

God's Perfect Divine Plan



Lesson #6 (The Beginning and the Ending--Series)

Isaiah 46:3-5: 8-11, ³ "Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born.⁴ Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. ⁵ "With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared? ⁸ "Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart,⁹ Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. ¹⁰ I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.' ¹¹ From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do."

What the Prophet was prophesying as to what God was saying to Israel, God is speaking to the world today!

TRUTH: Not All Plans Are Good Plans

"I remember a group of young boys (4 to be exact) who thought they had a fool-proof plan for sneaking into a drive-in movie without paying. They would crawl into the trunk of the car, and one would drive in by-himself and pay. Once inside the drive-in, the driver, who was the nicest looking of the four, would let them out of the trunk.

The plan sounded good, but "curses, foiled again." The boys crawled into the trunk, and the clean-cut teen-aged driver drove into the theater, paid for himself just as they planned. Only when the driver attempted to release the others did all of them realize the problem with the plan--the owner of the car had the keys to the trunk in his pocket and he was in the trunk with the others. After firemen cut through the trunk, the boys were released, but none of them saw the movie. And...the one who paid did not get his money back."

Some plans may sound good, but many do not work for some reason or another. Even if this plan had worked, it could hardly be called “GOOD”, for the intent was to deceive and enjoy a movie at another’s expense.”

Sounds like the plan where the boys were going to steal watermelons out of Farmer Brown’s field. One was bitten by a rattlesnake and nearly died. The watermelons were never eaten. The boy lived to tell the story.

Mama said, “Plan for the worst, expect the worst...and be happy when things work out well!

The question: Why is mama always right??

God’s plan for creation is a good plan...A Perfect Divine Plan.

The goal for which it was instituted is of the highest good. It is good in a functional sense, because the plan is certain to work, producing the ends for which it was ordained. Ultimately, it is good because it is God’s plan.

First of All...God, as the Planner, has certain attributes that cannot be denied. Because God is the Planner, we are assured that HIS plan is both certain (will be fulfilled) and is GOOD. In this lesson we will consider the plan, focusing on the general characteristics of God’s plan as it unfolds throughout the history of man.

There is a Plan

Scripture makes it abundantly clear that there is a plan. A number of evidences could be used for the existence of God’s plan for creation, but the most compelling evidence is that which is recorded in Scripture:

“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation ([Psalm 33:11](#)).”

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but the counsel of the Lord, it will stand ([Proverbs 19:21](#)). “

“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?” ([Isaiah 14:26-27](#)).”

The statements of the Second Person of the Trinity, our Lord Jesus Christ, are consistent with the words of Scripture concerning God’s plan. The Old Testament prophets laid out God’s plan for Messiah, which included both His suffering and His glory:

At the time of His birth, some of God’s plan for Christ were described (see [Luke 1](#) :26-38, 67-79; 2:8-14, 25-35). *Repeatedly our Lord indicated He was not pursuing His own plan but fulfilling the plan of the Father:*

*[Matthew 5:17](#), “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them.*

*[Luke 18:31](#), “Jesus took the twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be **fulfilled**.”*

*[Philippians 2:13](#), “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to **fulfill** his good purpose.”*

A Definition of the Plan

The most concise and accurate definition of God’s eternal plan is found in the Westminster Confession of Faith, which reads:

“God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.”

Characteristics of the Plan

(1) The plan is God’s plan.

“Remember this, and be assured; recall it to mind, you transgressors. 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’; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it” ([Isaiah 46:3-11](#)).

The plan reflects the attributes of God, the Planner.

(2) The plan of God encompasses all that He has predestined to occur.

When our Lord spoke of the Father’s plan for all eternity, He spoke of it as the Father’s will. Likewise, when we speak of “God’s plan for creation” or of “God’s plan for the ages” we will sometimes refer to this as God’s will, and rightly so. But this “will” of God must be carefully distinguished from several other “wills.”

Broadly speaking, the expression, the “will of God”-can be summarized in this way:

THE PURPOSED WILL OF GOD:	God’s eternal decree
THE PREFERENTIAL WILL OF GOD:	God’s desire
THE PRESCRIPTIVE WILL OF GOD:	God’s standards for men
THE PERMISSIVE WILL OF GOD:	God’s overriding will

- **The “purposed will of God” refers to God’s eternal decree, the plan which will surely come to pass.** It encompasses all of the other “wills.”
- **The “preferential will of God” refers to that which gives God pleasure or displeasure.**
 - ✓ *Our Lord’s prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane reveals that the cross of Calvary was not our Lord’s desire, but it was His purpose.*
 - ✓ **“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”** ([2 Peter 3:9](#)). He **“desires all men to be saved”** ([1 Timothy 2:4](#)).
 - *In spite of this desire, it is purposed that some will be eternally saved, while others will be eternally damned (see [Romans 9](#)).*
 - *Just as we may spank a disobedient child when it is not our desire or delight, God’s decree includes some things in which he does not delight, like the punishment of the wicked.*
- **The “prescriptive will of God” is:**
 - ✓ *God’s will expressed as a standard for man’s conduct.*
 - ✓ *God’s will set down in the Scriptures as commands, standards, or principles which govern what we do or do not do.*
 - ✓ *God’s prescriptive will that we do not steal, lie, or worship idols.*
 - ✓ *His (prescriptive) will that we love Him and love our neighbor.*
- **God’s “permissive will” includes those events or actions of men which are, in and of themselves, sinful.**
 - ✓ *Note: They are contrary to God’s preference and to His prescriptive will.*
 - ✓ *Nevertheless God uses sin to accomplish His will.*

- God used the sinful actions of Joseph's brothers to bring the entire family of Jacob (Israel) to Egypt, thus fulfilling His will (see [Genesis 15:12-16](#)).
- He used the opposition of the scribes and Pharisees, the treachery of Judas, and the political cowardice of Herod and Pilate to bring about the sacrificial death of our Lord:

“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 predetermined plan and foreknowledge 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” ([Acts 2:22-24](#)).”

God's purposed will incorporates all of His subordinate wills.

- *In His Word, God reveals both His preferential and prescriptive will.*
- *When men trust and obey Him, God employs their obedience to fulfill a portion of His plan.*
- *When men rebel and disobey Him, God sovereignly uses their sin to further His plan.*

In this way God causes all things to work together for good, to those who are the called according to His plan and purpose (see [Romans 8:28, AMP](#)).



Bibliography: https://bible.org/seriespage/2-god-s-perfect-plan;byauthor/10/bob_deffinbaugh. His (Bob Deffinbaugh) article contributed to the text of this lesson.