

THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

Ephesians 3:11

Introduction: There was a mystery, a "secret" God kept hidden from the Old Testament age which He revealed upon Jesus' resurrection from the tomb. It is a period between Jesus' death and His second coming and it is called the CHURCH AGE. Paul was privileged to preach to the Gentile people and reveal this long kept secret.

I. WHAT THE WORD "PURPOSE" MEANS

1. "prothesis" - showbread, purpose - In the Old Testament times God had 12 loaves of specially prepared bread representing the 12 tribes of Israel exhibited in the "Holy place" for a purpose.
2. Remember, it was Jacob, not Esau who was chosen, although Esau was the first born. (*Romans 9:11*)
3. *Ephesians 1:11* - God's plan of the ages for His people.
4. Architects have blueprints, seamstresses have patterns, cooks have recipes, thus God has a pre-determined purpose, plan for mankind.
5. God's purpose revealed, opened is all about Jesus Christ and centers in Him.
6. *Hebrews 1:1-2* - God's eternal purpose has to do with His Son, Jesus Christ and mankind.

II. GOD'S PURPOSE IN REDEMPTION

1. Before creation, Lucifer rebelled against God, but God's purpose did not fail (*Revelation 13*)
2. In the Garden of Eden, man fell, yet God's purpose did not fail.
 - The first sacrifice, first altar, and man was welcomed back to God.
3. *Exodus 19, 20* - Finds Abraham and Israel and God's purpose was that the nation Israel teach the world of God, be priests, examples, etc.
 - Israel fell, yet God's purpose did not, for out of fallen Israel came the Savior
(*Revelation 12:1, 2, 5*)
4. *John 1:11* - Jesus was born, angels made the announcement, did many great deeds during His three years of ministry, but was crucified, yet God's purpose did not fail.
 - Jesus did not come to be a martyr, or an example, He came to die for our sins.
- *John 3:17; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:2*
 - Jesus is the only one in God's purpose for the salvation of mankind.
5. Missionaries opening the door of salvation to the whole world is the purpose of God - calling nations and people of the whole world to faith in Jesus Christ.

6. Yet God is opposed for there are "false" gods like those Paul encountered in Athens.
 - Today there are gods of science, of gold, of materialism, etc.
 - Some choose Christianity, some Hinduism, some Buddhism, some other cults, beliefs.
 - All but Christianity opposite to God's plan.
 - Paul preached Jesus Christ to the Athenians - thus we are to witness to the false religions/faiths about Jesus Christ - God's purpose.

III. GOD'S PURPOSE IN EXHALTATION

1. **Revelation 11:15** - The purpose of God is Jesus Christ is to be over all. Everything shall be summed up in Jesus Christ.
2. Yet God's purpose is opposed, rejected, denied BUT it shall surely come to pass.
3. The Mississippi river flows North to South but in some places it flows North to East, to West, but ultimately, finally, back to flowing Southward. Thus is God's purpose of the ages.
4. **Romans 11:25** - "pleroma" - "The full number" - We are to witness till the "full number" of Gentiles come to Jesus Christ, then another age will be ushered in, all in God's purpose.

IV. EXALTED AMONG THE JEWS

1. God's purpose shall not fail in Israel, even though today they don't care about Jesus, but they shall be converted (**Romans 11:26-29**)
2. God made a covenant with Abraham and God keeps covenants. After our age (Church age), Israel will be converted.
 - Not all Jews have rejected Jesus through the ages, many have been converted, but there will come a day when ALL Israel accept God's Son, Jesus Christ.
3. The purpose of God shall not fail in Israel:
 - 12 gates, 12 tribes, the foundation of the Heavenly City built on the 12 apostles. There are 24 elders, 12 patriarchs, 12 apostles. All shall become ONE.

V. EXALTED AMONG THE GENTILES

1. **Philippians 2:9-10** - Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess Jesus Christ.
2. God purpose shall not fail with the Gentiles.
 - All shall confess. If they will do it NOW, they shall be saved.
 - If forced to bow, they shall be cast out.

CONCLUSION:

1. God has a plan, a purpose for mankind. It is good for us and it will not fail
2. Will YOU be a part of God's purpose or will you be left out? It's YOUR choice.