



So What's God's Plan???

There are many denominations of Christianity and each one has an interpretation of what God's plan is for the entire human race. The good news is, that they all believe that God does in fact, have a plan. The bad news is there are a wide variety of differences in the understanding of that plan. We look around us and see chaos in the world and wonder if God is really in control. We would like to consider and harmonize the scriptures to see what the Bible says about God's plan.

Is There a Master Plan?

There are many scriptures that show how God knows the end from the beginning, and that He has made arrangements for the world, even before He created the world.

Isa 46:9–10 KJV: Remember the former things of old: for *I am* God, and *there is* none else; *I am* God, and *there is* none like me, (10) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure

I Pet 1:19-20 KJV: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

In Luke 14:28-30, our Lord Jesus shows us that if we were to build a tower, we would first make sure we have enough to finish it. If we are to do this, how much more thoroughly can we assume God has done this before He laid the foundation of the world?

So What is the Plan?

Man Sins – Condemned to Death

In Gen 2:16-17 we see where God gave the commandment to Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The penalty for disobedience was death. We know the outcome of that test. 1Cor 15:21-22: “For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”: We can see that through Christ, there appears to be a salvation for ALL from this death penalty.

Redeemer Needed

God, knowing that Adam would fail his test of obedience and as a result his entire race would come under the death penalty, also knew that a redeemer would be necessary for Adam and his entire race to release them from the death penalty. Jesus gave his life a ransom (corresponding price) for ALL to be testified in due time. (1 Tim 2:6). Only a sinless, perfect man (Jesus) could be the corresponding price for the sinful, perfect man (Adam). Thus Jesus – holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners (Heb 7:26) sacrificed his human life to redeem Adam and ALL born in him (the entire human race).

Jesus Accomplishes the Sacrifice, but Waits to Redeem the Race Until He calls His Joint-Heirs

Jesus' ransom for Adam means ALL will get a resurrection, but will all get the same resurrection? The promises made to Abraham seem to indicate two different classes of “seed” – the stars of the heaven and the sand upon the sea shore (Gen 22:17) – a heavenly seed and an earthly seed.

The scriptures describe a class of specially chosen members who sacrifice their lives to be joint-heirs with Christ. They take up their cross daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). They present their bodies a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1), and they suffer with him that they might reign with him (2Tim 2:12). This call is not for everyone. It is a high calling (Php 3:14), and many are called, but few are chosen (Matt 22:14). Those faithful unto death will receive the crown of life (Rev 2:10).

Once Joint-Heirs Completed, Resurrection to Judgment Begins

John 5:28-29 shows there is a difference in the type of life given at resurrection: *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the graves shall hear his voice, (29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (judgment).”* Here, the word translated damnation is the greek word “krisis”, which should properly be translated judgment. This applies to the great day of judgment mentioned so often in the scriptures. (See 2Pet2:9, Mark 6:11, Matt 12:36.) Since a day with the Lord is a thousand years (2 Pet 3:8), this “day” of judgment is the 1000 year period where Satan will be bound (Rev 20:2), and Jesus and His saints will reign (Rev 20:6) and bring ALL to a knowledge of the truth (1Tim 2:4). So Jesus’ saints (the joint-heirs) will reign with him in heaven and will bless all the families of the earth by bringing them to a knowledge of the truth. Then will our Lord’s prayer be answered “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.” As Adam was entitled to everlasting life on earth as long as he remained obedient, so shall his race be entitled to everlasting life on earth. But we know at this time that the god of this world (Satan) is blinding the minds of men so that they do not believe the gospel of Christ (2 Cor 4:4) – so what is the fate of the unbeliever at the end of the thousand years?

The Fate of the Unbeliever

The Bible tells us that the “wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23), and Adam was told “in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die” (Gen 2:17). This is the FIRST DEATH that the entire human race is suffering because of Adam’s disobedience. But there is a resurrection from this First Death and a second chance at life. However, the scriptures mention a SECOND DEATH – what does this mean? Revelation 20:14 and 21:8 equate SECOND DEATH with the lake of fire and brimstone. This is a picture of final and permanent destruction – a death from which there is no resurrection. But this is a last resort, only after ALL have been given the opportunity for life on either the heavenly or earthly plane by coming back into harmony with God. Those who willfully refuse this opportunity will be destroyed from among the people (Acts 3:23). Oh what a wonderful opportunity God gives us through His precious Son, the opportunity for perfect life. Yes, there is a plan, and it is ingenious.

Final Result

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

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