

## A WALK TO THE CROSS (and Beyond)

*The Plan Of God*  
Ephesians 1:7-14  
Easter 2017

### I. THE PREDETERMINED PLAN OF GOD:

The cross and Jesus' sacrificial death wasn't something that was a surprise. It's been *the predetermined plan of God* that began with *Lucifer's sin*, along with the *1/3 of the angels* that had joined with him, when they were *cast out of heaven*. With sin comes the need for *judgment* for that sin. With *judgment* comes the need for *atonement*... knowing that *the wages of sin is death* (**Romans 6:23**).

#### • Scripture

Fulfilled prophecy...more than 300. Sacrificial blood atonement...

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”*

~Isaiah 7:14

*“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”*

~Isaiah 9:2, 6

*“He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed*

*Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth...Because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities...Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”*

~Isaiah 53:3-7, 9b-11, 12b

*“Although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and*

*under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

~Philippians 2:6-11

*“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make **atonement** for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes **atonement**.”*

~Leviticus 17:11

*“...All things are **cleansed** with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness**.”*

~Hebrews 9:22

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us...For if **while we were enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

~Romans 5:8, 10

*“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things **are from God**, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

~II Corinthians 5:17-19

In addition to Scripture...we have the words regarding...

- **Angels**

*“For today in the city of David there **has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord**.”*

~Luke 2:11

- **Simeon**

*“For my eyes have seen Your **salvation**, which **You have prepared** in the presence of all peoples, a **Light of revelation to the Gentiles**, and the glory of Your people Israel.”*

~Luke 2:30-32

- **Adam and Eve**

*“...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; **He shall bruise you on the head**, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”*

~Genesis 3:15

*“The Lord God made **garments of skin** for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.”*

~Genesis 3:21

- **Cain and Abel**

*“So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And **the Lord had regard** for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering **He had no regard**...”*

~Genesis 4:3-5

## II. THE PROMINENT PERSONAL TESTIMONIES REGARDING THE SON OF GOD:

- **God, Himself...three times** in the New Testament and **one time** in the Old Testament (**Isaiah 42:1**).

*“This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.”*

- **Matthew 3:17** (At Jesus’ baptism)

- **Matthew 12:18** (Warning to those He was healing not to tell who He was...this was to fulfill what was spoken through **Isaiah** the prophet)

- **Matthew 17:5** (On the Mount of Transfiguration)
- **John the Baptist** (twice)
  - “*The next day he (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘Behold, **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!’...And he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God!’*”
    - ~John 1:29, 36
- **Peter**
  - “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”
    - ~Matthew 16:16
  - “*Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know...this Man, delivered over **by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*”
    - ~Acts 2:22-24
- **Pilate’s wife**
  - “*While he (Pilate) was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, ‘Have nothing to do with that **righteous Man**; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him’.*”
    - ~Matthew 27:19
- **Pilate**
  - And above His head Pilate had them put up the charge against Jesus ...

“...It was written, **JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**”

~Matthew 27:37b

And it was *written* in **Hebrew**, **Latin**, and in **Greek**.

- **Roman soldier at the foot of the cross...a Centurion**
    - “*Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, ‘**Truly this was the Son of God!**’*”
      - ~Matthew 27:54
  - **Thief on the cross**
    - “*The other (thief) answered, and rebuking him said, ‘**Do you not even fear God**, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong’.*”
      - ~Luke 23:40-41
  - **Thomas**
    - “*Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘**My Lord and my God!**’*”
      - ~John 20:28
- III. THE PREEMINENT PURPOSE OF GOD:**
- **Proclaims victory over death**
    - “*...Death is swallowed up in **victory**. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
      - ~I Corinthians 15:54b-57

- Provides hope...eternal life

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy **has caused us to be born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

~I Peter 1:3

- Pronounces that He will return

*“If I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also.**”*

~John 14:3

*“For the Lord Himself **will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God...**”*

~I Thessalonians 4:16

- Promises assurance of salvation

*“And the testimony is this, that **God has given us eternal life; and this life is in His Son.** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know that you have eternal life.**”*

~I John 5:11-13

*“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me, **I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.**”*

~John 6:39

*“**I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all;*

*and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.**”*

~John 10:28-29

*“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”*

~Romans 8:37-39

**Ephesians 2:4-10; I Timothy 6:12; Hebrews 6:4-6; Hebrews 9:11-12, 24-28; Hebrews 10:10; I Peter 1:3-5**

#### LESSONS WE MUST LEARN:

- The ultimate reality is that God predetermined a plan that fulfilled His provision to provide **SALVATION**...the forgiveness of sin. It’s not of man...but God and God alone (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9**).
- No one can save themselves. There is no one good enough to stand before God **INNOCENT**. No one is righteous...not even one (**Romans 3:10**). If you want to continue to try, then meet His standard of perfection (**Matthew 5:48**).
- We will all stand before God’s judgment seat one day. You will either stand before Him **SAVED...or LOST**. He’s going to separate the believers from the unbelievers like a farmer separates the wheat from the tares (**Matthew 13:24-30**)...and the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats (**Matthew 25:32**).

## **Ephesians 1:7-14**

**7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.**