - planned all of Assyria's conquests long ago (Isa 37:26–27)
 - plan for Edom (Jer 49:20)
- plan for Babylon (Jer 50:45; 51:12)
- plan for Jerusalem (Lam 2:17)
- "plans that I have for you" (Jer 29:11)
- circumvents idolatry (Isa 48:3–5)
- Israel is foreknown (Rom 11:2)
 - Jesus will reveal things hidden from the foundation of the world (Matt 13:35)
- coming of the Messiah (Micah 5:2)
- events of Jesus' life purposed and predestined (Acts 4:27–28)
- Jesus was "delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23)

Session on the FATHER'S THRONE (Ps 110:1; Rev 3:21)



ASCENSION



CHURCH AGE AND TRIBULATION

3

God's Plan For The Church Age And Tribulation

- appointed the times of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24), "last days" (2 Tim 3:1), "later times" (1 Tim 4:1), and "last times" (1 Pet 1:20)
- purpose for Jesus (Eph 1:9)
- saints chosen by the foreknowledge of God the Father (1 Pet 1:1–2)
- saints predestined to be adopted, justified, conformed to the image of Jesus, receive an inheritance, and be glorified (Rom 8:29–30; 9:23; 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:5, 11)
- good works prepared beforehand (Eph 2:10)
- greatest tribulation of all time (Matt 24:21–22)
 - end of the ages (1 Cor 10:11; Heb 9:26)
 - progressive revelation: parts of God's plan remain hidden until the proper time (Acts 17:30; Eph 3:9; Col 1:26)



SECOND COMING



MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

4

God's Plan For The Millennium

- planned the Millennial Kingdom before the foundation of the world (Matt 25:34)
- appointed "times of refreshing" (Acts 3:19)
- prophets revealed "the period of restoration of all things... from ancient time" (Acts 3:21)
 - will last 1000 years (Rev 20:4)
- ruled by Jesus (Isa 9:7; Luke 1:32–33)
- "time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom" (Dan 7:22)
- reunification of Israel (Ezek 37:22)
 - peace and prosperity (Isa 9:6–7; 54:10; Joel 2:21–27)
 - "all things summed up in Christ in the fullness of the times" (Eph 1:10)
 - "then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father" (1 Cor 15:24)

ETERNAL KINGDOM

5

God's Plan For Eternity

- create a new heavens and earth (Isa 66:22; Rev 21:1)
- set up a kingdom that will endure forever (Dan 2:44)
- saints receive the kingdom forever (Dan 7:18)
- show kindness and the surpassing riches of his grace to His people (Eph 2:7)



God's Plan: God's plan for the world includes creation, seven dispensations, the entrance of sin, the angelic conflict, a Redeemer, salvation, a people of God, God's plan for Jesus' life, God's plan for your life, and a new heavens and earth. Your plan for your life is His permissive will. God planned the course of this world in Eternity Past: "plans formed long ago" (Isa 25:1). The times and epochs of world history were fixed by God's authority (Acts 1:7) and are changed by His power (Dan 2:21). He appointed the times and boundaries of all nations (Acts 17:26). And the times and the epochs have been revealed to us (1 Thess 5:1). It's possible to "discern the signs of the times" (Matt 16:3). There are three periods of profuse miracles: (1) at the successful establishment of the Theocratic Kingdom of Israel under Moses and Joshua, (2) the revival at the low point in the Theocratic Kingdom under Elijah and Elisha, and (3) at the failed attempt to establish the Millennial Kingdom under Jesus and the Apostles. What God plans He brings to pass: "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it" (Isa 46:9–11). "Long ago I did it, From ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass" (Isa 37:26). "The things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets... He has thus fulfilled" (Acts 3:18). No one can change God's plans: "The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation" (Psa 33:10–11).

Man's Plan: Men are free to make plans contrary to God's plans: "Who execute a plan, but not Mine" (Isa 30:1). "But they will say, It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart" (Jer 18:12). The antichrist is permitted to change things for awhile: "he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time" (Dan 7:25b). The plans of men are often evil (Prov 6:18; Ezek 38:10–12) and will end in disaster: "Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, The fruit of their plans, Because they have not listened to My words" (Jer 6:19). God's plans cannot be frustrated: "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand, to break Assyria in My land... This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?" (Isa 14:24–27). "God had frustrated their plan" (Neh 4:15). Gamaliel understood this: "If this plan or action should be of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God" (Acts 5:38–39). "Devise a plan but it will be thwarted... For God is with us" (Isa 8:10). Our plans, however, can be successful: "The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps" (Prov 16:9; cf. Rom 1:13). "Roll (go!) your works to the LORD, And your plans will be established" (Prov 16:3 RCL).