

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins

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The Scheme of Redemption

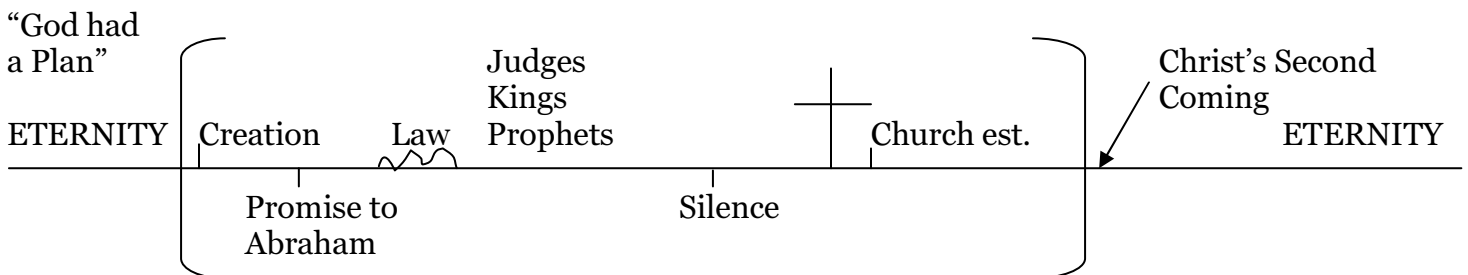
by Dempsey Collins

Before the creation of the planets, in the nothingness of utter darkness, God spoke the words “Let there be light”. Before the creation of the first man, God had a plan or a purpose. In Eph. 3:11 this is called His “eternal purpose.” We normally refer to it as “the scheme of redemption.”

I. God’s Plan

A. Scheme defined is “a set or series of connected activities intended to accomplish a specific purpose.” In this case, the salvation of man from his sin. This plan was conceived, and in God’s mind carried out before the beginning of the physical universe in Gen. 1:1.

B. Time line of Bible History



Summary of the Bible time line:

1. Before the creation of the world, God had a plan. This He calls “His eternal purpose.” (Eph. 3:11).
2. In this plan, God created man to honor and glorify Him (Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 10:31; Rom. 1:21, Col. 1:16), and for the opportunity of being glorified with Him (Rom. 8:30). But God knew that such honor and glory could not come from a creature that does not freely choose to render such honor. Hence man was created a free moral agent. A creature with ability and freedom to choose his course in life. He can honor himself or

he can honor God as he ought (II Pet. 3:11; I Thess. 4:11, "Ought" is a sense of debt, or moral obligation owed to another).

3. Man, however, chose to not honor God but to serve his own designs and thus has fallen far short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23).
4. God knew that man, given freedom of choice, would often serve his own designs and pleasures and thus conceived a plan of redemption before even creating man (Eccl. 7:29; Eph. 1:3-4; 3:11).
5. This plan consists of:
 - a. Blood sacrifices for sin.
 - b. Promises given to Abraham.
 - c. The Mosaic Law which foreshadowed Christ's Law (Heb. 10:1).
 - d. The death of Jesus who though He "knew no sin became sin on our behalf", i.e., a sin offering for us. (II Cor. 5:21).
 - e. The establishment of the church – kingdom, the culmination of God's plan. The church consists of saved people. Saved not because of sinless lives, but because they have been redeemed by the blood sacrifice of Christ according to a plan of faith.
 - f. At the second coming of Christ, time will be no more (II Pet. 3:10).

C. The theme of the Bible is Redeeming Fallen Man from Sin – The Power of Satan through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22).

1. It is not a history book, though it contains significant historical facts.
2. It is not a science book, though it contains scientific facts which astound scientists and help confirm our faith.
3. It is not a philosophy book, though it contains the most profound philosophy of life.
4. It is a collection of 66 books showing the unfolding of God's plan to redeem man from sin through His son.

D. Man is Finite – God is Infinite

1. Man being finite dwells in time and space. This time is measured by the revolution of the heavenly bodies (Gen. 1:14). Before the heavenly bodies, there was no time (only eternity). After the heavenly bodies are dissolved, then time will cease once again. Time is but a parenthesis in eternity.
2. God is not a being of time and space. He does not think in terms of when and where, for He dwells in eternity (Isa. 57:15) and has the attributes of:
 - a. Omnipresence (Psa. 139:7-12).
 - b. Omnipotence (Psa. 66:7; 33:6-9).
 - c. Omniscience (Rom. 11:33-36).
3. God, at times, speaks of Himself in human terms. This is known as anthropomorphism "ascribing human characteristics to that which is inhuman." The purpose is for clarity of thought.

to be continued

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16