

# Locating the Gospel in Eternity

Ephesians 3:8-12

Acts 15:7-18; Isaiah 46:1-11



1 May 2022

## Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our goals.
- What are we doing to pursue our goals?
  - Catechism Questions and Meditation
  - Scripture Memorization

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## What We Learnt Last Week?

- (1 Timothy 1:11) The Gospel is GLORIOUS! "Glory" - "a great beauty, splendor, delight, wonderful, magnificent". Where does one find out what the gospel is? (Genesis 1:1-Revelation 22:21; Romans 1:1-11)
- Your God reigns! - Isaiah 52:8 Meditate!
- What the Gospel is NOT?
  - ✗ Not just Christ died, buried, resurrected. But according to the Scriptures (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
  - ✗ Not just facts about Jesus Christ coming to the earth.

## Acts 15:18 - The Works of God from Eternity- A Snapshot

- **The starting point of the Gospel is eternity - the everlasting covenant between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit** - Hebrews 13:20-21; 10:5-7
- God the Father loved His Son from eternity - John 17:5,23-24,26; John 10:17; Ephesians 1:6; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 12:18; John 15:9-10
- **Before time, the Son of God, agreed to be the SURETY (guarantor, sponsor, a person who accepts legal responsibility for another person's debt or behaviour) for God's elect, to pay the penalty of their sins and to provide God's righteousness for them** - Hebrews 7:22; Hebrews 10:7
- Before time, God foreordained the incarnation and crucifixion of Jesus Christ - 1 Peter 1:19-20; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23

- God planned the creation of the heavens and the earth from eternity - Genesis 1:1, Psalm 90:2, Psalm 24:1-2
- God planned the creation of man from eternity - Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:7
- God chose Israel from eternity - Romans 9:9-13; Deuteronomy 7:6-8
- God chose the prophets of Israel from eternity - Jeremiah 1:4-5
- **God planned the redemption of His people from eternity** - John 6:37-40; John 10:26-29; John 17:2, 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-5; Ezekiel 36:24-28
- God justified, sanctified and glorified His people from eternity - Romans 8:30; Ephesians 1:3-4; Romans 8:30
- **Sin, evil and suffering fit into God's eternal purpose** - 2 Chronicles 10:15, 18:22, 25:20; **Genesis 50:20; Genesis 20:4-6**; John 12:40; **Romans 9:14-21**; Exodus 4:21; **Isaiah 45:7**; Amos 3:6
- **God determined where each human being will be born and where they will live and determined who they will become from eternity; even the number of hairs on each person's head and the life and death of a small bird** - Acts 17:24-26; Matthew 10:29-30.
- Everything that has happened, is happening and will happen in the universe has been planned by God from eternity - Psalm 33:10-11; Isaiah 14:24-27, Romans 11:33-36; Acts 15:18; Isaiah 41:22-23; 44:7; 45:21; 46:9-11; Psalms 115:3, Daniel 4:35
- Because God inhabits eternity - **Isaiah 57:15**
- All of these point to the eternal purpose of God

## What is the Eternal Purpose of God?

- (Ephesians 1:9) Originated in God- The Eternal Purpose was according to God's good pleasure which He purposed in Himself (see Ephesians 1:5)
- (Ephesians 1:11) We are PREDESTINED according to the PURPOSE of GOD who works ALL things according to the counsel of His Will.
- (Ephesians 3:10-11) - 'to the intent that now the **manifold** wisdom of God might be made known by the CHURCH (the called-out ones) to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (see **1 Peter 2:9-10**) - **manifold wisdom of God** (many and of several different types, assorted, complex, diversified, multifarious, multiple, varied, copious)
- (Ephesians 1:9-10) - That GOD will reconcile in one ALL things in CHRIST both in Heaven and on Earth (see Colossians 1:19-20, Hebrews 1:1-4)
- (Colossians 1:17-18) - That in ALL things CHRIST may have the PREEMINENCE
- (Colossians 1:26-27) - CHRIST in you, the hope of glory; which means that if a person does not have Christ, there is no hope of glory for that person.
- **God's Eternal Purpose centers around and is accomplished in Jesus Christ not man**

- God is directing everything and every being in the universe to accomplish His eternal purpose - **Daniel 4:35**
- Nothing can hinder God's eternal purpose; it has been unfolding since the beginning of creation, it is unfolding now and it shall continue into the future - **Daniel 4:35**; Psalm 115:1-3; **Numbers 23:19**
- God's counsel shall stand and He shall do all His pleasure - **Isaiah 46:9-10**

## How was God's eternal purpose accomplished?

- God's eternal purpose was accomplished in Jesus Christ - **Ephesians 3:11**
- How was it accomplished in Jesus Christ? - In creation, in Christ's incarnation, ministry, total and perfect obedience to the Father, suffering, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, intercession, in Christ's return and judgment, the Church - **Hebrews 1:1-4**
- Before the foundation of the world - **1 Peter 1:18-20**; Acts 2:23; **Rev 13:8**;
- Before anything was created - Proverbs 8:22-31; John 1:1-5,10-12, Colossians 1:15-17
- Before sin entered the world
- Sin was not a surprise to God - Adam was a type (symbol, figure, representation) of Christ (**Romans 5:12-21**)

## When did God choose His people?

- Before the foundation of the world - **Ephesians 1:3-5**; Romans 8:28-30; 2 Timothy 1:8-9
- Before there was sin! *Meditate on it.*

## What is the goal of the eternal purpose of God?

- God's own Glory - **Isaiah 42:8**; **Ephesians 1:11-12**; **Isaiah 43:21, 25**
- For the praise of the glory of His grace - **Ephesians 1:5-6**
- That God will be all in all - **1 Corinthians 15:24-28**

## How is God's Eternal Purpose being accomplished today?

- Missions - Through the preaching of the Gospel (**Matthew 24:14**; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; Matthew 28:18-20; Act 1:8, 1 Cor 1:21; **Luke 10:1-2**; Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35-36)
- Through the salvation of His people (**John 6:38-39**; Romans 8:28-30; John 1:12-13; John 6:45, John 17:2, John 17:6, John 17:8-9, John 17:11, John 17:24; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7)
- Through the sanctification of His people through the Holy Spirit (**Jeremiah 32:37-40**; **Jeremiah 31:31-33**; **Ezekiel 36:24-28**; Romans 8:28-30; **Ephesians 1:3-4**; 2 Cor 3:18; **Ephesians 2:10**; John 15:16; Luke 1:74-75; 2 Timothy 2:19; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 2:11-14; **Philippians 1:6**; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; **2 Thessalonians 2:13**; **Philippians 2:12-13**)

- Through individuals, the rise and fall of kings, presidents, nations, governments, politics, world events (Daniel 2; 4:17, 25, 32-35; Job 12:23; Isaiah 37:26; 40:15, 17; Rev 17:17; **Matthew 24:3-14**; Psalm 139:16; James 4:13-16; Psalms 115:3, Psalms 2:1-6)

### **God's Eternal Purpose in the Future:**

- Second Coming of Jesus Christ and Judgment (Matthew 24:29-31; **Matthew 16:27**; Matt 24:36-37,39; Luke 21:27; Rev 1:7; Mark 13:26; 2 Peter 3:10; **Hebrews 9:27-28**; 2 Timothy 4:1; Rev 22:12; John 5:24-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)
- Heaven, Hell and final destruction of Satan (**Matthew 7:21-23**; Matthew 25:31-46; **John 5:28-29**; **Rev 20:10-15**; Revelation 19:20; Mark 9:43-48; Isaiah 27:1)
- Glorification of the saints, new Heaven and new Earth (Revelation 21:1-4; Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 66:22; **2 Peter 3:13**; **Rev 3:11-12**; Isaiah 11:6-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; Romans 8:18-23)

### **What Is the Only Acceptable Response to the Gospel?**

- Continuous repentance of sin - Acts 20:21; Luke 13:1-5; Luke 24:47
- Believe God with all your heart (mind, will, and emotions) - Acts 8:37; John 3:18, 36
- Submit to Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9-10; Psalm 2:10-12
- Work - Ephesians 2:8-10; Acts 26:19-20; Titus 2:14; James 2:14-26
- Glorify God for all He has done, is doing, and has promised to do - Psalm 115:1-3

### **Where We are Going in 2022**

- Unpacking this good news from God that began in eternity past, unfolded beginning with Creation, was worked out through all of history, climaxed with incarnation, life, death on a cross, resurrection of the Son of God, and takes us into eternity future to the new heavens and new earth.
- You will need to hear all these messages. Each message will build on the one prior.
- Next week, Martin will unravel the glorious nature of the eternal gospel of God.