

### Genesis 1:1

Job 12:7-25; Ephesians 3:8-21

## In the Beginning (Genesis 1:1)

- Most important verse of the Bible. The first of every word! (Matt 4:4; Luke 4:4)
- GOD created. He created ALL SPACE, ALL MATTER, and ALL AGES.
- GOD owns everything. (Job 41:11; Deut 10:14; Psalm 89:11)
- Why did God create?
  - ① For Himself. (Proverbs 16:4; Rev 4:11; Col 1:16; Rom 11:36; Heb 2:10)
  - ② For HIS glory. (Psalm 106:7-8; Isaiah 48:8-18; Ezek 36:16-21; Eph 1:5-**6, 11-12, 14**; 2:5-7; **Isaiah 43:25**; 44:5; 49:3; John 17:10; 2 Thess 1:10-12; Philippians 1:11; 2:11)
  - 3 For the good of HIS people. (Genesis 50:20; James 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:7-8; Revelation 3:19; Isaiah 43:7, 21)
    - ☆ HIS people: Those who love and obey God (1 John 5:3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; Hebrews 5:9; ) who are CALLED according to HIS PURPOSE (plan, decree, counsel) Romans 8:28-30; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Timothy 1:9.)

## **BEFORE** the Beginning

- Before the beginning (Genesis 1:1) God existed. God inhabits eternity. → John 1:1; 17:5, 24; Isaiah 57:15.
- Before the beginning God existed in His aseity (self-sufficiency; selfcontainment; self-existence; independence; self-satisfaction)
  - → Acts 17:24-25; Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12; 89:11; 1 Chron 29:10-20
- Before the beginning God planned, purposed, willed, decreed.
- GOD planned, purposed, willed, decreed in ETERNITY.
  - → Psalm 33:11; Eph 1:11; 3:11; Isaiah 14:24-27; 44:7; Lam 3:37-38; Prov 19:21; Acts 2:23; 4:28; 15:18; Romans 8:28; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:20; Rev 13:8; 17:8

- God planned, purposed, willed, decreed EVERYTHING that would ever happen in HIS world.
  - → Daniel 2:28; John 6:64; Matthew 20:18-19; Luke 22:10-13; 1 Peter 1:20; Proverbs 16:33; Jonah 1:7; Job 36:32; 1 Kings 13:1-2; 22:28; Job 5:6; Jeremiah 1:5: Mark 14:30: Genesis 37:28 with 45:5: 1 Sam 9:15-16: Gen 50:20: Acts 2:23: 4:28: Psalm 139:16: 147:4: Matthew 10:29-32.
- God's plan, purpose, will IS centered around the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 3:11)
- God's plan, purpose, will is about God forming a people to be His special people for all eternity. (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:11-14; Isaiah 43:21)
  - → BEFORE time God chose who would be His own. (Eph 1:4; 2 Thes 2:13)
  - → **BEFORE time** God "wrote" His elect in His Book of Life. (Revelation 17:8; Luke 10:20)
  - → BEFORE time God gave His "chosen ones" to His Son to live and die in their place. (John 6:37-40; 10:26-29; 17:2, 6, 8-9, 11, 24)
  - → BEFORE time God, the Son, agreed to be God's elect SURETY (Hebrews 7:22) to pay the penalty of their sins and to provide God's righteousness for them.
  - → BEFORE time God foreordained the CROSS. (1 Peter 1:19-20; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; Psalm 40:7-8)
  - → **BEFORE** time GOD **predestined everything** that happens in HIS WORLD (time, space, and matter) to FULFILL His ETERNAL PLAN (purpose, counsel, will). (Acts 15:18; 13:8; Isaiah 41:22-23; 44:7; 45:21; 46:9-11; Ephesians 3:8-12)
  - → BEFORE time GOD planned, willed, purpose, decreed with such precision that even the number of hairs on each person's head and the life and death of a small bird were part of the plan. (Matthew 10:29-30)
  - → BEFORE time GOD's plan, purpose, plan decree includes the rise and fall of kings, presidents, chancellors, nations, empires, and kingdoms. (Daniel 2; 4:17, 25, 32-35; **Job 12:23**; **Isaiah 37:26**; **40:15**, **17**; Rev 17:17: Proverbs 21:1)
  - → BEFORE time GOD's plan, purpose, will, decree included EVERY DAY of our individual lives! (Psalm 139:16; James 4:13-16). Our days were written down in a book **BEFORE TIME BEGAN!**

### When It Pleased God God Created

- To fulfill His decree (will, purpose, plan), GOD created (out of nothing) TIME (all history - Hebrews 1:2-3; 2:9-10; Colossians 1:17; Isaiah 41:4); **SPACE** and **ALL MATTER** (Isaiah 40:26; 44:24; 48:14; Psalm 102:25; 148:3-6; **33:6**; Jeremiah 10:11-12; Zechariah12:1)
- EVERYTHING that happens (all history) is the unfolding of GOD's eternal plan!
- HISTORY (God's plan) is LINEAR. It unfolds in time. It had a BEGINNING and it has an END. It is moving toward JUDGMENT and ETERNITY! (2 Cor 5:8-

- 10; Romans 2:5-11; Revelation 20:11-15; Hebrews 1:2-3)
- NOTHING HAPPENS BY ACCIDENT! (Prov 16:33; Lam 3:37-38; Eph 1:11)

#### At Creation

- He created the earth to be inhabited. (Isaiah 45:18)
- It would be to the inhabitants of the this world that He would reveal Himself as Creator, GOD, Lord, Most High, Supreme Being.
- He created man, Adam, to be the FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE of all who would follow him.
- Sin entered into the world by God's design. NOTHING happens without His command. (Lamentation 3:36-37; 1 Peter 1:20; Acts 4:27-28; Eph 1:11)
- God <u>promised</u> to send His Messiah to save His people from their sins. (Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:21)

### **Some 4000 years later . . .** "in the fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4)

- God <u>SENT</u> His Son (the Incarnation God become flesh) to be the <u>propitiation</u> for our sins. (1 John 4:10; Rom 3:24-26; Luke 2:1-11; John 1:1-14; 1 Timothy 3:16)
- In obedience to God, the Father, and according to God's will, plan, purpose, decree Christ came, made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a slave, coming in the likeness of men, humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Philip 2:5-8; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- Christ came to "do the work of Him who sent Him and to <u>finish</u> that work."
  (John 4:34; 6:38-40; Luke 19:10; 15:4; Matthew 1:21)
- God <u>SACRIFICED</u> (Isaiah 53:10) His Son and <u>OBTAINED</u> the <u>eternal</u> redemption for His people. (Hebrews 9:12)
  - ★ On the Cross, God, the Son, announced to the world, "IT IS FINISHED!" (John 19:30)
  - ★ All of this over 2000 years before we were thought of by our parents! (Romans 9:11-15)

# ETERNAL PURPOSE ACCOMPLISHED!

(Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11; 3:11; Romans 8:28-30)

**Some 2000 years later...** according to His plan – Psalm 139:16; Eph 1:11.

- God, according to His purpose for me, <u>brought</u> me into His world. (Job 12:10; Acts 17:25, 28; Psalm 139:1-16)
- God formed me in my mother's womb! (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-15)
  - → God **determined** my times and where I would live. (Acts 17:26; Psalm 139:16; James 4:13-16)
  - → I was born with a heart of stone (Ezekiel 36:26), an enemy of God

(Romans 5:10); a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:1-3); a child of the devil (1 John 3:10); with no righteousness (Romans 3:10; Isaiah 64:6); no understanding of the things of God (Romans 3:11; 1 Cor 2:14); I did not seek God (Romans 3:11 in contrast to Luke 19:10; 15:4-7); enslaved to the world, Satan, and my own lusts and desires - I was DEAD in my trespasses and sin! (Eph 2:1-3)

## Some time after my birth . . .

- → God called me (Romans 8:30; 8:28; 9:23-24; 1 Cor 1:9; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:10; 2 Timothy 1:9; Revelation 17:14).
- → God, according to His will, not mine, <u>regenerated</u> me. (Ephesians 2:4; John 1:12-13; James 1:18; Romans 9:16, 18)
- → God gave me a heart of flesh and His Holy Spirit. (Ezek. 36:26-27)
- → God gave me His garment of salvation and His robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10)
- → God drew me to Christ. (John 6:44, 65; Psalm 65:4)
- → God caused me to believe in Christ. (Acts 13:48; Philip 1:6; Eph. 2:8-9)
- → God <u>freely justified</u> me As Judge, He declared me righteous! (Romans 3:24; 8:1, 30, 33) God gave me His <u>righteousness</u>. (Rom 5:15-19)
- → God gave me repentance. (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25)
- → God is <u>conforming</u> me into the image of His Son through the process of sanctification. (Rom 8:29; Titus 2:14; Heb 6:3; 2 Cor 3:18)
- → God will <u>finish</u> what <u>HE</u> begun with His election. (Philip. 1:6; Psalm 138:8)
- → Jesus Christ, my LORD, is interceding for me at God's right hand to ensure that what God decreed, planned, purpose, willed for my life will proceed exactly as He planned! (Heb7:25; Rom 8:34; Psalms 40:15; 139:17)

# **At the moment of my death . . .** (Job 14:5; 12:10; Psalm 116:15)

- → IMMEDIATELY, I will be in the presence of My Lord. (Philip 1:23; Luke 23:43)
  - → God will present me to Himself blameless and holy in Christ. (1 Thess. 5:23-24; Ephesians 1:4; Jude 24-25

## OR

## He's Coming Again – According to God's Timing (Acts 1:7)

- He promised to come and take me home! (John 14:1-3)
  - → See 1 John 3:1-2!!
  - → God **glorified** me! (Romans 8:30)
- (Matthew 24:36) It will be according to His will, plan, purpose, decree.
- Until then I will eagerly watch, obey (do His will), purify myself as He is pure and groan!. (Philip 3:20-21; 1 John 3:3; Luke 12:37, 40; Deut 29:29; Matthew 7:21-29; Romans 8:23-25)