

THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE

KNOWING GOD, HIS WORD, AND HIS WILL WITH CERTAINTY

Luke 1:1-4

1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 **THAT THOU MIGHTEST KNOW THE CERTAINTY of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.**

Luke 1:4 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

4 **[My purpose is] that you may know the full truth and understand with certainty and security against error the accounts (histories) and doctrines of the faith of which you have been informed and in which you have been orally instructed.**

Luke 1:4 (*Bible in Basic English*)

4 **So that you might have certain knowledge of those things about which you were given teaching.**

Luke 1:4 (*The Message Bible Paraphrase*)

4 **so you can know beyond the shadow of a doubt the reliability of what you were taught.**

ANY OPEN DOOR TO DOUBT UNDERMINES OUR ABILITY TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE WILL, PLAN, AND PURPOSE OF GOD BOTH HERE AND NOW AND IN ETERNITY.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD ARE CALLED TO “CONSTANTLY REAFFIRM” THE WILL, PLAN, AND PURPOSE OF GOD TO HIS PEOPLE

Titus 3:1-8

1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou AFFIRM CONSTANTLY, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.

These things are good and profitable unto men.

AFFIRM CONSTANTLY (Strong's) = g1226. διαβεβαιουμαιdiabebaioomai; middle voice of a compound of 1223 and 950; **to confirm thoroughly (by words), i.e. asseverate:** — affirm constantly.

AV (2) - affirm 1, affirm constantly 1;

I. to affirm strongly, assert confidently

ASSEVERATE (Definition) = declare or state solemnly or emphatically.

IN SUMMARY OF THE LAST LESSON:

THE CHRIST IS THE LOGOS MADE FLESH

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

THE LOGOS IS THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD REVEALED AND MANIFESTED TO MANKIND

1 Corinthians 1:20-25,30

20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 **For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 **But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

30 **But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**

Colossians 2:2-3

2 **That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;**

3 **In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

THE LOGOS IS THE WILL, PLAN, AND PURPOSE OF GOD FOR ALL OF CREATION AND ALL OF TIME.

Acts 15:18 **Known unto God are all his works FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD.**

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 **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:**

11 **Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.**

THE WORKING OF GOD'S WILL, PLAN, AND PURPOSE IN BOTH TIME AND ETERNITY IS CALLED THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Colossians 1:3-20

3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

5 **For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;**

6 **Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:**

7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

9 **For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and TO DESIRE THAT YE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING;**

10 **That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

11 **Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 **WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HATH TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON:**

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 **Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:**

16 **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 **And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

18 **And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

19 **For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;**

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Hebrews 1:8 But unto the Son he saith, **Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.**

THEREFORE, THE WORD OF GOD WILL COME TO PASS IN ITS ENTIRETY

Romans 9:27-28

27 Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

28 **For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.**

Romans 9:27-28 (**Wuest's Expanded Translation**)

27-28 And Isaiah cries in anguish concerning Israel, If the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved. **For the Lord will execute His word upon the earth, finishing and cutting it short.**

Romans 9:27-28 (**The Bible in Basic English**)

27 And Isaiah says about Israel, Even if the number of the children of Israel is as the sand of the sea, only a small part will get salvation:

28 **For the Lord will give effect to his word on the earth, putting an end to it and cutting it short.**

Romans 9:27-28 (**The Complete Jewish Bible**)

27 But Yesha'yahu, referring to Isra'el, cries out, "Even if the number of people in Isra'el is as large as the number of grains of sand by the sea, only a remnant will be saved.

28 **For Adonai will fulfill his word on the earth with certainty and without delay."**

Romans 9:27-28 (**Douay-Rheims Bible**)

27 And Esaias crieth out concerning Israel: If the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.

28 **For he shall finish his word, and cut it short in justice; because a short word shall the Lord make upon the earth.**

**IN ROMANS 9:28, THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED
“WORK” IS LOGOS IN THE GREEK IN BOTH INSTANCES.**

THE GREEK WORD LOGOS IS USUALLY TRANSLATED “WORD” IN THE KING JAMES NEW TESTAMENT AND IS WHAT THE INFINITE GOD BECAME IN ORDER TO RELATE TO THE FINITE CREATION.

THE WORD LOGOS WHEN USED BY THE HOLY GHOST IN THE WORD OF GOD CONTAINS ALL OF THE WISDOM AND WILL OF GOD, THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, THE PLAN AND PURPOSE OF GOD, THE COUNSEL OF GOD, ETC.

IT EXPRESSES EVERYTHING THAT GOD HAS PLANNED AND PURPOSED TO DO FROM THE BEGINNING.

THE LORD IS GOING TO COMPLETE HIS WORD ENTIRELY, PERFORMING HIS WORD BY CONTRACTING (“CUTTING SHORT”) THE TIME FRAME USUALLY REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORKS IN THE TEMPORAL.

GOD WILL DO A QUICK WORK OF FINISHING HIS WORD BECAUSE HE WANTS THOSE OF US WHO DO THE WORK HIS WORD TO STILL BE RIGHTEOUS.

IF PAUL NEEDED “THORNS IN FLESH” TO BE SAVED, WHAT WILL THE LAST DAY CHURCH NEED WHEN WE ARE HAVE BEEN CONDUITS FOR THE GREATEST WORK THAT GOD HAS EVER DONE ON THE EARTH?

WE MUST FIND AND GIVE OURSELVES TO OUR PLACE IN AND PORTION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 **But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that GOOD PART, which shall not be taken away from her.**

(GOOD) PART (*Strong's*) = g3310. meris; feminine of 3313; **a portion, i.e. province, share or (abstractly) participation:** — part (x -akers).

AV (5) - part 4, to be partaker + g1519 1;

a part as distinct from the wholean assigned part, a portion, share

Colossians 1:12-13

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

SIN IS THAT WHICH CAUSES US TO MISS OUT ON OUR SHARE/PORCION OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE

SIN (*Strong's*) = g0266. hamartia; from 264; a sin (properly abstract): — offence, sin(-ful).

(*Thayer's*) To be without a share in; To miss the mark;
To err, be mistaken; To miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong; to wander from the law of God, violate God's law, sin; that which is done wrong, sin, an offence, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act;
collectively, the complex or aggregate of sins committed either by a single person or by many

DERIVED FROM: (*Strong's*) = g0264. hamartano; perhaps from 1 (as a negative particle) and the base of 3313; properly, to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize), i.e. (figuratively) to err, especially (morally) to sin: — for your faults, offend, sin, trespass.

(*Thayer's*) To be without a share in; To miss the mark

DERIVED FROM: (*Strong's*) = g3313. meros; from an obsolete but more primary form of μερομαιmeromai (**to get as a section or allotment**); **A DIVISION OR SHARE (LITERALLY OR FIGURATIVELY, IN A WIDE APPLICATION)**:
AV (43) - part 24, portion 3, coast 3, behalf 2, respect 2, misc 9;

(*Thayer's*) **a part; a part due or assigned to one; lot, destiny; one of the constituent parts of a whole;**

SPIRITUALLY SIN IS NOT BEING IMMORAL. SIN IS THAT WHICH DISQUALIFIES US FROM HAVING AND PARTICIPATING IN OUR SHARE OF BOTH THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM IN THE TEMPORAL DIMENSION OF TIME AND ALSO OUR PART/PORCION/PLACE IN THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD.

THE WORK OF THE WORD

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, **BUT AS IT IS IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH EFFECTUALLY WORKETH ALSO IN YOU THAT BELIEVE.**

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, **and to finish his work.**

Romans 9:28 **For he will finish the work [LOGOS], and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work [LOGOS] will the Lord make upon the earth.**

Ephesians 1:7-12

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **BEING PREDESTINATED ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF HIM WHO WORKETH ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN WILL:**

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 **MAKE YOU PERFECT IN EVERY GOOD WORK TO DO HIS WILL, WORKING IN YOU THAT WHICH IS WELLPLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

17 **Comfort your hearts, and STABLISH YOU IN EVERY GOOD WORD AND WORK.**

KNOWING AND FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD

Ephesians 3:1-13

1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3 **How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,**

4 **Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)**

5 **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;**

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, **that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable [Greek is Literally, "immeasurable"] riches of Christ;**

9 **And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:**

10 **TO THE INTENT THAT NOW UNTO THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN HEAVENLY PLACES MIGHT BE KNOWN BY THE CHURCH THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD,**

11 **According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:**

12 **In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.**

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

MANIFOLD (WISDOM) = (ANLEX) of something that is manifested in a great variety of forms, many-sided, most varied,

MANIFOLD (CWSB Dictionary) greatly diversified, abounding in variety

WE WILL NEVER PLUMB THE DEPTHS OF GOD'S WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, JUDGEMENTS, AND WAYS!

John 21:24-25

24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:16-19

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

17 **That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**

18 MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH, AND LENGTH, AND DEPTH, AND HEIGHT;

19 **And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

Ephesians 1:16-19

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED; THAT YE MAY KNOW what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

9 **But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

10 **BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 **NOW WE HAVE RECEIVED, NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD, BUT THE SPIRIT WHICH IS OF GOD; THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS THAT ARE FREELY GIVEN TO US OF GOD.**

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO MANKIND BY WHAT HE DECLARES IN ADVANCE AND BRINGS TO PASS. ONLY HE AS THE ALMIGHTY GOD CAN DO THAT!

Isaiah 43:10-13

10 **Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.**

11 **I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.**

12 **I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.**

13 **Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?**

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and **calleth those things which be not as though they were.**

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 **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:**

11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

Isaiah 46:11 (*Expanded Bible*)

11 I am calling a man from the east to carry out my plan; he will come like a hawk [bird of prey; eagle] from a country far away. I will make what I have said come true; I will do what I have planned.

Isaiah 46:11 (*New Century Version*)

11 I am calling a man from the east to carry out my plan; he will come like a hawk from a country far away. I will make what I have said come true; I will do what I have planned.

Isaiah 46:11 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east—the man [Cyrus] who executes My counsel from a far country. Yes, I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed it, and I will do it.

Isaiah 44:24 - 45:3

24 Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

25 That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

26 That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:

27 That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

45:1 Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden,

to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

THIS HAS ALSO COME TO PASS IN OUR DAY!

THE LORD SPOKE THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON, BUT HE WAS ONLY AN EXAMPLE OF OUR DAY AND OTHERS.

Daniel 4:16-17

16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

17 **This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: TO THE INTENT THAT THE LIVING MAY KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH RULETH IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN, AND GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL, AND SETTETH UP OVER IT THE BASEST [Hebrew = "lowest"] OF MEN.**

25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, **TILL THOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH RULETH IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN, AND GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL.**

THIS PRESIDENT WAS AN IMPOSSIBILITY!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S CERTAINLY LEARNED OF GOD'S ABILITY TO DO HIS WILL AND FULFILL HIS PURPOSE IN THE EARTH.

Daniel 4:34-35

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, **and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:**

35 **And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: AND HE DOETH ACCORDING TO HIS WILL in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**

THE WILL, COUNSEL, AND PURPOSE OF GOD WAS SETTLED FROM BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS.

Acts 15:18 **Known unto God are all his works FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD.**

Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 **According as HE HATH CHOSEN US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

1 Peter 1:18-21

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 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,**

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

GOD'S FOREORDAINED PLAN CENTERED AROUND CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Acts 2:22-24

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, **being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 4:24-30

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,
28 **For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.**

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Acts 4:28 (Bible in Basic English)

28 To do that which had been fixed before by your hand and your purpose.

Acts 4:28 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

28 To carry out all that Your hand and Your will and purpose had predestined (predetermined) should occur.

Acts 4:28 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined [before the creation of the world] to occur [and so without knowing it, they served Your own purpose].

Acts 4:28 New Living Translation)

28 But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will.

PAUL APPEALS TO CHRIST AS BOTH OUR EXAMPLE AND PROOF OF GOD'S ABILITY TO DO ALL OF HIS WILL RELIABLY.

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 **And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

20 **WHICH HE WROUGHT IN CHRIST, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,**

21 **Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:**

22 **And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,**

23 **Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

WHAT WAS WRITTEN ABOUT THE CHRIST HAD TO COME TO PASS, IT COULD NOT FAIL!

1 Peter 1:17-21

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 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,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Matthew 26:24 **The Son of man goeth as it is written of him:** but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Luke 22:37 **For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.**

Luke 22:37 *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

37 For I tell you that this Scripture must yet be fulfilled in Me: And He was counted and classed among the wicked (the outlaws, the criminals); **for what is written about Me has its fulfillment [has reached its end and is finally settled].**

Luke 22:37 *(Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

37 For I tell you, what is written must be fulfilled in Me: And He was counted among the outlaws, **Yes, what is written about Me is coming to its fulfillment."**

Luke 22:37 *(Wuest)*

37 for I am saying to you that it is a necessity in the nature of the case for this which has been written and is at present on record to be fulfilled in me, namely this, And with violators of the law He was accounted; **for indeed the things which have to do with me are at present having a consummation.**

Luke 22:37 (*God's Word Translation*)

37 I can guarantee that the Scripture passage which says, 'He was counted with criminals,' must find its fulfillment in me. Indeed, whatever is written about me will come true."

Luke 22:37 (*The Complete Jewish Bible 2016*)

37 For I tell you this: the passage from the Tanakh that says, 'He was counted with transgressors,' has to be fulfilled in me; since what is happening to me has a purpose."

Luke 22:37 (*International Standard Version*)

37 Because I tell you, what has been written about me must be fulfilled: 'He was counted among the criminals.' Indeed, what is written about me must be fulfilled."

Luke 22:37 (*Vincent's Word Studies*)

Have an end *telos echei*. The phrase is synonymous with be accomplished *telesthēnai*, Rev., fulfilled). **IN CLASSICAL GREEK THIS LATTER WORD IS OFTEN USED OF THE FULFILMENT OF AN ORACLE: ALSO OF THINGS WHICH ARE SETTLED BEYOND CONTROVERSY.** The two expressions here give the two meanings. The prophecy is fulfilled; the things concerning me are finally settled.

Luke 24:44-49

44 And he said unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, **Thus it is written**, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 3:12-22

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 And now, brethren, I wot that THROUGH IGNORANCE ye did it, as did also your rulers.

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE AND WILL DO AGAIN, GOD USES THE SPIRITUAL IGNORANCE OF MEN WHO DENY HIM AND HIS EXISTENCE TO FULFILL HIS WILL AND PURPOSE.

GOD USES THOSE WHO WILL NOT GIVE HIM GLORY TO GET HIMSELF GLORY FROM THEIR ACTS THAT THEY WILLINGLY COMMIT, BY THEIR OWN CHOICES, WITHOUT KNOWING OR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN “MANEUVERED” INTO DOING THEM.

Exodus 4:10-17

10 And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

14 **And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well.** And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

15 **And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.**

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and **he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.**

17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

Exodus 7:1-6

1 And the Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

2 **Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh,** that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

3 **And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.**

4 **But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.**

5 **And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.**

6 And Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded them, so did they.

THE LORD WARNS US OF WHAT IS COMING IN ADVANCE SO THAT WE CAN BE PREPARED

2 Peter 3:1-18

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 **That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:**

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 **But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

10 **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

11 **Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

12 **Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?**

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 **Wherefore, beloved, SEEING THAT YE LOOK FOR SUCH THINGS, BE DILIGENT that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 **Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before [Greek = to have foreknowledge of], beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.**

18 **But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

OUR GUARANTEED PROMISE OF ENDTIME HARVEST

Hebrews 6:13-20

13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

17 WHEREIN GOD, WILLING MORE ABUNDANTLY TO SHEW UNTO THE HEIRS OF PROMISE THE IMMUTABILITY OF HIS COUNSEL, CONFIRMED IT BY AN OATH:

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

GOD'S PROMISES TO ABRAHAM AND TO US

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 18:17-19

17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Genesis 22:15-18

15 And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

16 And said, **BY MYSELF HAVE I SWORN**, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Genesis 26:1-5

1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. **AND ISAAC** went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

2 And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, **Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:**

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;

4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Genesis 28:10-17

10 **AND JACOB** went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, **I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;**

14 **And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

Acts 3:18-26

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, SAYING UNTO ABRAHAM, AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE KINDREDS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

WHAT IS THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM?

Galatians 3:7-9

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

THE "GOSPEL"? WHAT GOSPEL WAS PREACHED TO ABRAHAM?

GOD CALLED THE END BEFORE THE BEGINNING; THUS, THE "GOSPEL" THAT HE PREACHED TO ABRAHAM WAS THE FINISHED PRODUCT OF THE GOSPEL OR THE RESULTS OF THE GOSPEL.

WHAT WE CALL THE GOSPEL, THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, IS THE PROCESS OF THE GOSPEL!

BOTH THE PROCESS AND THE PRODUCT OF THE GOSPEL ARE NECESSARY TO HAVE A "COMPLETE" GOSPEL!

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM IS KNOWN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AS THE “PROMISE OF THE FATHER,” WHICH IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST!

Galatians 3:13-18

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

14 THAT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH.

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

17 And this I say, **that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ**, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: **but God gave it to Abraham by promise.**

Luke 24:49 And, behold, **I send the promise of my Father upon you:** but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4-5

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, **but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.**

5 For John truly baptized with water; **BUT YE SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST NOT MANY DAYS HENCE.**

Acts 2:32-33

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 **Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.**

Acts 2:37-39

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

39 **FOR THE PROMISE IS UNTO YOU, AND TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND TO ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF, EVEN AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CALL.**

ALL OF THE PROMISES MADE TO ABRAHAM ARE MADE TO US AS HIS “SEED” ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE OF GOD.

Galatians 3:21-29

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 **For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**

27 **FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST.**

28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

29 **AND IF YE BE CHRIST'S, THEN ARE YE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE.**

ABRAHAM'S FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE WAS ACCREDITED TO HIM AS "RIGHTEOUSNESS"!

Romans 4:1-8

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3 **For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed [NOT "IN"] God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Romans 4:13-25

13 **For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

16 **Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; TO THE END THE PROMISE MIGHT BE SURE TO ALL THE SEED; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,**

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, [Genesis 12,22]) **before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**

18 **Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.**

19 **And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:**

20 **HE STAGGERED NOT AT THE PROMISE OF GOD THROUGH UNBELIEF; BUT WAS STRONG IN FAITH, GIVING GLORY TO GOD;**

21 **AND BEING FULLY PERSUADED THAT, WHAT HE HAD PROMISED, HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM.**

22 **And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

23 **Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

24 **BUT FOR US ALSO,** to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 **Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**

THE REVELATION TO US OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR NOW AND ETERNITY

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE - Ephesians 1

Ephesians 1:1-6

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
- 2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

- 1 1 PAUL, AN apostle (special messenger) of Christ Jesus (the Messiah), by the divine will (the purpose and the choice of God) to the saints (the consecrated, set-apart ones) at Ephesus who are also faithful and loyal and steadfast in Christ Jesus:
- 2 May grace (God's unmerited favor) and spiritual peace [which means peace with God and harmony, unity, and undisturbedness] be yours from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 May blessing (praise, laudation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm!
- 4 Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.
- 5 For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent] —
- 6 [So that we might be] to the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace (favor and mercy), which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

1-2 Paul, an ambassador of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to the saints, the ones who are [in Ephesus], namely, believing ones in Christ Jesus. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be eulogized, the One who conferred benefactions upon us in the sphere of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 even as He selected us out for himself in Him before the foundations of the universe were laid, to be holy ones and without blemish before His searching, penetrating gaze;

5-6 in love having previously marked us out to be placed as adult sons through the intermediate agency of Jesus Christ for himself according to that which seemed good in His heart's desire, resulting in praise of the glory of His grace which He freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved,

Ephesians 1:1-2 (*Bible in Basic English*)

1 Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the purpose of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and those who have faith in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us every blessing of the Spirit in the heavens in Christ:

4 Even as he made selection of us in him from the first, so that we might be holy and free from all evil before him in love:

5 As we were designed before by him for the position of sons to himself, through Jesus Christ, in the good pleasure of his purpose,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, which he freely gave to us in the Loved One:

Ephesians 1:7-11

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Ephesians 1 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

7 In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor,

8 Which He lavished upon us in every kind of wisdom and understanding (practical insight and prudence),
9 Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (of His plan, of His purpose). [And it is this:] In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in Him,
10 [He planned] for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and head them up and consummate them in Christ, [both] things in heaven and things on the earth.
11 In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) and we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His [own] will,

Ephesians 1

7-9 in whom we are having our redemption through His blood, the putting away of our trespasses according to the wealth of His grace which He caused to superabound to us in the sphere of every wisdom and understanding, having made known to us the mystery of His will according to that which seemed good to Him, which good thing He purposed in himself,
10 with respect to an administration of the completion of the epochs of time to bring back again to their original state all things in the Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him,
11 in whom also we were made an inheritance, having been previously marked out according to the purpose of the One who operates all things according to the counsel of His will,

Ephesians 1:7-9 (*Bible in Basic English*)

7 In whom we have salvation through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, through the wealth of his grace,
8 Which he gave us in full measure in all wisdom and care;
9 Having made clear to us the secret of his purpose, in agreement with the design which he had in mind, to put into his hands
10 The ordering of the times when they are complete, so that all things might come to a head in Christ, the things in heaven and the things on the earth; in him, I say,
11 In whom we have a heritage, being marked out from the first in his purpose who does all things in agreement with his designs;

Ephesians 1:12-14

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

12 So that we who first hoped in Christ [who first put our confidence in Him have been destined and appointed to] live for the praise of His glory!

13 In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.

14 That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it — to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1 (Wuest's Expanded Translation)

12-14 with a view to our being to the praise of His glory who had previously placed our hope in the Christ, in whom also, as for you, having heard the word of the truth, the good news of your salvation, in whom also having believed, you were sealed with the Spirit of the promise, the Holy Spirit, who is the token payment of our inheritance guaranteeing the full payment of all, looking forward to the redemption of the possession which is being preserved with a view to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:12-14 (Bible in Basic English)

12 So that his glory might have praise through us who first had hope in Christ:

13 In whom you, having been given the true word, the good news of your salvation, and through your faith in him, were given the sign of the Holy Spirit of hope,

14 Which is the first-fruit of our heritage, till God gets back that which is his, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:15-16

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Ephesians 1 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints (the people of God),

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

15-16 On account of this, I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and of your love to all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you as I constantly make mention of you in my prayers,

Ephesians 1:15-16 (*Bible in Basic English*)

15 For this cause I, having had news of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and which you make clear to all the saints,

16 Give praise without end for you, keeping you in mind in my prayers;

Ephesians 1:17

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Ephesians 1 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

17 [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him,

Ephesians 1 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of the glory, might give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the sphere of a full knowledge of Him,

Ephesians 1:17 (*Bible in Basic English*)

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him;

Ephesians 1:18-19

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians 1 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

18 By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),

19 And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

Ephesians 1 (Wuest's Expanded Translation)

18-19 the eyes of your heart being in an enlightened state with a view to your knowing what is the hope of His calling, what is the wealth of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the superabounding greatness of His inherent power to us who are believing ones

Ephesians 1:18-19 (Bible in Basic English)

18 And that having the eyes of your heart full of light, you may have knowledge of what is the hope of his purpose, what is the wealth of the glory of his heritage in the saints,

19 And how unlimited is his power to us who have faith, as is seen in the working of the strength of his power,

Ephesians 1:20-21

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Ephesians 1 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

20 Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places],

21 Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come.

Ephesians 1 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

20-21 as measured by the operative energy of the manifested strength of His might, which might was operative in the Christ when He raised Him from among the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, over and above every government and authority and power and lordship and every name that is constantly being named, not only in this age, but also in the one about to come.

Ephesians 1:20-21 (*Bible in Basic English*)

20 By which he made Christ come back from the dead, and gave him a place at his right hand in heaven,

21 Far over all rule and authority and power and every name which is named, not only in the present order, but in that which is to come:

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 1 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

22 And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church], [Psalms 8:6.]

23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

Ephesians 1 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

22-23 And all things He put in subjection under His feet, and Him He gave as Head over all things to the Church, which is of such a nature as to be His body, the fulness of the One who constantly is filling all things with all things.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (*Bible in Basic English*)

22 And he has put all things under his feet, and has made him to be head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the full measure of him in whom all things are made complete.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE

- Ephesians 2

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 2 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

1 AND YOU [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins

2 In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

3 Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behavior governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then by nature children of [God's] wrath and heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2 (Wuest's Expanded Translation)

1 And you being dead with reference to your trespasses and sins, He made alive; in the sphere of which trespasses and sins

2 at one time you ordered your behavior as dominated by the spirit of the age in this world system, as dominated by the leader of the authority of the lower atmosphere, the source also of the spirit that is now operating in the sons of the disobedience

3 among whom also we all ordered our behavior in the sphere of the cravings of our evil nature, continually practicing the desires of our evil nature and of our thoughts, and were continually children of wrath by nature, as also the rest.

Ephesians 2:1 (*Bible in Basic English*)

1 And to you did he give life, when you were dead through your wrongdoing and sins,

2 In which you were living in the past, after the ways of this present world, doing the pleasure of the lord of the power of the air, the spirit who is now working in those who go against the purpose of God;

3 Among whom we all at one time were living in the pleasures of our flesh, giving way to the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and the punishment of God was waiting for us even as for the rest.

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

4 But God — so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us,

5 Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation).

6 And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Ephesians 2 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

4-5 But God, being wealthy in the sphere of mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, and we, being dead with respect to our trespasses, made us alive together with the Christ; by grace have you been saved completely in past time,

6 with the present result that you are in a state of salvation which persists through present time, and raised us with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 2:4-5 (*Bible in Basic English*)

4 But God, being full of mercy, through the great love which he had for us,

5 Even when we were dead through our sins, gave us life together with Christ (by grace you have salvation),

6 So that we came back from death with him, and are seated with him in the heavens, in Christ Jesus;

Ephesians 2:7

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

7 He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favor) in [His] kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

7 in order that He might exhibit for His own glory in the ages that will pile themselves one upon another in continuous succession, the surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:7 (*Bible in Basic English*)

7 That in the time to come he might make clear the full wealth of his grace in his mercy to us in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2 Amplified Version

8 For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

9 Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]

Ephesians 2 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

8-9 For by the grace have you been saved in time past completely, through faith, with the result that your salvation persists through present time; and this [salvation] is not from you as a source; of God it is the gift, not from a source of works, in order that no one might boast;

Ephesians 2:8-9 (*Bible in Basic English*)

8 Because by grace you have salvation through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is given by God:

9 Not by works, so that no man may take glory to himself.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Ephesians 2 (Wuest's Expanded Translation)

10 for we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus with a view to good works which God prepared beforehand in order that within their sphere we may order our behavior.

Ephesians 2:10 (Bible in Basic English)

10 For by his act we were given existence in Christ Jesus to do those good works which God before made ready for us so that we might do them.

Ephesians 2:11-13

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

11 Therefore, remember that at one time you were Gentiles (heathens) in the flesh, called Uncircumcision by those who called themselves Circumcision, [itself a mere mark] in the flesh made by human hands.

12 [Remember] that you were at that time separated (living apart) from Christ [excluded from all part in Him], utterly estranged and outlawed from the rights of Israel as a nation, and strangers with no share in the sacred compacts of the [Messianic] promise [with no knowledge of or right in God's agreements, His covenants]. And you had no hope (no promise); you were in the world without God.

13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were [so] far away, through (by, in) the blood of Christ have been brought near.

Ephesians 2 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

11-12 On this account be remembering that at one time, you, the Gentiles in the flesh, the ones habitually called uncircumcision by that which is called circumcision in the flesh made by hand, that you were at that time without a Messiah, alienated from the commonwealth of the Israel and strangers from the covenants of the promise, not having hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you, who at one time were far off, have become near by the blood of the Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-12 (*Bible in Basic English*)

11 For this reason keep it in mind that in the past you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are looked on as being outside the circumcision by those who have circumcision, in the flesh, made by hands;

12 That you were at that time without Christ, being cut off from any part in Israel's rights as a nation, having no part in God's agreement, having no hope, and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who at one time were far off are made near in the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-18

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Ephesians 2 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

14 For He is [Himself] our peace (our bond of unity and harmony). He has made us both [Jew and Gentile] one [body], and has broken down (destroyed, abolished) the hostile dividing wall between us,

15 By abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the enmity [caused by] the Law with its decrees and ordinances [which He annulled]; that He from the two might create in Himself one new man [one new quality of humanity out of the two], so making peace.

16 And [He designed] to reconcile to God both [Jew and Gentile, united] in a single body by means of His cross, thereby killing the mutual enmity and bringing the feud to an end.

17 And He came and preached the glad tidings of peace to you who were afar off and [peace] to those who were near. [Isaiah 57:19.]

18 For it is through Him that we both [whether far off or near] now have an introduction (access) by one [Holy] Spirit to the Father [so that we are able to approach Him].

Ephesians 2 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

14-18 For He himself is our peace, the One who made the both one, having broken down the middle wall of the partition, the enmity, in His flesh having rendered inoperative the law of the commandments in ordinances, in order that the two He might create in himself, resulting in one new man, making peace, and in order that He might reconcile the both in one body to God through the Cross, having put to death the enmity by it, and having come, He proclaimed glad tidings of peace to you who were far off, and to you who were near, because through Him we have our entree, the both of us, by one Spirit into the presence of the Father.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (*Bible in Basic English*)

14 For he is our peace, who has made the two into one, and by whom the middle wall of division has been broken down,

15 Having in his flesh put an end to that which made the division between us, even the law with its rules and orders, so that he might make in himself, of the two, one new man, so making peace;

16 And that the two might come into agreement with God in one body through the cross, so putting an end to that division.

17 And he came preaching peace to you who were far off, and to those who were near;

18 Because through him the two of us are able to come near in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

19 Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God's [own] household.

20 You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone.

21 In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord].

22 In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit.

Ephesians 2 (Wuest's Expanded Translation)

19-22 Now then, no longer are you aliens and foreign sojourners, but you are fellow citizens of the saints and householders of God, having been built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, there being a chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ himself, in whom the whole building closely joined together grows into a holy inner sanctuary in the Lord, in whom also you are being built together into a permanent dwelling place of God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (Bible in Basic English)

19 So then you are no longer as those who have no part or place in the kingdom of God, but you are numbered among the saints, and of the family of God,

20 Resting on the base of the Apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief keystone,

21 In whom all the building, rightly joined together, comes to be a holy house of God in the Lord;

22 In whom you, with the rest, are united together as a living-place of God in the Spirit.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE

- Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3:1-2

1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward:

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

1 FOR THIS reason [because I preached that you are thus built up together], I, Paul, [am] the prisoner of Jesus the Christ for the sake and on behalf of you Gentiles —

2 Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace (His unmerited favor) that was entrusted to me [to dispense to you] for your benefit,

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

1-2 On this account I, Paul, the prisoner of the Messiah, Jesus, on behalf of you, the Gentiles, assuming that you heard of the administration of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Ephesians 3:1-2 (*Bible in Basic English*)

1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles,
2 If that ordering of the grace of God has come to your knowledge, which was given to me for you,

Ephesians 3:3-6

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

3 [And] that the mystery (secret) was made known to me and I was allowed to comprehend it by direct revelation, as I already briefly wrote you.

4 When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.

5 [This mystery] was never disclosed to human beings in past generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles (consecrated messengers) and prophets by the [Holy] Spirit.

6 [It is this:] that the Gentiles are now to be fellow heirs [with the Jews], members of the same body and joint partakers [sharing] in the same divine promise in Christ through [their acceptance of] the glad tidings (the Gospel).

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

3-4 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery even as I wrote above in brief, in accordance with which you are able when you read to understand my insight into the mystery of the Christ

5 which in other and different generations was not made known to the sons of men as now it has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and belong jointly to the same body, and are fellow partakers of His promise in Christ Jesus, revealed through the good news
6 that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and belong jointly to the same body, and are fellow partakers of His promise in Christ Jesus, revealed through the good news

Ephesians 3:3-4 (*Bible in Basic English*)

3 How by revelation the secret was made clear to me, as I said before in a short letter,

4 By the reading of which you will be clear about my knowledge of the secret of Christ;

5 Which in other generations was not given to the sons of men, but the revelation of it has now been made to his holy Apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

6 Which is that the Gentiles have a part in the heritage, and in the same body, and in the same hope in Christ through the good news,

Ephesians 3:7-13

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

7 Of this [Gospel] I was made a minister according to the gift of God's free grace (undeserved favor) which was bestowed on me by the exercise (the working in all its effectiveness) of His power.

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God's consecrated people), this grace (favor, privilege) was granted and graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out],

9 Also to enlighten all men and make plain to them what is the plan [regarding the Gentiles and providing for the salvation of all men] of the mystery kept hidden through the ages and concealed until now in [the mind of] God Who created all things by Christ Jesus.

10 [The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

11 This is in accordance with the terms of the eternal and timeless purpose which He has realized and carried into effect in [the person of] Christ Jesus our Lord,

12 In Whom, because of our faith in Him, we dare to have the boldness (courage and confidence) of free access (an unreserved approach to God with freedom and without fear).

13 So I ask you not to lose heart [not to faint or become despondent through fear] at what I am suffering in your behalf. [Rather glory in it] for it is an honor to you.

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

7-8 of which I became one who ministers according to the gift of the grace of God, which grace was given to me according to the operative energy of His power. To me, the one who is less than the least of all saints, there was given this grace, to the Gentiles to proclaim the good news of the incomprehensible wealth belonging to the Christ,

9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which has been kept covered up from the beginning of the ages in the God who created all things,

10 in order that there might be made known now to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places through the intermediate agency of the Church the much-variegated wisdom of God,

11 according to the eternal purpose which He carried into effect in the Christ, Jesus our Lord,

12 in whom we are having our freedom of speech and entree in perfect confidence through faith in Him.

13 Wherefore, I am asking in my own interest, that you do not lose heart by reason of my tribulations on your behalf which are of such a nature as to be your glory.

Ephesians 3:7-8 (*Bible in Basic English*)

7 Of which I was made a preacher, through that grace of God which was given to me in the measure of the working of his power.

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, was this grace given, so that I might make clear to the Gentiles the good news of the unending wealth of Christ:

9 And make all men see what is the ordering of the secret which from the first has been kept in God who made all things;

10 So that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavens might be made clear through the church the wide-shining wisdom of God,

11 Which is seen in his eternal purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 By whom we come near to God without fear through faith in him.

13 For this reason it is my prayer that you may not become feeble because of my troubles for you, which are your glory.

Ephesians 3:14-15

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

14 For this reason [seeing the greatness of this plan by which you are built together in Christ], I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 For Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named [that Father from Whom all fatherhood takes its title and derives its name].

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

14 On this account I bow my knees to the Father

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Ephesians 3:13-15 (*Bible in Basic English*)

14 For this cause I go down on my knees before the Father,

15 From whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Ephesians 3:16

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

16 May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality].

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

16 that He would grant to you according to the wealth of His glory, with power to be strengthened through the Spirit in the inward man,

Ephesians 3:16 (*Bible in Basic English*)

16 That in the wealth of his glory he would make you strong with power through his Spirit in your hearts;

Ephesians 3:17

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

17 May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love,

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

17 that the Christ might finally settle down and feel completely at home in your hearts through your faith; in love having been firmly rooted and grounded

Ephesians 3:17 (*Bible in Basic English*)

17 So that Christ may have his place in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and based in love,

Ephesians 3:18

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

18 That you may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it];

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

18 in order that you may be able to grasp with all the saints what is the breadth and width and height and depth,

Ephesians 3:18 (*Bible in Basic English*)

18 May have strength to see with all the saints how wide and long and high and deep it is,

Ephesians 3:19

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

19 [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

19 and to know experientially the love of the Christ which surpasses experiential knowledge in order that you may be filled up to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:19 (*Bible in Basic English*)

19 And to have knowledge of the love of Christ which is outside all knowledge, so that you may be made complete as God himself is complete.

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Ephesians 3 (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*)

20 Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams] —

21 To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

Ephesians 3 (*Wuest's Expanded Translation*)

20-21 Now to the One who is able to do beyond all things, superabundantly beyond and over and above those things that we are asking for ourselves and considering, in the measure of the power which is operative in us, to Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus into all the generations of the age of the ages. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (*Bible in Basic English*)

20 Now to him who is able to do in full measure more than all our desires or thoughts, through the power which is working in us,

21 To him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations for ever and ever. So be it.

SELAH!