

## “How God Reigns” Lesson 4

So far, we have explored what pleases God, what His purposes are and now we move to His Plan

- I. How should we understand God’s Plan
  - a. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ plan- Numbers 33:55- Law of First Mention
  - b. Fixed Plan that can’t be \_\_\_\_\_ - Ephesians 1:9, Job 42:1
  - c. Plan for \_\_\_\_\_ - Jeremiah 29:10-20
  - d. Plan for judgment that could be \_\_\_\_\_ - Jeremiah 18:11
  - e. Plan for \_\_\_\_\_ judgment – Lamentations 2:17-22, Micah 2:3
  
- II. How shall we understand God’s Will [His right to exercise his will as He pleases according to His purpose]
  - a. **Ephesians 1:11-** “In him [Christ] **we were also chosen** [plural- he’s thinking about the church as a whole not individuals being chosen], **having been predestined** [set apart beforehand] **according to the plan** [purpose/will] of him who **works out**[accomplishes] **everything** [all things] **in conformity with the purpose** [intention/decision] **of his will**, **in order that**[so that] **we**, who were the first to hope in Christ, **might be for the praise of his glory**. [see the display or show forth His character and greatness].”

### GOD’S SET, DETERMINED WILL

- Gives \_\_\_\_\_ to whom he wills and by faith in the word of truth- John 5:21, James 1:18, John 6:40
- Delivers from this \_\_\_\_\_ by His will- Galatians 1:4
- Calls us to a \_\_\_\_\_ by His will- I Corinthians 1:1, Acts 22:14
- Distributes \_\_\_\_\_ by His will -Hebrews 2:4
- Chooses \_\_\_\_\_ for some by His will- I Peter 3:17, I Peter 4:19
- \_\_\_\_\_ according to His will- Luke 5:12-13, Mark 1:41
- Determines the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of believers I Chronicles 13:2, Acts 18:21, Acts 21:14, James 5:14

### GOD’S DELEGATED WILL

- I Thessalonians 4:3, “It is **God's will** that you should be \_\_\_\_\_ I Thessalonians 4:7, John 17:17, “**Sanctify them by the truth.**”, Romans 6:19, I Peter 3:15
- 1 Peter 2:15, “For it is **God's will** that by \_\_\_\_\_ you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.”

- **1 Peter 4:1-2**, “he who has \_\_\_\_\_ in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

## **GOD’S PLAN FOR RECONCILIATION TO HIM**

### **Preparation for Reconciliation:**

1. **Contrite** [broken, shattered]- Isaiah 57:15, Isaiah 66:2
2. **Lowly**- [feels inferior] – Psalm 138:6
3. **Poor in spirit**- [downcast, feels like a failure] – Matthew 5:3
4. **Humble**- [unworthy] – Luke 18:13-14
5. **Fearful** [afraid, tremble] – Psalm 33:8, Hebrews 10:31, “It is a **dreadful** thing to fall into the hands of the living God
6. **Revere** [respect, admire]- Psalm 102:15, Psalm 33:8
7. **Mourn** [sadness over sin] – Matthew 5:4
8. **Awe** [inspired by God’s creation] – Job 25:2

### **Heart Responses for Reconciliation**

1. **Call on God**- I Chronicles 16:8, Psalm 116:13, Genesis 4:26
2. **Seek God**- Hebrews 11:6, Isaiah 55:6
3. **Search for God**- Hosea 7:10
4. **Turn to God**- Acts 3:19, Acts 20:21
5. **Repent of sin**- Luke 5:32, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
6. **Believe** [have faith] – Mark 1:15, John 20:31

## **HOW GOD REIGNS IN THE CONTEXT OF A SINFUL WORLD WITH SET PURPOSES AND DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES?**

- God reigned by setting up procreation so offspring of the first generation of parents lived very long lives- average of about 900 years – Genesis 5, 6:1-2, 4
  - God reigned by having The Spirit of God contend or strive with those on the earth by speaking to the hearts of mankind Genesis 4:26, 5:21, 24, 6:9
  - God reigned by intervening and wiping mankind from the face of the earth after 1650 years because he saw that man’s sinful nature along with Satanically inspired wickedness fashioned incredible evil with his freedom- Genesis 6:7, Genesis 6:11-13
    - **Which raises the question: How many people were on the earth at the time God decided to intervene and destroy it except for Noah and his family?**
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- **God reigned by giving mankind freedom to go ahead with his responsibilities for the earth- fruitful, multiply, fill it, work the ground, and see if they would pass the tests and overcome the temptations before them**
- **God reigned by making a covenant with man to never again destroy all the living creatures and things of the earth – Genesis 8:21**
- **God reigned by intervention again when he spread out the people by miraculously/instantly causing each family to start speaking a language they had never learned or used. - Genesis 11:5-8**
- **God reigned by setting up nations and boundaries according to the number of the sons of God - Deuteronomy 32:7-9, “Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. 8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel [better ‘sons of God’]. 9 For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.” Job 1:6, Job 2:1**
  - **My conclusion:** Satan commissioned some evil angels to take possession of certain men with their evil consent and somehow changed their DNA/image of Adam to where when they cohabited with women, they produced giants.  
DEMON POSSESSION
  - **Major implication:** Each of the approximately 150 family groups/nations at Babel and elsewhere had one of the sons of God assigned to them.
  - **This accounts for the reality of evil angels over nations-** mentions in Scripture of the Prince of Persia - Daniel 10:13, Daniel 8:25, Daniel 10:20, Ezekiel 38:2, Matthew 9:34, John 12:31

**CONCLUSION: IT APPEARS THAT EVERY NATION HAS AN EVIL PRINCE UNDER SATAN WORKING AGAINST THEM FOR HIS PURPOSES**

**God reigns by placing another level of temptation and scheming, evil for man to overcome**

**Why did God do this? Romans 1:18-23 describes what happened at Babel; then verse 24, 26, 28, 32- God gave them over to what their evil hearts desired- Acts 7:41-42**