

God created the universe, world and mankind, and has a plan for you.

1. The Father Promised a Plan for His People through the Patriarchs and Prophets. Gen.-Mal.

- a. God created everything, and gave mankind limits, freedoms, mercy and grace (Gen.1-3).
- b. Mankind, destined to sin, continually was called by God to follow Him (Gen. 4-11).
- c. God chose a family to become a holy nation as His people for a His Promise (Gen.12-50).
- d. He gave them His Laws, Judges and plan (Ex.-Ruth), but they wanted a king (1 Sam.).
- e. The kings and kingdom failed repeatedly (1 Sam.-Mal.), but God promised a Savior (Isa.).

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion.’ And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” ... “Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...” Gen. 1:27-28a, 12:1-4a

2. The Savior-Son Fulfilled the Promise as God’s Sacrifice for your Redemption. Matt.-John

- a. Christ—in His birth, teachings and miracles—proved Himself Isaiah’s Messiah (Matt.).
- b. He became known to the Romans and Gentiles as mankind’s Servant, Son of God (Mark).
- c. Christ lived, died, and arose to life—fulfilling all that He said to His followers (Luke).
- d. Our Lord and Savior brought the Light to the world that He promised all along (John).

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this,” ... “Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life,’” Isaiah 9:6-7, John 8:12

3. The Holy Spirit Spread the Gospel of the Savior’s Redemption to the World. Acts-Rev.

- a. Christ’s apostles proclaimed His Great Commission of redemption for believers (Acts).
- b. Paul and others planted churches and taught Christ’s Gospel of saving grace (Acts-Jude).
- c. Christ gave John a vision of future judgment for believers and non-believers alike (Rev.).

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth,”... “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied,” Acts 1:8, 9:31

God created the universe, world and mankind, and has a plan for you.

God created you in need of His redemption—and a perfect Light in which to find Him.

1. Creation—Generation—God’s Perfect Creation of Heavens, Earth and Mankind. Gen. 1-2

- a. God created the universal heavens and earth (1:1), “from nothing” (1:1-2).
- b. God created Light (1:3) and time (1:4-8). Christ Himself is Light (see John 1:1-5).
- c. He created animals, and saw that all was good (1:21, 25), and man in His image (:27).
- d. God Blessed man and woman and gave them dominion over all the earth (1:28-31).
- e. The seventh day God rested and made it holy (2:1-3). He planted the Eden garden (:8)
- f. The Tree of Life was in the middle, and the tree of good and evil was forbidden (2:9-17).

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” ... “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion.’ And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light,” Gen. 1:1 ... 27-28a

2. Sin—Degeneration—Temptation, Fall and Judgment of Mankind. Gen. 3-4

- a. Satan lied and tempted the woman Eve, claiming that they could be like God (3:1-5)
- b. Eve and Adam ate the forbidden fruit, knew they had sinned, and hid from God (:6-8).
- c. God cursed the serpent eternally (:14-15), and gave woman child-bearing pain (:16).
- d. God cursed man’s “ground,” giving him pain, thorns, sweat and work (:17-19).
- e. All mankind sin, need God (see Rom. 3:9-20). Cain killed Abel; Seth was born (4:25-26).

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die,’” ... “Then the Lord said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation,’” Gen. 2:16-17 ... 7:1

3. Salvation by Faith—Regeneration—God’s Redemption Plan for Mankind. Gen. 5-11

- a. Sin increased (5). God gave a covenant protecting Noah from the coming flood (6-9).
- b. Nations descended from Noah’s sons. God separated languages at the Babel Tower (11).
- c. Noah demonstrated true faith (7, Heb. 11:6-7).

“Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth,’” Gen. 8:20-21a

God created you in need of His redemption—and a perfect Light in which to find Him.

God will redeem you—and bless you to be a blessing for Him.

1. God Promised and Instituted the Covenant.

Gen. 12-20

- a. Abram (Abraham) and Sarai (Sarah) were chosen. Promises were made (12, 15, 17).
- b. Abraham’s line would be blessed and protected to bring a blessing to the world (12:1-4).
- c. Faith was tested and failed; Ishmael was born to Abraham but not Sarah (18).
- d. Lot was separated (Gen. 13) and Sodom destroyed (19).

“Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...” Gen. 12:1-4a

2. God Blessed and Multiplied the Lineage.

Gen. 21-36

- a. Isaac was born. Abraham’s faith was tested and confirmed (21-22).
- b. Jacob was born second; but gained Esau’s firstborn blessing (27).
- c. Jacob became Israel—the 12 tribes (30, 35). Christ’s lineage was assured (Matt. 1).

“But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’” ... “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you.” ... “So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations,” Gen. 22:11-12 ... 35:11 ... Matt. 1:17

3. Fall, Famine and Bondage of the Lineage.

Gen. 37-50

- a. Joseph’s family sinned against both him and God (37).
- b. Joseph was tested and exalted in Egypt (39-41).
- c. The broken family reconciled in forgiveness, safety and protection (43-50).

“And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come near to me, please.’ And they came near. And he said, ‘I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life,’” Gen. 45:3-5

God will redeem you—and bless you to be a blessing for Him.

God will rescue you from sin—and deliver and sanctify you to Himself.

1. Under Oppression God will Strengthen You. Ex. 1-2

- a. God blessed Israel’s family as they grew from 70 to 4 million (1).
- b. God placed Moses, a Levite baby, in Pharaoh’s house to rescue Israel (2).
- c. Israel cried out to God, He heard their tearful prayers (2:23-25, 6:1-10).

“All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them,”
Ex. 1:5-7

2. God Used Moses to Lead His People from Bondage to Freedom. Ex. 3-12

- a. After appearing at the burning bush, God shared His plan with Moses (3:18-20).
- b. Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh saying “Let my people go!” (5).
- c. God afflicts Egypt with nine plagues (7-9) and the “Pass Over” (12).

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. The Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them.’ Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the Lord commanded them,” Ex. 7:1-6

3. God Provides Laws, Justice and Holy Worship for His People. Ex. 13-40

- a. God redeemed and preserved His people (15-18).
- b. God revealed the Old Covenant with laws and regulations to be holy (9-31).
- c. Israel willfully disobeyed (32). Moses and God renewed the Covenant (34-40).
- d. In Christ God gives us a better, New Covenant (see Jer. 31:33 and Heb. 8:10).

“Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was,” ... “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people,” Ex 20:18-21 ... Jer. 31:33

God will rescue you from sin—and deliver and sanctify you to Himself.

God will show you your sin—and make you holy and righteous before Himself.

1. God Teaches His People through Sacrifice.

Lev. 1-15

- a. Approaching God with offerings (1-7).
- b. Approaching God through priests (8-10).
- c. Approaching God through regulations (11-15).

“And the priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering with a pleasing aroma. All fat is the Lord's. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, in all your dwelling places, that you eat neither fat nor blood,” Lev. 3:16-17

2. God Atones His People by a Substitution Scapegoat.

Lev. 16-17

- a. God proclaimed national Day of Atonement for all Israel (16).
- b. Moses and Aaron prepared the high priests, sacrifices and tabernacle (16:1-19).
- c. Aaron confessed sins over the live goat and sends it into the freedom (16:20-17:16).

“For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins,” ... “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life,” Lev. 16:30 ... 17:11

3. God Sanctifies His People to be Holy.

Lev. 18-27

- a. God sanctified through social laws and regulations (18-20).
- b. God sanctified with priests and worship (21-24).
- c. God sanctified through jubilees, obedience and vows (25-27).
- d. Through Christ's blood we have a better High Priest and eternal redemption (Heb. 9).

“Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. Keep my statutes and do them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.” ... “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption,” Lev. 20:7-8 ... Heb.9:11-12

God will show you your sin—and make you holy and righteous before Himself.

God will make you strong, holy and righteous to be a blessing.

1. God Organized His People.

Num. 1-10

- a. First census numbering counted members of each tribe (1).
- b. Camp planning and arrangements honored God at the center (2).
- c. Levites ministered to God’s people with care, sacrifice, offerings and vows (3-10).

“Then the tent of meeting shall set out, with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps; as they camp, so shall they set out, each in position, standard by standard.,” Num. 2:17

2. God Strengthened and Tested His People through Trials.

Num. 11-25

- a. All Israel and Moses complained about provisions (11-12). God provided for their needs.
- b. Israel failed with spies at Kadesh (13), but Caleb followed with “a different spirit” (14).
- c. Israel sinned in a rebellion led by Levite Korah, who fell into an earthquake (16).
- d. Moses struck the rock in disbelief, and God denied him entry into Canaan (20).
- e. Israel failed and sinned en route to Moab, worshipped Baal (20-25).

“Then the Lord said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it,” ... “While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel,” Num. 14:20-24 ... 25:1-3

3. God Protected and Pointed His People toward His Holy Land.

Num. 26-36

- a. God asked for a second census of the new generation by tribe and person in (26).
- b. Joshua replaced Moses as Israel’s leader, and offerings and vows were given (27-30).
- c. Israel avenged the Midianites, and the Canaan conquest was planned (31-36).

“And the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, ‘Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. ... But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell,’” Num. 33:50-52 ... 55

God will make you strong, holy and righteous to be a blessing.

God has called you, blessed you, and won’t give up on you.

1. Moses’ First Sermon: God Had Called Israel and Delivered Them from Bondage. Deut. 1-4

- a. God commanded Israel to leave Moab and go to Canaan to possess the land (1:1-5).
- b. Through the wilderness, God had led them to defeat Kings of Sihon and Og (1:6-3:20).
- c. Moses himself was forbidden to enter (3) and commanded obedience to God alone (4).

“And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you.” ... “Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?” Deut. 4:1 ... 6-8

2. Moses’ Second Sermon: God Expected Israel to be Moral and Holy to Him. Deut. 4-26

- a. Moses repeated the Law in relation to their Covenant with God (4-5).
- b. Moses urged their fear of the Lord in keeping and teaching the laws and statutes (6-11).
- c. Moses taught additional ceremonial, civil and social laws (12-26).

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good,” Deut. 10:12-13

3. Moses’ Third Sermon: God Will Bring Israel Into His Holy Land. Deut. 27-34

- a. Israel commanded to ratify their Covenant with God once in Canaan (27-28).
- b. People were told and warned that their Covenant is with God (29-30).
- c. Moses charged Joshua to lead Israel, and died on Mt. Nebo (31-34).

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them,” Deut. 30:19-20

God has called you, blessed you, and won’t give up on you.

When and where you follow God, He will lead you there.

1. Preparing for Conquests—and to Follow God.

Josh. 1-5

- a. God commissioned Joshua leader, and he commanded tribes East and West of Jordan (1).
- b. Joshua sent spies to Jericho who met Rahab (2), and led Israel across the Jordan (3-4).
- c. Joshua led Israel spiritually under God with circumcision and Passover (5).

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go,” Josh. 1:8-9

2. Conquering Canaan—and Sin and Evil.

Josh. 6-13:7

- a. God led Israel’s Jericho victory and saved Rahab (6), but Achan’s sin led defeat at Ai (7).
- b. God purified Israel and led victory at Ai. Israel worshiped God in response (8).
- c. Israel conquered Southern Canaan (9-10), and Northern Canaan (11) and kings (12-13).

“So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war,” Josh. 11:23

3. Settling in Canaan—a Promised Land.

Josh. 13:8-24

- a. Israel’s settled lands East of the Jordan (13).
- b. Israel’s settled lands West of the Jordan (14-19).
- c. Religious settlements and conditions were laid out; Joshua and Eleazar died (20-24).

“And the people said to Joshua, ‘The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.’ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem,” Josh. 24:24-25

When and where you follow God, He will lead you there.