

Introduction to Lesson 3

God's Master Plan

God's Purpose

In our understanding of prophecy, it is important that we have an understanding of God's plan for His creation. God had a purpose in creating the world, the universe, and everything in it. God created man for His Glory. Man and the rest of God's creation can glorify God and bring Him Joy. It is therefore man's purpose in life to glorify God, to take delight in God, and worship Him.¹

As man moves through life, all other selfish purposes of man are nothing compared to the implications of his relationship to God. Whatever choices man makes must be made with the understanding of man's ultimate purpose of glorifying God.

ISA 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

In this lesson it will become clear that our entire purpose in life is to glorify God by keeping His Word, telling others about Him, and praying for them.

God's Objectives

God has certain objectives in His plan for the world and mankind. The major objectives of God's plan involve redemption of fallen man through the sacrifice of Christ. Bible prophecy is closely related to God's plan for Man's salvation. It is through various dispensations, covenants, and prophecies that God slowly reveals His plan to mankind.²

Dispensations

In the Bible there are seven dispensations in God's dealing with man. Dispensations are administrations within a period of time representing the different ways God governed in the lives of men. These dispensations were periods of testing. God had certain expectations – when man failed those expectations (man's responsibility), the dispensation ended.³

¹ Wayne Grudem, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994, pp. 160, 161, 441.

² John F. Walvoord, THE FINAL DRAMA, 14 Keys to Understanding the Prophetic Scriptures, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993, pp. 33, 34.

³ Charles C. Ryrie, DISPENSATIONALISM TODAY, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1965, pp. 16, 22, 57-64. Leon Bates, A BIBLE MAP. Sherman, TX: Bible Believers Evangelistic Association, Inc., 1969. John F. Walvoord, THE FINAL DRAMA, 14 Keys to Understanding the Prophetic Scriptures, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993, p. 48.

Covenants

Covenants are eternal agreements made by God with humanity, revealing what God will do for people individually or collectively. God made covenants with mankind at different times in history that specifically relate to what He would do and expect in a particular dispensation. Man has free will in rejecting or accepting the covenant, but violation of the covenant will result in a judgment that brings the dispensation to an end.⁴

In this lesson we will study God's master plan in detail as represented by dispensations and covenants.

Dominion Lost and Regained

In Genesis chapter 1 Adam was given dominion as steward over God's earthly creation. However, in Genesis chapter 9, dominion is missing in God's instructions to Noah. In the prophetic Scriptures we can find that Jesus Christ obtained the dominion lost by Adam at the fall. This regaining of lost dominion will be discussed in detail as essential in understanding the prophetic Scriptures regarding restoration of what was lost by Adam.

In tempting Jesus, Satan offered this lost dominion when he offered to give Him all the kingdoms of the world. The key is that Jesus did not dispute Satan's right to offer those kingdoms.

Luke 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him **all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, **All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**

7 If thou therefore wilt **worship me, all shall be thine.**

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan:** for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

In this lesson we will learn about the regaining of the dominion that was lost.

⁴ THE KING JAMES STUDY BIBLE, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1988 Liberty University, Footnotes EPH 3:2.