

## THE PLAN OF GOD

This lesson was chosen as a follow-up to last week's lesson on the Will of God.

There are three sentences in chapter one of Ephesians in the Greek text (1:1-2; 3-14; 15-23).

"1:3-14 is one sentence in Greek. This section is often called a 'doxology' because it recites what God has done and is an expression of worship to honor Him. Paul speaks first of the blessings we have through the Father (1:3), then of those that come through the Son (1:4-13a) and finally of those through the Holy Spirit (1:13b-14)." (NIV, 1:3-14)

The Plan of God is identified with the will of God in Eph.1:11b – "according to His purpose (prothesis/ plan) who works all things after the counsel (ten boule/ divine decree) of His will (tou thelema)."

<b>This lesson will study SIX basis aspects of the Plan of God.</b>
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**1. God has a perfect plan (prothesis/ protithemi) that decreed in eternity past that every believer become part of it positional at moment of grace salvation by means of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph.1:3-14).**

It is a perfect plan because it is based on the character of God and not man (1 Cor.1:9; 1 Thess.5:24; Ps.18:30).

**2. The plan of God is centered in the person and work of Christ (Eph.1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim.2:9-10; 2 Cor.5:21).**

This is seen in the protoevangelism of Gen.3:15.

Abraham entered the plan of God volitionally on the basis of faith in the gospel of prophetic gospel of Christ (Gal.3:8).

We enter the plan of God on the basis of faith in the historical gospel of Christ (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Eph.2:8-9; Heb.1:1-3; Gal.4:4-5).

**3. The plan of God covers two spheres: earth and heaven (Matt.6:10; 10:28-31; Eph.6:12).**

The plan of God is designed to include all events and actions related to their causes and conditions (Acts 2:22-24; Rom.8:28; life of Joseph/ Gen.38-50).

The believer's spiritual citizenship is part of the plan of God (John 1:12; Rom.8:15-17; 1 Cor.15:49; Eph.3:15 Phil.3:20; Rom.5:6-8).

**4. The plan of God is revealed in the canon of Scriptures (Bible) (2 Pet.1:20-21; 2 Tim.3:16-17; Acts 20:27).**

**5. The plan of God consists of three phases that effect the believer in time and eternity.**

**Phase I** (earth/ salvation) – entrance into the plan of God (John 6:40; 10:9; Acts 13:48).

**Phase II** (earth/ CWL) – orientation and operation in the plan of God (Rom.8:29; 2 Cor.3:18; 4:16-18; Gal.5:16-17; 2 Pet.3:18; Heb.12:10).

**Phase III** (heaven/ eternity) – living with the author (2 Cor.5:6-8; Heb.9:27; 12:2; 2 Tim.4:7-8; Rev.21-22).

**6. God allows free will to act independent of His perfect plan (permissive will).**

- God warned Adam and Eve regarding good and evil with the Tree of Knowledge (Gen.2-3).
- God warned them against eating from it and the consequences of its sin.
- God disciplined them for eating from it.

God does not coerce volition but once choice is made and it involves the plan of God then it becomes an issue (Jonah).

For example, the unbeliever doesn't want to believe the gospel to be saved but doesn't want to go to Lake of Fire (Rev.20:11-15).

Another example, the believer wants gratification of flesh by sin but doesn't want to be disciplined by the Lord (Heb.12:5-11).