

## THE PLAN OF GOD

The idea for a milk doctrine series was taken from Heb.5:11-14 – “For **everyone who partakes only of milk** is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a baby.” (Heb.5:13)

Milk (gala) is described as the elementary principles of the oracles of God for infant (nepios) who need to be taught them (Heb.5:12; 6:1-3).

**This lesson will study six aspects of the milk doctrine of the Plan of God.**

The Plan of God is revealed to the human race by the canon of Scriptures (2 Pet.1:20-21; 2 Tim.3:16-17).

**1. The Plan of God was designed by the omniscience of the Godhead at the Eternal Life Conference in eternity past (Eph.1:4-11; 1 Pet.1:20-21; John 17:24; 2 Tim.1:9-10).**

The Plan of God is one single, all-comprehensive, perfect plan, so designed to include all events and actions related to their causes and conditions (Eph.3:3-12; Joshua 10:12-14).

The Plan of God is bound by the essence of God and His infinite faithfulness (1 Cor.1:9; 1 Thess.5:24).

This is how an event in the plan of God can pass from impossible to possible (Luke 1:37; Rom.4:17-21).

**2. The Plan of God is centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ.**

(Acts 2:22-24) “Men of Israel, listen to these words. Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know – this Man, delivered up by **the predetermine** (horizon / perf.p.ptc.inst.s.f) **plan** (te boule) **and foreknowledge** (prognosis / inst.s.f) **of God**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”

(2 Tim.1:8-10) “According to His own purpose (prothesis / a setting forth or purpose/ Rom.8:28) and grace which He granted us **in Christ Jesus** from all eternity.”

(1 Pet.1:18-20) “For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times **for the sake of you.**”

(Rom.5:6) “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ **died for the ungodly.**”

(John 6:39-40) “For this is the will (to thelema) of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and **believes in Him will have eternal life**, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

**3. One simple way for the Christian (CAB) to understand the Plan of God is to divide it into three phases (Phil.2:13).**

- **Phase one: Salvation**
  - Entrance into Plan of God (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).
- **Phase two is the Believer in time** – Living the Christian Way of Life (CWL)
  - Spiritual growth into the Plan of God (2 Pet.3:18; Rom.8:28; 1 Thess.4:3-8)

- **Phase three is believer in eternity.**
  - Absence from body is presence with Lord (2 Cor.5:6-8; 2 Tim.4:7-8).

**4. There are three stages of spiritual growth in the CWL that are important to the Plan of God.**

- **Baby (brephos)**
  - New born baby of the gospel of Jesus Christ who needs mother's milk or the doctrines pertaining to salvation (1 Pet.1:23; 2:2).
- **Infant (nepios)**
  - Immature spiritual children "without experience of the word of righteousness" who need basic milk doctrines of CWL (Heb.5:12-13).
- **Mature (teleios)**
  - Mature spiritual believers "who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" need meat doctrines of CWL (Heb.5:14).

What you know about the Plan of God is correlated to your spiritual growth development (Col.1:9-10).

**5. The Plan of God is revealed by decrees through the directive, permissive, and over-ruling will of God (Luke 22:22, 39-44).**

The decrees of the Plan of God are all comprehensive to include all events and actions related to their causes and conditions (Matt.10:26-31).

Let's look at how a decree of the Plan of God worked to impact human history with the birth of Jesus Christ since it is still fresh on our minds.

- **Prophetic word**
  - Adam and Eve (Gen.3:15)
  - Abraham and Sarah (Gen.12:1-3)
  - virgin Jewish woman (Isa.7:14)
- **Personal Will**
  - Joseph and Mary (Luke 1:34-35; Matt.1:21-23)
- **Perfect Timing**
  - Jesus Christ (Gal.3:16; 4:4; 2 Tim.1:10).

**6. God allows human volition to act independent of the Plan of God but not without consequences. Adam and Eve is the first example of this principle.**

- **Directive Will** Command – don't eat (Gen.2:17; 3:2-3; 1 John 5:3-5).
- **Permissive Will** Conflict – volitional independence (Gen.3:1-6) the devil got her with one question, one doctrinal challenge and one lie. (2 Tim.2:26; 1 Tim.2:13; Eph.4:27; James 4:7).
- **Over-ruling Will** Consequences (Gen.3:11-19) Serpent, woman, man, and human race. (Rom.5:12-21).

**(John 7:17) "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." (Jesus)**