

THE PERFECT MAN

Subject Block: The Plan of God

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1. God's Plan in the Creation

Because God does not change, because he is unswerving in his purpose, we can discover the original intention of God by investigation the creation story of Genesis chapters one, two and three.

1. God purposed to make man in his own image and likeness (1:26)
2. God purposed that man should have dominion over the rest of creation (1:26) – in 2:19-20 “name” denotes “nature” – man declared the very nature of the animals.
3. God purposed that man should be blessed, be fruitful, multiply and replenish (= be full, satisfy, have wholly) the earth.
4. God purposed that man should live in complete obedience to his will (2:16-17)
5. God purposed that man should walk in the Spirit and fellowship with God in his glorious presence (3:8)

This God's foremost purpose is to create a man who would know: **Godliness. Authority. Fruitfulness. Obedience. Fellowship.**

To be everything God had purposed, he have to man:

Life. Himself. Relationship. Responsibility.

- i. God breathed the breath of life into man (2:7). God gave man food that had 'life in itself' (1:29) compare with food of beasts (2:30).
- ii. God gave to man the Tree of Life (Jesus is 'the life') Man was to receive the Tree of Life (Spirit) and refuse the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Soul) 2:8, 9, 16-17
- iii. God gave man a relationship. Man should not be alone but live in mutually helping, covenant harmony with one another (2:18, 21-25)
- iv. Man was to serve and keep the garden – his God-given responsibility was to be steward of his environment (2:15 + 5)

2. The Fall of Man

“by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” Romans 5:12

In the fall, man lost his . . .

Godliness “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

Authority and Fruitfulness Genesis 3:16 – 19

Obedience “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6)

Fellowship “without Christ ... aliens ... strangers ... having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12)

Life Genesis 3:18. The ground was cursed and man given the food as the beasts originally had – “herb of the field” - no more seed / life

Man has fallen to a beast realm

Ecclesiastes 3:18 – 20 Psalm 73:20 – 22 “beast” is natural to man

1 Corinthians 2:14 “natural” (Greek = psuchikos) = animal

2 Peter 2:10 – 12, Jude 10 and Titus 1:12

If we refuse to be conformed to the image of Christ,
we will naturally be in the image of a beast.

Himself and Relationship Romans 1:22 – 32

Responsibility “So he drove out the man ...”

3. God’s Plan Unchanged

The fall of man did not catch God off guard, nor did it alter his plan in any way. He, from whom nothing is hid, who IS *the beginning and the end* had always intended to give himself to, and pour himself into his creation; thereby bringing forth his people having the fulness of his character and authority.

“[Christ] ... who truly was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” 1 Peter 1:20

“ ... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” Revelation 13:8

God executed his plan to impart his divine life to us when Jesus died on the cross. However, this was his plan from *before the foundation of the world*.

- Acts 2:23 “[Jesus} was delivered [to the cross] by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God”
- Romans 13:8 “whom God set forth (determined) as a propitiation (lit ‘mercy seat’, appeased, placated) by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness ...”

It only follows then, that man in the image and likeness of God, possessing his authority and bearing his character, was pre-determined before the foundation of the world.

His character ... Ephesians 1:4 “Just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame before him in love**”

His authority ... Matthew 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world”

... Hebrews 4:3 “For only we who believe can enter his place of rest. As for those who didn't believe, God said, "In my anger I made a vow: "They will never enter my place of rest,"" even though his place of rest has been ready since he made the world [from the foundation of the world]” (NLT)

4. God's Perfect Man

For 4000 years the Lord showed glimpses of his character and power through men and women of faith (Noah, Abraham, Rachel, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Ruth, Deborah, David, Elijah, Elisha, Esther . . .)

But when God's PERFECT MAN, the embodiment of his every purpose, a man who would perfectly display the image and dominion given the human race in the beginning – WHEN THAT MAN WAS BORN:

- Angel choirs rejoiced
- Shepherds and kings adored him
- A star appeared and stood over his birthplace

- The words of prophets and seers from centuries past found fulfilment
- Satan stirred the heart of a Godless ruler to murder that child

This was God's perfect man . . . **His Name is Jesus Christ!**

Jesus the Lamb of God

Jesus was born among the stable beasts ... he was born into man's fallen realm

(Mark 1:12 – 13, Hebrews 2:14 – 18)

Yet whereas man's nature was that of WILD animals, the nature of Jesus was that
of a LAMB (John 1:29 – tame, signifying new life)

"... in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin" Hebrews 4:15

When man fell and lost his position, place and power: he didn't lose it to Satan ...
God took it, and revealed it again in Jesus Christ.

- The winds and storm driven sea obeyed him
- Fish crammed an empty net at his bidding
- Hurt, torn and diseased bodies were made whole
- He rebuked death, disease and demons with perfect command
- His power transcended time and space (John 6:21)
- Perfectly forgiving ... angry without sin ... love without limit ... courage without equal ... lamb-like before his accusers
- **This was God's perfect man!**

(John 14:6 -11, Hebrews 1:1 – 4)

5. The First Among Many

Ephesians 4:13 *"... till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"*

God calls his redeemed to 'a perfect man' – 1 John 3:1 – 3

Jesus is called

(1) the firstborn among many – Romans 3:29

(2) the beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14

(3) the firstborn over all creation – Colossians 1:15

The creation of which Jesus is the ‘first’ and the ‘beginning’ is the new creation “If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus is the “seed” of this new creation “crop” ... John 12:24 (JBP)

“The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you truly that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat; but if it dies, it brings forth a good harvest”

This “seed” will produce after it’s own kind. Hebrews 2:10 tells us that Jesus is *bringing many sons to glory.*

6. Mark the Perfect Man

Psalm 37:34 – 37

Ezekiel saw the marking of those whose heart was as God’s heart - Ezekiel 9:1 – 7

John saw those whom God had marked – Revelation 7:2 – 4, 14:1 – 5

The Beast Realm is Marked

Cain was the first murderer (the extreme manifestation of an animal nature) – he was the first man to receive a mark, a sign to all of who he was and what he had done.

The mark of which we read in Revelation 13:17 is *“the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”* (name denotes nature)

7. Partakers of Christ

“For we are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end” Hebrews 3:14

God calls us to *go on to perfection* – Hebrews 6:1

‘Perfection’ (Greek = Telios) complete, mature, full

To save us from our sins was but part of the Redeemers plan. The exchange made on the cross was to make us partakers of his divine life!

‘Partaker’ (Greek = Metochos) to receive in return, a joint holder, to have in common with.

Hebrews 12:10 partakers of his holiness

1 Peter 4:13 partakers of his suffering

2 Peter 1:4 partakers of the divine nature **Godliness**

1 Peter 5:1 partakers of the glory that shall be revealed

Hebrews 6:4 partakers of the Holy Ghost

Colossians 1:12 partakers of the inheritance **Authority**

Wisdom Slays her Beasts

Proverbs 9:2

God's people won't partake fully of his holiness until the beasts are slain = untamed nature.

Jesus drove out the beasts from the temple – John 2:13 - 17

2 Corinthians 6:16, 2 Thessalonians 2:3 - 4

“No lion or ravenous beast” – only the Lamb in your life will ascend (Isaiah 35:8 – 10)

Our ‘beasts slain’ our ‘wild nature’ perfectly tamed ... *the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord* - Isaiah 11:1 – 9

Colossians 1:25 – 29

- v25 *dispensation* is from the same word that describes the function of a ‘dispensary’ (to combine various lotions and medicines for application or internal consumption ... so God takes the elements of his divine life and ‘dispenses’ them upon and into us)
- v26 This is the great mystery of God. His glorious plan, hidden from some ... revealed to his saints.
- v27 The mystery is Christ in you , the hope of glory
- v28 Preached and taught in order to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

8. God's Great Plan Fulfilled

In the creation God gave man supremacy over all creation. Created in God's image, man was made to reign ... to do God-kind of things. Through man's complete

obedience to him, God would befriend and fellowship him, and his creation would glorify God and enjoy him forever. This is God’s wonderful plan.

1 Corinthians 15:45 – 49

The “first man”, Adam (individual and corporate), never went on to fulfil God’s plan. The “second man”, Christ (individual and corporate), has borne and will bear the image of the heavenly (lit = to carry the character of). Through this new creation man will God’s great plan be fulfilled.

Daniel 7:23 – 27 (28)

The 42nd Generation

Matthew 1:1 – 17

1	Abraham	Solomon	Shealtiel
2	Isaac	Rehoboam	Zerubbabel
3	Jacob	Abijah	Abiud
4	Judah	Asa	Eliakim
5	Perez	Jehoshaphat	Azor
6	Hezron	Joram	Zadok
7	Ram	Uzziah	Achim
8	Amminadab	Jotham	Eliud
9	Nahshon	Ahaz	Eleazar
10	Salmon	Hezekiah	Matthan
11	Boaz	Manasseh	Jacob
12	Obed	Amon	Joseph
13	Jesse	Josiah	Jesus
14	David	Jeconiah	
	14	28	41

The math is simple – there’s a missing generation! The list is incomplete!

- v16 ends with the 41st generation – “Jesus who is called Christ”
- v17 “the Christ” would appear to be another generation beyond Jesus.
- Does Jesus have a son? Does he have offspring, a ‘seed’ to continue his name? If so, who is he? (NB: this is NOT The da Vinci Code!!!)

Isaiah 53:8 – 10 “He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? (who can speak of his descendants? – NIV) For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked – But with the rich at His

death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.”

- Seed = offspring = progeny = children = descendants. Jesus sees them and, though he has died, his days (of ministry) carry on – are prolonged.
- Isaiah 43:5 – 7
- **This establishes the fact that Jesus has a seed, an offspring.**

Psalm 22:27 – 31 “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive. A posterity (221/229 x translated “seed”) shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this.

- These verses have strong “end time” references: all nations worshipping, the kingdom, ruling over the nations, resurrection (*all those who do down to the dust*). This sets the timing.
- A seed (posterity) . . . the next generation! They serve him, they declare his righteousness.
- Psalm 102:12 – 21
- **This establishes the “end time” context of Jesus’ offspring.**

Hebrews 2:10 – 13 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

- These ‘sons’ are for ‘glory’
- They are ‘saved’ and ‘sanctified’ (made holy)
- They are both ‘sons’ and ‘brothers’
- Jesus is both ‘brother’ and ‘father’ (Isaiah 9:6)
- Concerning his son/seed/offspring, Jesus quotes Isaiah 8:18 “Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the Lord of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion”.

- **This establishes the purpose and plan that God has for the offspring of Jesus, this corporate ‘son’:**
 - to serve him (Psalm 22:30)
 - to declare Christ’s righteousness to people (Psalm 22:31)
 - to have the glory of God (miracle, supernatural realm)
 - for signs and wonders (the same as Jesus)

Revelation 21:6 – 7 “And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son”.

- **This establishes that the corporate ‘son’, the kingly offspring of Jesus, are overcomers (i.e. not every believer), it is this ‘company’ who are destined for the throne** (as is normal for the ‘son’ of a King).

The 42nd generation are “the Lord’s Christ” = the Lord’s anointed

Revelation 11:15 “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

- 1 Corinthians 12:12 “For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ”.
- The Lord’s Christ is a many membered body
- They are destined for the throne for they are overcomers
- They are for signs and wonders, and will govern nations

Adam, the son of God, fell from the possibility of reigning the creation of God in perfect harmony with the Lord God.

But this redeemed, many-membered son - Christ the body, in perfect harmony and unity with Christ the head will be the fulfilment and bring the fulfilment of God’s perfect plan.

The Manchild

Revelation 12:1 - 5

Here we have a great picture, full of symbolism, of the Church in these days of restoration and outpouring.

1. We see a woman, heavily pregnant and about to give birth.
2. We see a dragon intent upon destroying the woman's child as soon as it is born.
3. We the child - a son - who is destined to rule.

The woman symbolises the Church

- The woman is singular but symbolises a body of 100's of millions
- The Church is in a legitimate and intimate covenant love relationship with Jesus
- She is called 'the bride of Christ' and 'the Lamb's wife'
- Ephesians 5 tells husbands to love their wives just as Christ loves the Church
- This is why the woman is pregnant
- Pregnancy is a time of expectancy, promise and patience
- With every pregnancy there is a 'set time'

The woman's son symbolises the Overcomers

- The son is also singular, but like the woman, also symbolises a great company of people
- Whilst the woman is pregnant, the son is part of her, he is inside her
- There is a great company of people, presently inside the church, who will be revealed in God's time
- They are the sons of God - the fruit of Christ's relationship with his bride
- Romans 8:19 (Amplified) For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship]
- This is not the whole Church, but a people within the Church who are destined to reign on the earth with Christ from His throne (i.e. from His place of authority and power)

The dragon is the devil

- He is the thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy
- He is terrified of the manifested sons of God, that's why he seeks to destroy them
- He is terrified of the sons of God because they have throne-room authority and dunamis power to destroy his works completely and set creation free

- He is terrified of the sons of God because they are like Adam before the fall, having dominion over the earth, meaning there is not one thing the devil can dominate and control for himself.
- 2 Corinthians 11:3 (Amplified) *I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- Satan's weapons against the sons of God are aimed at seeding their minds with his thoughts and reasonings, causing them to lose the simplicity of their faith walk with Jesus. (2 Corinthians 10:4 - 5)
- The sons of God could not be troubled by Satan when their minds were seized by God and by His throne (= throne-minded or kingdom-minded).

1 John 3:1 - 3 Determined to grow to full potential: the hope or expectation of what they can be makes them serious about things that compromise their revealing as the sons of God (e.g. unbelief, religiosity, legalism) NB: manifestation of the Sons of God is about liberty and glory.

Matthew 3:16 - 17

Something vital happened in this moment of Jesus' life. He was always God's only begotten Son, but now the Father expressly declares "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*"

- We know that Jesus was aged 30, and in Jewish tradition, this was considered to be the age a son attained full maturity (we even find different original words translated 'son' or 'child' in the Bible to show the different stages of maturity from baby to full maturity).
- And so at age 30 a ceremony would take place for the son in which the father would adopt his son and grant him full rights to represent him in all things (quite a different notion to the western concept of adoption).
- It is at this adoption ceremony that a father would say of his now mature son, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*".
- It is only after his "adoption" at the River Jordan that John the Baptist said this concerning Jesus
... John 3:34 (NIV) *For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit* (= measure - NKJV).

(Amplified) *For since He Whom God has sent speaks the words of God [proclaims God's own message], God does not give Him His Spirit sparingly or by measure, but boundless is the gift God makes of His Spirit!*

Prior to the full manifestation of the sons of God, we move in a measured anointing.

When the woman gives birth to the son that is in her, these sons of God are like Jesus:

1. They move in an unlimited anointing.
2. They minister out of the full authority and power of the Kingdom's throne-room.
3. They are the fulfilment of God's mandate to mankind in the Garden to have dominion over creation.
4. The whole created world is set free through the ministry of the sons of God (NB: Jesus - complete dominion over creation and dis-order in human life)

The sons of God are in the Church (the Lamb's wife) right now . . .

- Intimately worshipping and loving God.
- Full of eager anticipation for what is to come at the set time.
- Alive in the Spirit and ministering in a "now" anointing that is teaching them for the "then" anointing to come.
- Preparing their lives to be the Christ-like sons of God the whole world awaits

[Ephesians 1:3 - 6](#) This is our destiny

The Overcomers of Laodicea

[Revelation 3:14 - 22](#)

In this letter, Jesus 'writes' of his dismay over the fact that so many in Laodicea were not enjoying a **normal** walk . . .

Normal to have a burning passion for God

- 'I love God with all my heart and I'm passionate about all the things he is passionate about.
- [v15-16](#). They were like a log that had rolled to the edge of the fire.
- Religion and the world frowns on spiritual passion.

Normal to stay completely dependent on God

- 'I need Jesus every day.

- v17. Self-sufficient means able to find an answer to your needs yourself. The self-sufficient man doesn't understand the prayer 'Give us this day our daily bread' – that's weakness to him.
- *NB: Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 4:28-37*

Normal to stay in near fellowship with Jesus

- 'He is my Jesus, my near friend, my confidant – I hunger for his nearness and constantly listen for his voice'.
- v20. Jesus should've been able to walk through an already open door . . . the door they opened when they received him as Saviour. How was it that it didn't stay open?

Normal to inherit the throne

- 'He has given me his authority and he is empowering me so that I can impact my world supernaturally'.
- **This is the natural consequence of a normal walk.**

This is the last letter. Prophetically, it's the situation of the end-time church. These are the issues that confront today's Church:

Tempered passion, self-sufficiency and lack of intimacy.

But passion for God, dependence on God and intimacy with God were supposed to be the normal walk.

- E.g. Chinese whispers – we must go back and hear the first whisper to remove all the distortions to what normal really is.
- This is why we have the Word – we can hear the whisper and see how the first receivers lived.
- This releases the means by which we can apply the remedy Jesus gives in v19 *repent*
- Repent means "to have a change of mind". The Word reprograms my thoughts and imagination.
- Bill Johnson – has a very strong message about what's going on in our thoughts and imagination / his is also an example of a church that's experiencing kingdom power [the throne].
- We're the church to whom the promise is made – To him who overcomes (i.e. restores his walk back to normal) I will grant to sit with Me on My throne

- The *with Me* is so important! It's the key to everything – remember Jesus saying *without Me you can do nothing.*
- I love it! He will walk with us – it's the only way to have a normal walk. So if our walk is with Jesus, our reigning will be with Jesus.

What is promised in chapter 3:21 is envisaged in chapter 4:2 - 4 and celebrated in chapter 5:8 - 10