

## HIS PLANS: YOUR PURPOSE

The intent of this series is to examine God's purpose for the creation process, why mankind and what He intends our purpose in life to be today.

~~The intent of this study is to provide a brief overview of God's plans for creation and what He also intends for our purpose to be.~~

### Outline

Lesson 1 - His plans

Lesson 2 - The Kingdom Is His Plan

Lesson 3 - Jesus Is About Restoration

Lesson 4 - The Gospel Of The Kingdom

Lesson 5 - Your Purpose

## LESSON 1 - HIS PLANS

### INTRODUCTION

Many individuals wonder what their purpose in life is.

- People get caught up in jobs, making money, power, sports, recreation, sinful activity
- Most looking to fulfill an emptiness, a lack for reason for being

To grasp our purpose in life, we need to first grasp what God's plans are

Then we can see how mankind is designed to fit His plans

Doing this, will give us the foundation for our purpose in life

### CREATION

Scriptural Back Story - The Creation Process (Genesis 1:1-31)

Note: Paraphrase and walk through the story

- Day 1 - Let there be light -
- Day 2 - Firmament, dividing waters above from below
- Day 3 - Dry Ground, seas, grass, herb, fruit tree
- Day 4 - Sun, moon stars
- Day 5 - Fish & Birds
- Day 6 - Living creatures: cattle, creeping thing, beasts & man
- Day 7 - Rested

**Question:** Have you ever wondered why God went through this whole creation process?  
Why did he create the earth?

Lets look at what some scripture states about the earth.

- *Num 14:21 But [as] truly [as] I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.*
- *Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of his glory.*
- *Psa 19:1 [[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]] The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*
- *Psa 57:11 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: [let] thy glory [be] above all the earth.*
- *Hab 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

From these texts, see there is a common theme: it is God's Glory will be above or cover the earth and fill the earth  
**THE GLORY OF GOD**

So the question begs to be asked: "What is Glory"

The English word is used many times in both the Old and New Testament

### A. Old testament

- The word for glory is *kabodh*
- According to the International Standard Biblical Encyclopedia it refers to:
  - an external physical characteristic which attracts the attention,
  - most frequently to the external manifestations.
  - most important of all, it describes the form in which Jehovah (Yahweh) reveals Himself or is the sign and manifestation of His presence.
  - unquestionably the most important use of the word kabodh is its employment .....to describe the method or the circumstances of the self-manifestation of God. ISBE

#### a. Examples

- Exo 24:17 And the sight of the glory of the LORD [was] like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel.
- Exo 40:34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
- Num 16:42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.
- 2Ch 5:14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

In each of these examples, and many more in the scripture the glory of the Lord is associated with a physical manifestation that resulted in the recognition of God's presence.

### B. New Testament

- In the NT the word used is **doxa** and according to Dr. Spiro Zodhiates it has as its meaning:
  - *" appearance, form,.. that appearance of a person or thing which catches the eye or attracts attention, commanding recognition."*

#### a. Examples

- Mat 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- Lk 2:9 KJV] 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- Lk 9:31 Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Again we see that glory refers to a physical manifestation that brought about the recognition of God

Thus we can say Glory is a physical manifestation that is intended to attract attention and bring about recognition.  
**In this context is to bring recognition of God's existence and presence.**

### C. Back To Creation

- Now looking back to the scriptures about the glory of God filling the earth we can put it into context
- **The earth was to be filled with an appearance that attracted attention and brought the recognition of God.**

The question now is: How did he plan to do this?

### MANKIND

#### A. Purpose of Man

The psalmist gives us insight into the original purpose and plan for man

- *Ps 8:4-6 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:*

Psalms 8 speaks of God's original plan for the creation of man

- *Man* = man, mankind, mortal men
- *Lower than angels* = is one word: elohim - meaning God
- *Crowned him with Glory*
  - Crowned: surround with a crown (strong's)
- He was made to have dominion = **rule, reign**, dominion

Taking the definitions of these words into account, we can say that:

- Mankind was made just a little lower than God
- God crowned him with glory - an appearance to bring recognition
- He was made to have rule, or reign over the works of God's hands - or creation

Lets look at how this happened

#### B. Creation of man

- *Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

In creation process we see man was....

- Created in God's Image
- Created in God's Likeness
- Given dominion & told to subdue earth
- Commanded to multiply and replenish the earth

Now lets look at this in more detail

##### a. Created in God's image

- Image means; "image or copy" of something in the sense of a replica. (Vines)

An image is not the original, but something that is created to cause recognition or identification of the original

**i. Example:**

- **Drivers License**  
It has a photo of you. The photo is not the original you, but is an image that is intended to bring recognition of your identity.
  
- **Photo Album**  
We look at a family photo album and see pictures of our family members. Those family members are not there with you, but the photo causes you to recognize them.

**Man was created as an image of God to bring recognition of God  
it was intended that when you looked at Adam, you would see what God looked like.**

**b. Likeness**

- Adam was also created in God's likeness
- Likeness: used as an adverb to describe how something is behaving.
  - It describes how something is acting like something else
  - The man was acting like a spoiled child
  
  - **Example** - Isa 13:4 A sound of tumult on the mountains, **Like** that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, Of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle.
    - Was not a tumult or a group of people, but sounded like that
  
- Likeness is behavior or actions that appearance like something else
  
- It also has a Representational component of standing in for someone else
- It is being authorized to act for them by acting like them

**c. Dominion**

- Man was given Dominion - reign over God's creation
- Dominion: to tread down, i.e. subjugate; specifically, to crumble off:—(come to, make to) have dominion, prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule,(-r, over), take.
  
- Again Psalms 8
- *Ps 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all [things] under his feet:*
  - Both in Genesis and Psalms - we see mankind was to exercise rule or reign over creation.

**KINGDOM**

Mankind created in God's image to act like him, demonstrating rule or reign over creation is where the concept of God's kingdom is first established

Old Testament word for kingdom used 110x

- it means: dominion, reign, sovereignty

- *Dan 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. ... 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*

Will discuss Kingdom in more detail next lesson. Purpose here is to establish that the concept of Kingdom was created when God gave Adam dominion and the right to reign over creation.

- All of mankind was created with the same purpose = be God's image and representative, demonstrating authority.
- This is the main theme of God's purpose for us today.

## THE FALL

Gen 3:1-24

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating of the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil

This sin caused Adam to lose the ability to be God's image and likeness

- Recognition
- Actions or representational
- Adam could no longer demonstrate God's character and nature

Adam's sin was passed on to all of mankind

- *Rom 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

### A. Sin

For many, sin is associated with certain actions. While this may be a part, there is a deeper meaning to sin that is vital to understand regarding mankind's purpose.

- *Rom 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
  - *Sinned means* = literally to miss the mark
    - ie as an archer misses the target
  - *Come short*= to fall short (be deficient):—come behind (short), be destitute, fail, lack, suffer need, (be in) want,
- Translate this verse: *For all have missed the mark and fallen short of the appearance that attracts attention and brings recognition of God*

- This was what has been passed on to all of mankind
- We have lost the ability to be God's image and representative in our sinful nature

## CONCLUSION

But God did not scrap and start a new plan – went back to restore original

- God's Plan is about restoration
- Restoring man back to a place of image and dominion or authority
- We will see in the following lessons that God's intent was to restore fallen mankind back to their original purpose

Next lesson we will discuss the Kingdom and what that means

Then how Jesus came to restore what Adam lost

Then the new birth and how it is more than salvation, but an act that places back to our original purpose

Then in the final lesson, we discuss our purpose and the real church.

