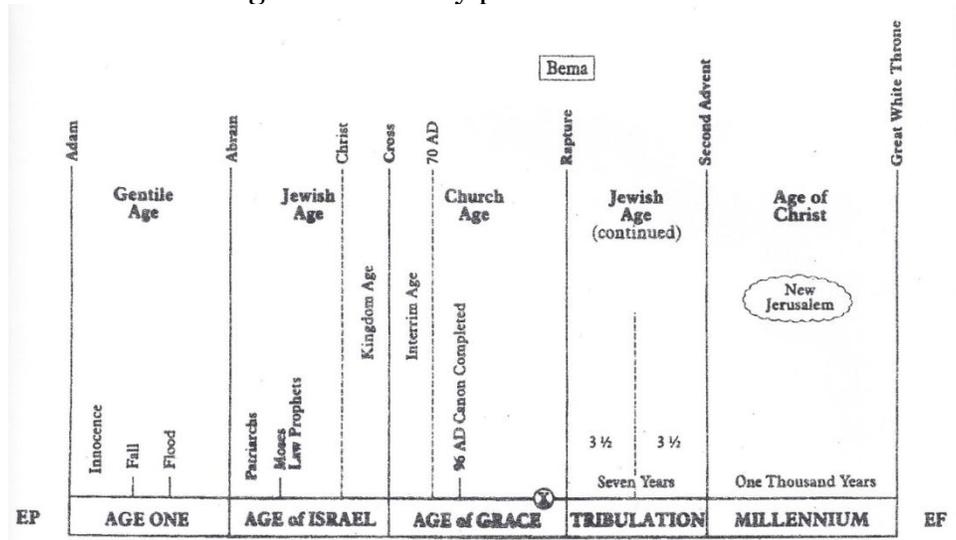


Doctrine of the Plan of God

1. The Plan of God was designed in eternity past.



Eph 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him **before the creation** of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Eph 1:5 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

Eph 1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

1.1 In verse four of Ephesians Chapter One the word for creation comes from the Greek **Katabole** and means: a founding; a conception therefore with the preposition **Pro** means "sometime in eternity past before time was."

1.2 This emphasizes the eternal nature of God or His eternal life.

2. The Plan of God is totally based on His grace, i.e., all that He is free to do for us on the basis of the Cross.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

2.1 Grow in the Greek here is the present active imperative of **Auxano** meaning "to grow, to increase or to cause to become enlarged." In the present imperative it must be done again and again. It is not a one shot deal.

2.2 It is followed by the preposition and two compound objects in the instrumental case, **Charis** and **Gnosis**. A better translation would be "by means of grace and knowledge."

3. I want to use Paul as a case study. He was a man who received less than the best "because less was better than more."

3.1 Paul was the subject of Satan's special punishment. It was as though a horde of demons had a truncheon and were exacting vengeance on the great Apostle. Paul asked three times that this "thorn" be removed.

2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

3.2 The harder Satan hit the harder Paul played and God knew this in eternity past so even Satan played right into the perfect plan of God.

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

3.3 Paul was the beneficiary of the plan of God. So also is every believer and each plan is different but better. Before time was God saw all of our choices, the good, the bad, the ugly and even the arrogant, He *then* designed circumstances for our benefit.

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

4. The plan of God is revealed through His Word.

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

5. Summary:

5.1 We enter the Plan of God because we are family of God. We enter that family by faith alone in Christ alone. Jesus made possible "all things" necessary for the perfecting of the saints.

Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

1Co 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

5.2 The Plan of God is revealed to man by the Holy Spirit through God's Word.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall categorically teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not teach categorically concerning Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He teach categorically: and He will shew you things to come.

6. There are many things we need to know about God and His plan for us.

6.1 Given our choices life cannot be "fair" therefore we need the Word taught by the Holy Spirit to avoid bitterness. The Plan of God is best described as less than the best given our imperfection.

6.2 The imperfect Plan of God can cause disillusionment. Disillusionment is a reaction factor in the early phase of reversionism and tends to intensify jealousy, boredom, self-pity, loneliness, bitterness etc.

6.3 Disillusionment is really anger over against God's perfect plan.

6.4 To become disillusioned with the Plan of God is quite common. God gave us an example in the Old Testament in the form of Hezekiah a good King, but like us a human beset with frailty.

Isa 38:1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Isa 38:2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,
Isa 38:3 "Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes. "And Hezekiah wept bitterly."

6.5 God let the King Hezekiah live and mess up so we could learn from his error. The plan of God is perfect and its perfection can only be assumed and quite often appear imperfect and that is why it is impossible to please God apart from faith.

6.6 Isa 40:28-31 gives us the answer:

Isa 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow weary, and His understanding _ no one can fathom.

Isa 40:29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Isa 40:30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

Isa 40:31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

6.7 Hezekiah was not ready to accept the Plan of God and cross over the golden bridge to eternity.

6.8 Like Hezekiah who was not ready to transport the mature believer is often reluctant to live for Christ.

6.9 There is comfort in knowing as the Godman even our Lord questioned, even as He submitted to God's difficult but perfect plan.

Mat. 26:39 "Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup be taken from Me, Yet not as I will, but as You will."

7. Eternity Future becomes ours as a grand gift of God because the Father came up with a perfect plan, Christ agreed to execute that plan and the Holy Spirit agreed to reveal that plan.

Isa 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Isa 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Phi 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await the Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Phi 3:21 Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like h

Psa 102:25 In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Psa 102:26 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.

Psa 102:27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

1Pe 1:24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

1Pe 1:25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Isa 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." e his glorious body.