James #76

IN CHRIST we found the grace plan of God.

This series may well become a book sometime in the near future.

Our anchor study in James has led us into a deep look at the plan of GOD and this stems from what Pastor James proclaims in James 1:18;

/Jam 1:18 **In the exercise of His will He gave us birth by the word of truth**, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.\

We will be in Ephesians chapter one today and probably going into next message. So please set your anchor in Ephesians chapter one.

/The plan of God is the full precepts of Divine justice, sovereign righteousness, the 3 will’s of GOD, all combined and given from HIS abundant grace. It was processed then sealed into a legal decree in eternity past. This plan which accounted for every detail, free will, negative and positive outcomes, sin and evil, victory and defeats, all for the benefits of fallen mankind.\

This plan is completely dependent upon the person and work of the LORD Jesus Christ.

This plan is a calling which we must accept.

/This plan has 3 basic steps – there is a phase one category which begins at salvation. Faith alone in Christ alone is the only entrance, without a supernatural union with Christ you are on the outside looking in. Unbels are a collateral chess piece on the board of temporal life. Phase two begins after salvation and it is a calling (free will) into SM (participation). Phase 3 is the eternal victory of a resurrected life and whatever crowns and blessings accumulated in time.\

After salvation there is no other avenue into Spiritual Maturity accept the filling power of God the HS and a serious walk with Christ by means of Bible Doctrine.

 REPEAT

Ephesians, is one of the prison epistles written by the Apostle Paul for all CA Bels. It was written when the Apostle Paul was imprisoned for stubbornly, getting himself away from the geographical will of God’s plan for his life.

I have covered these details before; this epistle was part of the journey back into the plan of God for the Apostle Paul. It covers the plan of GOD and the calling into maturity.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

As you know the word Ephesus is not in the original context.

It is a circular letter for all churches.

[Eph 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/2/s_1098002) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

/[Eph 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/3/s_1098003) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly *places* in Christ**,

HAS BLESSED US – eternity past, yet all blessings and spiritual powers are found only IN CHRIST. THE ONE who can bless us.\

*Who has blessed us* - is not really accurate, the original context points to the phrase -the ONE who can bless us.

There is only one who can truly bless anyone.

The blessings occurred in heavenly places in eternity past – because this plan had to be filtered into the justice system of God and become a legal decree, we now know as the Divine Decree.

/[Eph 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/4/s_1098004) just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

HE CHOSE US – In Christ, because only Jesus Christ (humanity) could be elected and predestined for eternal life.\

The plan of God before the foundation of the world, already completed, millions or billions of years ago, was satisfied legally first.

Because our LORD stepped out from the TRINITY and said I will go!

Jesus Christ proclaimed - I will become flesh and bone, then I will fulfill the impossible mission as the sacrificial Lamb for God the Father’s perfect plan.

The justice system of GOD was completely satisfied because the righteousness of Christ was more than enough!

/God provides benefits for you on the basis of who and what Christ is and who and what He was in eternity past. Christ is God, meaning HE is the same today as He ever was, there never was a time when He was different. This blessing only becomes a reality to us by phase one – salvation, then phase two, growing into our New Nature in time.\

To think you were elected or predestined on anything in you…even your free will decision to believe upon TLJC is pure arrogance.

The plan is given from the abundant grace of GOD – there is never anything we can do to elevate ourselves into righteousness and spirituality.

 REPEAT

/[Eph 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/5/s_1098005) **He predestined us to adoption as sons *and daughters* through JesusChrist to Himself,** according to the good pleasure of His will,

Positional Truth tells us everything is Christ dependent. God knew you would accept HIS precious SON, yet it is the SON who is chosen (elected & predestined).\

It is your position IN Christ that matters.

It was God’s great love and pleasure to create a plan that we would benefit from.

You have no destiny without TLJC, you can never be elected and sanctified outside of a union with Christ.

/Isa 52:13 Behold, **My Servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up** and greatly exalted.

Isa 42:1 “**Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one** *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

(Isa 11:2-5, Mat 12:18-20, Jhn 6:27, 1Pet 2:4-6, Mar 1:11…etc.) \

If you were born then God has a plan or a destiny for your life. God has elected everyone for an opportunity to be in union with Christ.

 REPEAT

/To be predestined inside the plan of God speaks to the Divine Decree – this means the Believer is in view. This is not something the Unbeliever can partake of. Though God desires they do and has given them a destiny (free will) and elected them for a human life, they have not been PREDESTINED IN Christ.

2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance**.\

They have freedom of choice and given time in the temporal walk of life. Meaning God elected them for human life.

God gave them a destiny in this worldly arena to have ample opportunities to come to know Christ.

Yet as Unbels, they are on the outside looking in, concerning true eternal election and predestination.

 REPEAT

If you do not understand the angelic conflict, you do not understand these basic principles about the plan of God.

There is a position in Christ you must have to receive a true election and predestination.

[Eph 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/6/s_1098006) to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.

HE favored on us - from His abundant grace plan we now walk in.

Notice favored in the BELOVED-

/Eph 1:6 - *HE freely bestowed (charitoō) on us in HIS BELOVED* (*agapaō*) ;

HIS grace is given (aorist tense) in the past, already done. HE gave from HIS integrity (active voice) not on our integrity. This is a matter of fact (indictive mood).\

KAR-AT-TOT-O, is the Greek verb pointing us to the action of grace. It means blessing and honor above anything you can ever earn or deserve.

AG-AH-POT-O is the action, the Greek verb of virtue love. TLJC is the very act of impersonal, unconditional love. Because it is part of HIS very essence, His nature is constantly operating in virtue love.

Notice IT was given from God, already done in eternity past, nothing to do with your power or your efforts.

 REPEAT

/Foreknowledge points to the doctrine of election & predestination. Foreknowledge is not the interference or manipulation of free will, it is the knowledge as to what happens down the corridors of time. It is God who has calculated every detail and legally approved of all outcomes, knowing every decision and consequence, every choice and failure or success. Therefore, your salvation was foreseen by HIM.\

[Eph 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/7/s_1098007) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace

/Eph 1:7 *In Him we have redemption* –

IN CHRIST (active voice CHRIST is the source) we have (present tense – we keep having that security)

Redemption (*apolytrōsis)-* a full deliverance and full payment of debt. A ransom or a liberation (freedom).\

AH-PO-LOOS-TRO-SIS, coming from a Greek root they used for a ransom paid.

Removed from the slave market of sin.

By the work on the cross not the literal bloodshed.

These next few verses are key components in relation to understanding the plan of God.

[/Eph 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/8/s_1098008) which **He lavished**(*perisseuō*) **on us**. In all **wisdom and insight**.

GOD gives us access to truth (BD) which leads to wisdom and insight (discernment). HE does so in an excessive fashion, beyond measure because we are given a new nature and a power source (GAP) of the HS.\

God the HS uses divine power within the Grace Apparatus of Perception so we can digest and fully grasp BD. That GAP principle is ignited by the two power options.

PERRI-SUE-O, to give in abundance, coming from a root word meaning excessive abundance.

The abundance is the WORD (mind of Christ) and the filling power of the HS. Most Christians want an abundance of signs, miracles and emotional nonsense.

[/Eph 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/9/s_1098009) **He made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He set forth **in Him**,

Mystery is found 27x in NT scripture, this is mystery doctrine for the CA, meaning a set of doctrines unknown or shrouded until this point.\

If you do not think mystery doctrine is important in understanding the plan of GOD, you are a Christian who will never fully understand their bible.

It was first introduced by TLJC;

/Mat 13:11 And Jesus answered them, “**To you it has been granted to know the mysteriesof the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been granted.

The style of parables and stories Jesus used in teaching HIS followers was the introduction into Mystery Doctrine for the Church Age.\

The word MUS-TERION, is very divisive and yet it is the exact word used over 2 dozen times by the apostles as well.

There is a reason that word is used.

The deeper meanings of those parables and stories were lost even on the legalistic, intellectual leaders of the day.

Because the flesh is opposed to the truth of Jesus Christ.

/1Cor 2:14 But **a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness** to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because **they are spiritually discerned**.\

Without our union with Christ and the active power of that union, which is through the filling power of God the HS, BD is not easily digested.

We are always and forever in union with Christ, yet in time…we must walk inside that union by means of the HS.

 REPEAT

Jesus used parables and stories to open up mystery doctrine.

In fact, next message I will cover examples of mystery doctrine woven in the basic parables most people know about.

Now let us close with this today, another building block of understanding the full plan of God.

[/Eph 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/10/s_1098010) **regarding *His* plan of the fullness of the times,** to bring all things together **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

 *With a view to an administration (dispensation) suitable to the fullness of the times, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In HIM*.\

The original Greek context is much closer to this.

The view of the mystery of God’s plan is being highlighted here from verse 9.

The fullness of the times (plural) speaks to the times from now (CA), into the Tribulation and then the 1,000 years of Christ on earth that starts at the 2nd Advent.

Understand the subject matter.

The full context of what is being taught matters!

/The Bible was not completed in the Torah (first 5 books of the OT), nor was it done in Malachi (last book of OT). There was great details of analogies, typologies and shadows of what was coming, yet it was not complete until the book of Revelation. Therefore, the whole plan of God must be seen and interpreted by the full canon of scripture.\

The mystery spoke to that which may have been hidden or is yet to come. There may be hints of a mystery, but it remains a mystery until something or someone reveals it!

A mystery is sometimes seen in partial, or clues, yet you cannot remove the term mystery until it is fully known.

 REPEAT

Jesus and the apostles were specifically using this word mystery for a greater purpose.

[Eph 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/11/s_1098011) In Him we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things in accordance with the plan of His will,