



1

Out of God's Geographical Will

- family of Elimelech reduced to poverty (Ruth 1:20–21); husband and sons die (1:1–5, 13)
- becomes fish food for disobedience (Jonah 1–2)
- defeat and death in battle for disobedient sons of Israel (Num 14:39–45)

2

Not Serving God

- loss of income and want for everyone due to divine intervention (Haggai 1:4–11; 2:15–19)

3

Worthless to God

- believers who are like salt without saltiness (Matt 5:13)



4

Fools, Folly, and Self-Induced Misery

- poverty, hunger, and want for laziness (Prov 6:6–11; 2 Thess 3:10)
- pain and death for promiscuity (Prov 6:23–29)
- loss of birthright for indifference (Esau, Gen 25:32–34)
- exile for getting out in front of God (Moses, Acts 7:23–29)
- no money and honor (Balaam, Num 24:10–11; 31:8)
  - shame, blindness, and death for marrying the wrong person (Samson, Judg 16:21; 16:30)
- loss of priesthood for honoring his sons above God and benefitting from their extortion (Eli, 1 Sam 2:27–36)
- great wealth doesn't help Nabal (1 Sam 25:2–39)
- smart but not smart enough: divine intervention and suicide (Ahiathophel, 2 Sam 16:23; 17:14, 23)
- death for rebellion (Absalom, 2 Sam 18:9–15)
- frustration and unfulfilled desires (Gomer, Hos 1:5–7; 3:3)
- sons killed and eyes put out for disobedience (Zedekiah, 2 Kings 25:7)
- hungry and homeless for loose living (prodgal son, Luke 15:11–32)
- suicide for betrayal (Judas, Matt 27:5)

7

Permissive Will Is Not in God's Plan

- exploitation, higher taxes, and less prosperity in Israel for wanting a King (1 Sam 8:1–22)

5

Divine Discipline for Disobedience and Punishment for Wickedness

- loss of prosperity and exile for murder (Cain, Gen 4:10–16)
- death for evil and violence (flood, Gen 6:5–7; 7:21–23)
- death for wickedness in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:12–13)
  - stubbornness of Pharaoh destroys all Egypt (Exod 10:7)
  - loss of blessings, hardship, and wasted lives for failing ten tests of faith (exodus generation, Num 14:26–35)
- extermination of the Canaanites for wickedness (Gen 15:16)
  - foreign oppression for disobedience (Judg 2:11–23)
  - loss of his kingdom (Saul, 1 Sam 13:13–14; 2 Sam 3:1)
    - discipline and heartache for adultery and murder for the rest of his life (David, 2 Sam 12:7–14)
    - unrest in his kingdom because he married foreign women who led his heart astray (Solomon, 1 Kings 11:1–40)
  - defeat in battle for Sisera (Judg 4:12–24), the triple alliance (2 Chron 20:1–30), and Sennacherib (Isa 37:36–38)
    - civil war for listening to foolish friends (Rehoboam, 1 Kings 12:6–24; 14:30)
- five cycles of discipline for disobedience (Israel, Lev 26:14–39)

6

Loss of Spiritual Blessings

- no eternal life due to unbelief (John 3:36)
- no fellowship with God due to carnality (1 John 1:9)
- no answers to prayer due to carnality (Psa 66:18)
- no fruit of the Spirit because no spiritual growth, faith, or claiming promises (Col 1:9–12; 1 Pet 1:4)
  - no Christlikeness because Christ is not being formed in you (Gal 4:19)
- defeated and held captive to do Satan's will because no knowledge of spiritual warfare (Eph 6:11; 2 Tim 2:26)
- shame for sin (Ezek 44:10–13; 1 Cor 11:22; 15:34)
- anguish due to divine discipline for sin (James 5:1–6)
  - fear, unbelief, weeping, and disobedience from human viewpoint (Israel at Kadesh, Num 13:25–14:38)
- hearts weighed down with the worries of life (Luke 21:34)
  - loss of future rewards for carnality (Rev 3:4), lack of faith (Heb 11:6), little growth (Luke 10:42), little sacrifice (Matt 19:29–30), little service (Eph 6:8; 1 Tim 6:18–19), worthless service (1 Cor 3:15; 2 Cor 5:10), failed tests (Rev 2:10), and not overcoming (Rev 3:11)

8

Escape from Your Plan for Your Life

- Judah shares the birthright and blessing (rule) for turning his life around (Gen 49:8–12)
- highest spiritual gift of apostleship (1 Cor 15:9; Gal 1:1) and crown of righteousness for Paul (2 Tim 4:7–8)

YOUR PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

Not planned by God before Birth	Planned by Yourself and Constantly Changing	God Consciousness	Gospel Hearing	Live for God or Live for Self	Carnality and Out of Fellowship	Grieve and Quench the Spirit	Prayers Not Answered	Human Viewpoint	Human Good	Deeds of the Flesh	Not Laying Up Treasure in Heaven	Not Rich toward God
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**Choice of God's Plan or Your Plan:** God created you to serve Him, and He has a perfect plan for your life. You, however, have the power to create your own plan for your life; but you won't like it because you don't have enough power to control it. Once started it can quickly spin out of control, forcing you to do things you never intended, resulting in a lifestyle you never wanted. You weave a web that eventually traps you inside—in a prison created by your own folly. God's plan for your life was created before you were born (Jer 1:5); your plan was not. Your plan is created during your lifetime and changes for better or for worse as circumstances change. Note the contrast: you wait each day for God's plan to unfold and then carry it out (Eph 2:10); but your plan must be continually altered day by day as frustrations and roadblocks arise ("children, tossed here and there by waves" Eph 4:14). God's plan for your life is always in perfect control—never out of control—because it's pre-planned and managed by an all powerful God. The amount of suffering is limited and a way of escape is provided beforehand for every test (1 Cor 10:13). And accomplishing God's plan for your life is rewarded a hundredfold now (Mark 10:30) and incomparably in the world to come (Luke 6:23, 35; 2 Cor 4:17). God's plan for your life can only be frustrated by *you!* Do you really want to sing "I Did It My Way" for the Lamb?

**Application:** The first law of Campus Crusade for Christ's *Four Spiritual Laws* is "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." We used to joke: "and a wonderful wife for your life" or "a wonderful man for your plan." They're all true! God's plan for your life may not be easy or very exciting (Heb 11:32–40), but it is full of joy, inner peace, and blessings—now and for all eternity (Matt 5:10–12; Col 2:5; 1 Pet 4:13; Heb 12:2). Your plan for your life will not be easier, but full of unnecessary humiliation, shame, headaches, heartaches, self-induced misery, divine discipline, and loss of temporal and eternal blessings. You cannot create a better plan for your life than what God has already created. So live for God, not for yourself (2 Cor 5:15; Phil 2:21; 1 Pet 4:1–2) because you are not your own (1 Cor 6:19–20), you belong to the Lord (Rom 14:7–9), Jesus purchased you with his own blood (1 Cor 6:20), you are slaves of God and of Christ (Rom 6:16, 22; 1 Cor 7:22), you have been crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20), and your citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20). Don't be worldly: "lovers of self" (2 Tim 3:2), "caring for themselves" (Jude 12), "self-willed" (2 Pet 2:10), and "set their minds on earthly things" (Phil 3:19). Instead, be godly: "do not love the world, nor the things in the world" (1 John 2:15), "not self-willed" (Titus 1:7), and "set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Col 3:2). The good news is: you can switch to God's plan at any time. Judah switched after embarrassment (Gen 38:24–26), Jonah after discipline (2:1–9), Nineveh after revival (Jonah 3:1–10), and Paul after divine intervention (Acts 9:1–19b).