

GOD'S GLORIOUS PLAN

Before time..... Father, Son and Holy Spirit lived in unity and fellowship but decided to create a beautiful world and kingdom for creatures made in their likeness to enjoy. In other words, God wanted a big family to reflect His glory and reign over the earth.

A large population is a king's glory..... Proverbs 14:28a NIV
A king glories in the number of his royal followers..... Passion translation
In a multitude of people is a king's honor.....NKJV

There are 4 great questions in life:

*** Who am I? * Where did I come from? * Why am I here? * Where am I going?**

In the first three chapters of Genesis, we see God's original plan for man. First of all, He furnished the earth with all the **RESOURCES** man would need for his comfort and enjoyment. Man had access to all this, thus they were **RICH**. God made man in his image and likeness. He wanted them to **REFLECT** his character. God also told them to exercise dominion over creation. They were to **REIGN**. They were also commanded to be fruitful and multiply. They were to **REPRODUCE**. Adam was created on the sixth day. His first full day on earth was the seventh day. What did God have him do? **REST!** Adam was able to enjoy God's creation and spend time with God. That was God's desire for man....**RELATIONSHIP** with Him. However, man's **REBELLION** disrupted God's plan for man.

RELATIONSHIP with God was meant to fulfill God's purpose for man....3 R's

- * **Reflect** His image: 'Let us make man in our image and likeness'
- * **Reproduce** His life: 'Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth'
- * **Reign** in life: 'Have dominion over creation'

Man was blessed under God's authority and care, but Adam and Eve went **independent** instead of fully trusting God's goodness

Man lost all with

the

fall. Genesis 3

'For all have sinned and missed the beauty of God's plan.' - Romans 3:23 JB Phillips

'For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God' - Romans 3:23

Man not under God was no longer over creation but under it.

It would take another man to reclaim it all for mankind

All of this did not catch God by surprise. He already had planned for Jesus to come to earth to bring **RESTORATION** of what was lost. He made the promise of eternal life even before the beginning of time and of the Lamb slain from the creation of the world. - Romans 16:25-27,

2 Timothy 1:8-10, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Titus 1:2, Revelation 13:8. Jesus would come to earth to purchase and redeem a bride for Himself to live in Father's kingdom and reign with Him. Before his death however, Jesus would live life on earth as a perfect man. God wanted us to see an example of a person who walked in complete love and unity with Him.

Relationship Jesus said that he and the Father were one. He lived in constant reliance on him and was always led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus always knew of God's love for him.
- John 17:24.

Resources/Riches Jesus lived a simple lifestyle, but he was rich. When he needed something, he could access it from his Father in the heavenly kingdom. He was full of wisdom, knowledge, might, power, discernment and fear of the Lord - Isaiah 11:2-3, Matthew 26:53

***** Jesus could change people's lives in minutes because he spent hours in communion with the Father and was full of the Word and Spirit. Both have inherent power and wisdom.

HOLY SPIRITbetter search engine than Google!

.....**searches** the deep things of God

.....**knows** the things of God. - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

.....**reminds us** of Jesus' Words - John 14:26

.....**shows us** things to come - John 16:13-16

Reflect Jesus said that if you had seen him you had seen the Father. He was the Father's image in character. He walked in the fruit of the Spirit and reflected His Father's likeness. - Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:15, 2:9.

Reign Jesus walked in full dominion and authority over sin and all the works of darkness. - John 14:30. Colossians 2:15

Reproduce Jesus gave birth to a vast movement of persons who would follow in his steps. His plan was ingenious. Although he ministered to the multitudes, he gave himself to a few. They were his disciples whom he trained to reflect, reproduce and reign. You are reading this now because Jesus gave perhaps up to 20,000 hours in close relationship with his young apprentices. His life, death and resurrection would need faithful messengers to pass the gospel torch on to one generation after another.

How does this apply to us? The same purpose remains for all believers. Just like the first Adam began his life with rest, God wants us to start our Christian walk as we **REST** in his finished work at the Cross. - Hebrews 4 We need to spend time with God in his Word and have **REVELATION** of our Identity, Position, Possessions, and Purpose in Christ Jesus.
- Colossians 3:1-3, Romans 8:17

God wants us to be his **RECEIVERS**, much like a football quarterback has his pass receivers. The receiver must get the play from the QB and then run the right pattern. He must then keep his eye on the ball, catch it, and then seek to advance the ball down the field aware that he will **face resistance** from the opposition. Similarly Jesus is the QB and has entrusted his Word with us.

We must keep our eye on the Words he passes to us, receive and hold on to them, as the opposing forces will seek to strip them from our possession and prevent us from reaching the goal line. With the help of God's Spirit, we can be an overcomer who finishes the race that God has set out for us. Jesus faced more opposition than anyone ever has, but he persevered to the end. (for further info....go to our section on this website entitled: Following Jesus.)

JESUS demonstrated **Relationship** (with the Father)
and the 3 R's: Reflect.....Reproduce....Reign

JESUS **restored** all of that for those who will receive it. Just before his ascension to heaven, Jesus told his disciples: **All authority** has been given to me in heaven and on earth, therefore Go....**make disciples...teach** them...**to obey....everything** I have commanded you - Matthew 28
The **Great Commission** will require our **submission** to Jesus as Lord.

Do we seek **great comfort** or the **great commission**?

What is a disciple? One who follows Jesus as His apprentice and learner and puts Jesus first.
Supreme love for Jesus above family, world, things etc. Luke 14

GOD'S PLAN FOR DISCIPLES / KNOW - BE - DO - BE

Know This is eternal life that they may **know you**, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. - John 17:3

BE 'Everyone who is fully trained will **be like** his teacher' - Luke 6:40 NIV
Character of Jesus - Holy Spirit fruit (Holy Spirit **IN** us)
Humble, submissive, obedient servant

DO 'Anyone who has faith in me **will do** what I have been doing' - John 14:12 NIV
Capability of Jesus - Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit **UPON** us)
We are to do the same things that Jesus did. How? The same way Jesus did them, through the fullness of the Holy Spirit and his various gifts.
- Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38

BE 'Jesus chose 12 that they might **be with** Him' - Mark 3:14 NIV
Daily relationship with the Master. The first disciples spent 20,000 plus hours living with Jesus. It was teaching on the go. Real world experiences were their classroom!

As followers of Jesus and part of his royal family, we are royal priests and kings. 1 Peter 2:8-10.
We are being **trained to reign** in this life and in the kingdom that Jesus sets up on **earth when he returns**.

'If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.' - 2 Timothy 2:12

'To him who overcomes and does my will to the end. I will give authority over the nations.' - Revelation 2:26

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne. - Revelation 3:21

Requirements:

- * Receive Jesus as Savior and Lord - Romans 10:9-13,
- * Confess Jesus as Lord,, turn away from all unrighteousness -2 Timothy 2:19
- * Receive grace and the gift of righteousness - Romans 5:17
- * Be a Disciple/Learner/ Apprentice
- * Endure suffering and persecution - 2 Timothy 2:12, 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5
- * Be an overcomer - Revelation 2:26-27, 3:21, 1 John 5:4-5

*Response: Giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified us** to share in the **inheritance** of the saints in the **kingdom of light**. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he loves**. - Colossians 1:12-13 NIV*

Questions:

1. What truth surprised you in this lesson?
2. How has your view of God changed from this lesson?
3. How do you feel about your part in God's big plan?
4. Can you now better answer the 4 great questions of life?
Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here?
Where am I going? (There is much more to cover on those subjects)