

CHRIST WILL BE ALL IN ALL

Chapter 2

THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Having established beyond question the Sovereignty of God, we can begin to build ever more confidently on the foundation of Christ, knowing that as the building takes shape we are doing no violence to its structure, but are freely confessing that “of Him and through Him and to Him are all things.” (Romans 11:36) We can now apply His all powerful nature to His stated plan and purpose, and look into the mystery of His will with bated breath and reverent awe, knowing that He is God and there is none like Him:

**¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,
Saying, "My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,'
¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east,
The man who executes My counsel, from a far country.
Indeed I have spoken it;
I will also bring it to pass.
I have purposed it;
I will also do it. (Isaiah 46:10-11)**

We can also discard the false image of God erected by religion – the helpless, impotent, disorganized god – and give glory in our hearts the true Ruler of All, who clearly states His unlimited self-sufficiency, and His ability to fulfill all of His purposes.

CREATION WITH A PURPOSE

In the first book of Genesis, God indeed “declares the end from the beginning”, making a prophetic statement as to His dealings with man and His purpose for humanity:

**²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all^[b] the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)**

There are wonderful truths contained in this short passage, valuable for gaining insight into the purpose and intent of God. Understand that Adam stood before God in perfect fellowship and sweet communion, already a foreshadowing of God’s ultimate plan. Nevertheless, this, though a fulfillment of God’s stated intent, was not the highest fulfillment, rather a starting point for the whole dramatic sweep of the history of

mankind. Humanity, as represented in the person of Adam, was about to go through a process of God's planning, one that would last many ages. Did man fall? Yes, indeed. But that fall was actually God sovereignly subjecting His own creation to futility:

²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, *not willingly*, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; (Romans 8:20)

Here we see the hand of God deliberately subjecting His creation to this process of darkness and bondage, and we are told that He subjected it in hope, indicating a beautiful, benevolent end. Indeed, our hearts are illuminated even more when we understand that God was, in effect, selling us under bondage to sin! (Romans 7:14) And to what end? Why, that is very easily answered – that He might buy us back again!

¹³In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who^[b] is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

²⁸Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God^[c] which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Already we begin to see something of His purpose. Sold into slavery to sin, and bought back by His blood to Life and Freedom – creation coming forth out of God into fragmentation, confusion, and darkness, and then being repaired, healed, restored and reconciled!

ALPHA AND OMEGA

Brethren, the true panorama of the plan of God is only understood when seen in the Only Begotten Son, and if we are to experience the continuing revelation of Christ Jesus, we would do well to listen to what He says regarding Himself. Listen to His words in the first chapter of His own book of Revelation:

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,"^[c] says the Lord,^[d] "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

And again, in the third chapter:

"These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: (Revelation 3:14)

Understand, saints, that creation began in Him, as He declares in both these verses. Such a point is not disputed much even in the religious realm. After all, the very opening of the Gospel of John states:

(A) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

However, what the carnal religious mind has been blind to, and refuses to embrace, is the truth, stated explicitly from His own lips, that He is ALSO the *Omega* – the *End!!!* When this truth sinks into our hearts, the true light begins to shine yet more, and the purpose of God unfolds to another degree. The Word indeed gives further emphasis to this marvelous realization, when the climax of God's plan is revealed:

²¹For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ²⁴Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷For "He has put all things under His feet."^[a] But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:21-28)

What a plan!!! Creation began in Christ, died in Adam, descended into bondage and darkness, was purchased back by the blood of Christ, and will find its end and consummation in Him! One can see the simple panorama of God's plan here, as if creation began at a bright point, descended into darkness as it made its way around the bottom of a circle, and then re-emerged into the light, ending at the point of commencement – Jesus Christ!

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)

The plan of the ages – to reconcile all things into Christ, having made peace through the blood of His cross!

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, *according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself*, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the

fullness of the times He might gather together in one *all things in Christ*, both^[a] which are *in heaven* and which are *on earth--in Him*. (Ephesians 1:7-10)

Hallelujah! God will gather all things in Christ, till He be All in All!!! When we begin to grasp the depth of this mystery, we can embrace the glorious truth that Jesus Christ is the Alpha AND Omega, the Beginning AND the End, and we can thankfully declare, in unison with the Word, that:

“...of Him and through Him and to Him are all things.” (Romans 11:36)

For truly, creation proceeded forth from Him, and through His blood, is now returning to Him, praise His name!

IN ADAM AND IN CHRIST

Understand, dear saints, that God’s plan includes everyone in Adam – everyone who was plunged into darkness and sovereignly subjected to futility by Him who did the subjecting *in hope*. At the consummation of the ages, God will have restored everything that was fallen, reconciled all that was at enmity, and gathered all that which was lost:

¹¹For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.^[a]

¹²“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? (Matthew 18:11-12)

Jesus Christ does indeed seek the sheep that stray, because he came to save that which was lost. To buy back what was sold! The problem that the religious mind is understanding the *plan of the ages*, that all shall be gathered into Christ in order:

²¹For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so *in Christ all shall be made alive*. ²³But each one in his own order: (1 Corinthians 15:21-23)

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, expounds upon our death in Adam and life in Christ in the fifth chapter of Romans, with a constant drawing of parallels, emphasizing the truth again and again:

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- ¹³(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like that which came through the one who

sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. ¹⁷For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

²⁰Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:12-21)

Dear saint, can you not see what is being said here? The point is driven home again, and again, and again, lest we miss it. Even as in Adam....Death...so, in Christ...LIFE! This passage gives us another glimpse at creation entering into darkness, and then re-emerging into the wonderful light of Jesus Christ. We see the buying back, the purchasing, the reconciliation. Sadly, opponents of the true Gospel claim that "all things" are just all things already in Christ. If that is so, what is the Spirit saying here? Why the constant emphasis on Adam losing and Christ gaining, Adam dying and Christ resurrecting, Adam falling and Christ restoring? Let us look again at the verse we mentioned earlier:

²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;..... (Romans 8:20)

Let us again apply God's sovereignty to the issue at hand, and understand that something deep, weighty, and profound is being revealed. God subjected His creation to futility in hope. Hope of what? What would such a creation hope for? Let us read the very next verse in Romans:

²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21)

What an amazing God! Praise His name! Creation will be delivered from that bondage, from that futility, to which it was subjected by God Himself!

⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

FIRSTFRUITS AND HARVEST

Again, we must remember that this reconciliation takes place *in order*, and be aware that the sacrifice of Christ will be revealed in its far reaching entirety at the fullness of the ages:

³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

⁶Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2:3-6 KJV)

Here again, we see both God's sovereign intention that all men will be saved, and the declaration that the ransom (paid for ALL) will be *testified in due time*. One must understand that the price for the sin of the entire world has, as these lines are read, already been paid in full:

¹⁸Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

God WAS in Christ reconciling the world at the cross! He had already begun the process of salvation by not imputing trespasses, and has now made atonement by His own blood:

²And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

We see a distinction made between us and the world, but then a reminder that Christ died for all. In Paul's first letter to Timothy we see this distinction and reminder again:

¹⁰For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach,^[a] because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. ¹¹These things command and teach. (1 Timothy 4:10-11)

Paul, by the Spirit, declares that Jesus Christ is indeed the Savior of the entire creation - the Holy Lamb of God "who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) – yet he also reveals a special salvation for them that believe. The difference between the two is best summed up by two words: *firstfruits* and *harvest*.

¹⁸Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. (James 1:18)

In this current age, God is working to take out a people for His name, a firstfruits company, who are fully conformed to the image of Jesus Christ and have overcome even as He overcame. This company of people are collectively the *Body of Christ*. When the Head, the Lord Jesus Himself, appears, the words of John in the Spirit will be fulfilled:

²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:2)

There is a deep truth in these words that pertains to the manner of Christ's appearing, which will be examined in depth later. It is sufficient for the moment to say that the Body of Christ is the manifestation of God's Kingdom upon the earth. Their inheritance is described in the book of Daniel thus:

**²⁷Then the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdoms under *the whole heaven*,
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'
(Daniel 7:27)**

The Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom – God ruling through the Lord Jesus Christ, Head and body. The prophetic symbol for a kingdom in scripture is a mountain, and we find many allusions to this great mountain (kingdom) throughout the prophets:

**⁷And He will destroy on this mountain
The surface of the covering cast over all people,
And the veil that is spread over all nations.
⁸He will swallow up death forever,
And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;
The rebuke of His people
He will take away from all the earth;
For the LORD has spoken.
⁹And it will be said in that day:
"Behold, this is our God;
We have waited for Him, and He will save us.
This is the LORD;
We have waited for Him;
We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."
(Isaiah 25:7-9)**

Rejoice, for God clearly states through the prophet Isaiah that He will sovereignly destroy the covering and veil (blindness) that is cast over all people, and spread over all nations! What an awesome God! What a majestic, glorious plan! He will wipe away every tear! There is coming a time when all nations, indeed, all the ends of the earth, will look to God in Jesus Christ for salvation:

**22¹¹ Look to Me, and be saved,
All you ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
23 I have sworn by Myself;
The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness,
And shall not return,
That to Me every knee shall bow,
Every tongue shall take an oath.
24 He shall say,
"Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength.
To Him men shall come,
And all shall be ashamed
Who are incensed against Him. (Isaiah 45:22-24)**

He swears by Himself! Brethren, when we hear God swear by Himself, surely all creation must strain forward to catch the next words that fall from the divine lips. And what does He swear? That to Him every knee shall bow! To Him every tongue take an oath and declare that in God we have righteousness and strength! Dear friends, a word from God is sufficient – He cannot break His word, yet He has even *sworn by Himself* to accomplish His high and lofty aims! We must not dismiss such a profound declaration, but we must reverently examine a statement of such depth and assurance. The apostle Paul, lest we miss the words of Isaiah, refers to this mighty promise again in His epistle to the Philippians:

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.(Philippians 2:9-11)

Here we have a further clarification: that every tongue will confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ! In heaven, on earth, and even under the earth! Listen to how the Amplified Bible brings out verse eleven:

¹¹And every tongue [^hfrankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Amplified)

A frank and open confession! What a far cry from the traditional, carnal interpretation of these scriptures, that seeks to explain away such explicit statements by insisting that the confession in question is ‘forced at gunpoint’, as it were, before the majority of creatures are burned in a gigantic, cosmic concentration camp that has no end. What a twisted view of God! Brethren, it has occurred to me lately that the religious man’s God is one of extremes. If you find His favor, He is a great big teddy bear, or maybe a celestial tooth fairy, who gives you hugs and kisses and all you have to do is slap on your ‘christian’ bumper stickers and pay your lip service (not to mention tithes) in return. However, if you fall into His disfavor, He tortures you ceaselessly without a shred of

mercy. No wonder this thing they call ‘Christianity’ has become such a laughing stock to those on the outside! Since when did Christ become an ‘Anity’ anyway?

But I digress. Saints of the Most High, I admonish you to solemnly consider these great truths of the Almighty, and be not conformed to the pattern of the worldly religious arena, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds – put on Christ! See all things through the lens of His love and sovereignty. And pray without ceasing, giving thanks and glory to His name!

THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

As stated earlier, when looking into the plan of God, it is expedient to consider the end from the beginning, finding out what the consummation of the divine purpose in Christ may be, that we may better perceive what events and times are ordained to take us to that climax of all things. And our great God, in His patience and kindness, does not leave us without ample proof of His ultimate intent:

^{1[a]} **God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah
²That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among *all nations*.
³Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
⁴Oh, *let the nations be glad and sing for joy!*
For You shall judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations on earth. Selah
⁵Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let *all the peoples* praise You.
⁶Then the earth shall yield her increase;
God, our own God, shall bless us.
⁷God shall bless us,
And *all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.* (Psalm 67)**

What a beautiful picture the Psalmist paints in the Spirit! God will truly be “All in all” in and through Jesus Christ the only begotten!

¹¹ **Yes, *all kings* shall fall down before Him;
All nations shall serve Him. (Psalm 72:11)**

There is the distinction again – all *kings* (those who the kingdom is given to, of whom Christ Jesus is the preeminent one – the King of Kings) – and then *all the nations*. The same Psalm goes on to enlarge upon the theme a few verses later:

¹⁷ **His name shall endure forever;
His name shall continue as long as the sun.
And men shall be blessed in Him;**

All nations shall call Him blessed.

**¹⁸Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who only does wondrous things!**

**¹⁹And blessed be His glorious name forever!
And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen and Amen. (Psalm 72:17-19)**

Let us again consider Paul's words to the church at Corinth:

²⁸Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15: 28)

From the cross onwards, history has been the story of the increase of God's kingdom in and through Jesus Christ, and through the Spirit, and through His saints, and ultimately through the whole earth! Through all nations! All men! All people! What a blessed thrill when the staggering proportions of God's love and genius illuminates our hearts and opens our minds!

**¹⁴Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:14)**

¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ^[a] ²¹whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-21)

And every created thing that is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honour and glory and dominion and power for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:13)

Glory to the name of Christ! Amen.

