

## **IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK**

### **Romans 8:28**

**Introduction:** A "key" word is found in the last word of this verse - "Purpose." All of God's promises of blessings are for His own people, those called according to His purpose. God has something definite in mind from the very beginning. Most of the time man is up to one thing while God is trying to do something else. When one does become a part of God's ultimate purpose, then things begin to happen.

One might say that God's PURPOSE is a "book" with three chapters:

- Chapter One - Creation to the Flood
- Chapter Two - After the Flood and continues to the return of Jesus Christ.
- Chapter Three - From the return of Jesus Christ into eternity and really never ending.

We are living in Chapter Two, in the middle of the Book and certainly not a place to judge the whole book or to arrive at any conclusion. As in any book, not everything makes sense in the middle. One must wait until the end to see how it works out/ends.

God's "book" on PURPOSE does not start with God trying to prove He is God, nor does He try to explain how evil got started. Let's take a look at God's "book" of PURPOSE.

### **I. CHAPTER ONE - "THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF GOD"**

1. It starts with God creating everything in an ideal state (discuss the beginning).
2. It didn't stay that way for sin spoiled things (discuss the entrance of Satan and sin).
3. Why didn't God keep man in a state of innocence? God made man free to chose - good or evil.
4. Man and his world became evil and God PURPOSED to destroy it and start over.

### **II. CHAPTER TWO - "GOD'S PRESENT PURPOSE"**

1. Moving from the flood through the centuries, we come to God's formation of a nation.
2. From God's nation, Israel, through the centuries we come to God's culmination of His plan - The coming of God's Son, the Lord Jesus (discuss the Christmas story).
3. Jesus came to remove sin and to become the sacrifice that would bring man and God back together again (discuss Easter).
4. Centuries have passed and God has been taking from each generation a CHOSEN PEOPLE for God's PURPOSE of mankind.
  - That we might be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. That process has not been completed yet.
  - Ours is a world filled with disease and accidents, disappointments and troubles.
  - It seems that God is looking the other way sometimes. REMEMBER, we are living in the

- MIDDLE OF THE BOOK and there is another Chapter to come.
- Yes, Satan is busy, but remember, God has Satan on a long leash, chain and is holding the other end.

### **III. CHAPTER THREE - "GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE"**

1. Chapter Three comes in with a big BANG!
  - The return of Jesus for His Church and the resurrection of His dead.
  - The tribulation period and the chaining of Satan.
  - The return of Jesus with His Church to rule and reign on earth for a thousand years.
  - Finally, the destruction of the present heaven and earth. Then a new heaven and a new earth.  
The city of Jerusalem, the destruction of all evil.
2. Eternity in the presence of the Lord God and serving Him. CHAPTER THREE

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God has a plan and is making it work.
2. God's plan includes YOU if you want to be a part of it.
3. Have you become a part of God's PURPOSE?