

THE PLAN OF GOD (Part Two)

The Greek word for purpose is prothesis. It is a compound Greek word meaning to set or to place beforehand something. It is used to describe the Plan of God being established at the eternal life conference by the Godhead. (2 Tim.1: 9; Eph.1:4).

**Last week we introduced you to the doctrine of the Plan of God.
This week we will study four functional aspects of the Plan of God.**

1. Entrance into the Plan of God is based on grace salvation through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.3:23-25; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16).

“Who **saved us**, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose (prothesis) and grace granted in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Tim.1:9)

2. There are three phases to the Plan of God for every CAB.

- **Phase I** is the believer **in salvation** (Eph.2:5-10; Acts 13:48).
- **Phase II** is the believer **in time** (Rom.8:29; 2 Pet.3:18).
- **Phase III** is the believer **in eternity** (2 Cor.5:6-8; John 14:1-6).

3. God allows volition (free will) to act independent of the Plan of God. It is important to distinguish between what God permits and decrees.

There are **three categories regarding the will of God** as decreed in the Plan of God. We will **Jonah** to illustrate these three categories.

- **Directive will** is what God specially declares in His word (Jonah 1:1-2).
- **Permissive will** is what God allows to occur with consequences because of volition (Jonah 1:3).
- **Overruling will** is what God does not permit to interfere with His plan (Jonah 1:4-17).

We learn that God doesn't coerce volition regarding His plan. However, once a choice is made either by you or to you, God will take appropriate action (Gen.50:18-20) [Joseph]

4. The spiritually advancing believer will learn that WAITING FAITH is as important as Walking Faith (2 Cor.5:7).

5. The lapse of time between receiving a promise of God and its fulfillment is perfect timing.

“I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope.” (Ps.130:5)

Every Church Age Believer (CAB) enters the Plan of God of salvation under perfect timing: “At the acceptable time, I listened to you; and on the day of salvation I helped you; **behold, now** is the acceptable time, **behold, now** is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor.6:2)

The spiritual advancing believer will learn that God's perfect timing is important to his function in the Plan of God: “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.” (Eph.5:15-16; Eccl.3:1, 11)

Lapse of time can cause us to lose confidence and hope in God, His word, and His plan (1 Cor.2:5; Rom.15:13; Lam.3:25-26). **Abraham** can illustrate this principle (Rom.4:17-21).