GOD'S PURPOSE FOR CREATION

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God's plan for this creation is perfect and is without mistake or regret. The issue for mankind is that mankind does not and cannot know God, nor does God reveal His plan to us. It is only after a person has been converted into a child of God will they be able to know God and understand His plan. Until that time, mankind's carnal nature will keep God "veiled".

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put obscurity (the world) in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.

Rom 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Let me explain further by presenting the "big picture".

Mankind's spiritual condition we have from birth is flawed. It was NOT a mistake by God. We were made that way on purpose so that our flesh controls us. That is why we are carnally minded and why Christ, while in a physical body, was not.

Christ was spiritually perfect and this empowered Him to overcome this carnal world and never sin. But with mankind, we cannot overcome this world and we frequently sin as a result of our spiritual flaw.

It is not man's fault that we were created imperfect. God is responsible for our marred spiritual condition which causes us to sin.

Rom 8:20 For the creature was <u>made subject to vanity</u>, <u>not willingly</u>, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, ...

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was <u>marred</u> in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

So why did God make us spiritually marred?

Since this creation is for God's purpose of producing His offspring and because God wants His children to be like Him, mankind must learn about good and evil.

At this time, mankind is learning about evil. Later, after we are "converted", we will learn about the goodness of God.

But for now, mankind must learn about evil; and not just being on the receiving end of evil but also being on the giving end of evil. God even created Satan to be our tempter and deceiver so

that we would have a fuller experience of evil.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

Isa 45:5-7 I am the LORD, ... I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, <u>and create evil</u>: I the LORD do all these things.

Ecc 1:13 An experience of evil God has given to the sons of humanity to humble them by it.

Isa 54:16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and <u>I have created the waster to destroy</u>.

Because of our spiritually marred condition we have at birth, we all grow to become sinful and evil creatures.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Mankind's carnal nature is <u>hatred</u> towards God and it veils us from knowing Him, so much so, that we do not even have a desire to seek His ways. The ways of Satan is what our carnal nature prefers.

To make matters worse for mankind, Satan was created to feed upon our carnality; the <u>dust of the ground</u> (**Gen 3:14**). For that reason, Satan works to destroy and deceive mankind through our carnal nature.

Let's take a look at how this truth applies to experiences of Adam and Eve:

After Adam and Eve were created spiritually marred, they quickly became carnally minded. Christ even put Satan in the Garden of Eden to tempt & deceive Eve so that she would sin. Because Eve was carnal, she didn't stand a chance against Satan's deceptions.

Eve even displayed the three carnal causes of sin BEFORE she sinned (1John 2:16).

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and

that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride of life), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Here is the formula for mankind's spiritual makeup:

CARNAL MIND + CARNAL NATURE = ONE FLESH

This formula can be restated using these terms:

MAN + WOMAN = ONE FLESH

ADAM + EVE = ONE FLESH

Eve represents mankind's carnal nature and that is why Satan went to her instead of Adam.

After Eve sinned, she fed the forbidden fruit to Adam and He sinned as well. Since Adam and Eve followed the ways of Satan instead of Christ, they spiritually committed adultery with Satan. This adultery caused the marriage relationship they had with Christ to end and they were cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Christ, of course, knew Adam and Eve were carnally minded and would sin because He made them that way. And for this same reason, all of Adam & Eve's offspring sin as well.

Mankind's sin was planned and caused by God so that we would all experience evil.

With God, evil is a tool that He uses for His good and righteous purposes. In this case, His purpose is to create His offspring who have a knowledge of good and evil.

But since mankind's sin spiritually separates us from God and because God wants children, He needed to create a pathway back to Himself for mankind. To accomplish that task, God sent Jesus Christ to reconcile mankind back to God:

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

However, in our spiritually marred and carnally minded condition, NO PERSON can be saved. We have all sinned and the penalty of sin is death (not eternal hell). For this reason, <u>all mankind must die</u>. This is an absolute truth that cannot be broken. The only solution is for mankind to be "born again" (**John 3:3**) from the death we all must pay.

Christ's work on the cross gave Christ the legal authority to raise mankind from the grave and to give mankind a new life. By His sacrifice, Christ earned the keys to death and hell (**Rev 1:18**) and became mankind's <u>near kinsman redeemer</u>. Now, all mankind owes their debt of death to Christ.

Christ will collect mankind's debt by destroying mankind's spiritually marred vessel. And from this vessel's destruction, Christ will make mankind into a new vessel:

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was <u>marred</u> in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

In mankind's marred created condition, no person has the ability to "choose" Christ and accept Him as "Lord. The only way mankind can accept Christ is for Christ to individually come to us <u>FIRST</u> and change us from <u>within</u>.

Christ begins His work of conversion for a person when He comes to them and gives them the <u>Early Rain of the Spirit</u>. This is when a person becomes a <u>believer</u> and enters the church.

Jam 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receives the <u>EARLY and LATTER rain</u>. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

After Christ gives His gift of the Early Rain of the Spirit to a person, they will no longer be able to reject Him. Even with just a measure of the Spirit, an unbeliever will become a "called out" believer and will confess that Jesus is their Lord.

1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

Paul "typed" the receiving of the Early Rain of the Spirit as he traveled the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-9). From Christ's visitation, Paul readily accepted Jesus and called Him "Lord".

However, the Early Rain of the Spirit is only given in measure and cannot convert a person.

Deu 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the <u>small</u> rain (Early Rain) upon the tender herb, and as the showers (Latter Rain) upon the grass:

Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the <u>small rain</u> (Early Rain), and to the great rain (Latter Rain) of his strength.

Because of this partial measure of the Spirit, the new believer will remain spiritually blind (Mark 8:21-25) and controlled by their carnal nature. As a result, Satan will be able to come to them and deceive them.

Everyone who is "called out from the world" will follow this portion of the Pathway to Salvation and will be deceived by Satan.

Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, <u>but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God</u>.

This portion of the pathway when we are under Satan's deceptions is called mankind's <u>Day of</u> Evil:

Prov 16:4 The LORD will make all to give an answer: yea, even for the evil of the <u>Day of Evil</u>.

The Day of Evil (when Satan reigns) is in contrast to the Day of the Lord (when Christ reigns).

In the Day of Evil, Satan destroys the new child of God within the believer. This is when the believer commits the sin that leads to death and they lose their salvation.

In the Day of the Lord, Christ destroys Satan (spirit of anti-Christ) within the believer. This is when the believer is converted and saved.

Note: After a believer is converted, they can never fall away and lose their salvation again.

When Satan comes to a new believer, he will masquerade as an angel of light (Christ).

2Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

The new believer will fall for Satan's deception because they remain spiritually blind after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit and don't yet have the ability to know the true Christ. Satan will then feed them his carnally pleasing lies (leavened bread) which they will readily accept as the truth of Christ.

Matt 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

After a believer's carnal nature (represented by the symbol "woman") has come under the control of Satan, the believer's "woman" will take <u>leaven</u> from Satan and <u>hide</u> it in three measures of meal (truth of Christ). And since the new believer will eat from this leavened loaf of bread, they will be deceived by Satan without even being aware of it.

Christ explained this process again this way:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents Satan's false truth. Since a called out believer remains spiritually blind after receiving the Early Rain, they cannot replace their false beliefs of this world with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves the person but comes back with SEVEN (represents the spirit of anti-Christ) more since their house remains void of

the truth. Now, instead of just ONE unclean spirit within them, they now have <u>EIGHT</u>. The number EIGHT is a spiritual symbol and represents a <u>new spiritual condition</u>. In this case, the new spiritual condition is "<u>worse than the first</u>".

Paul calls this believer with a worsened spiritual condition the Man of Sin (2Thes 2:1-4). John, in Revelation chapters 13, refers to him as the Seven Headed Ten Horned Beast. This Beast is controlled by the spirit of anti-Christ (the second Beast/the False Prophet).

When Christ comes to an unbeliever with the Early Rain of the Spirit, Christ strikes a blow to the head of the believer with His "sword" (God's Word). This blow by the sword gives the believer a <u>deadly wound</u>. However, due to Satan's deceptions via the spirit of anti-Christ, the believer's head wound is healed and they devolve into a Man of Sin.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:14 And deceive th them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

This verse below also applies:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Christ's spiritual point He is making in **Matt 26:52** is that all Elect believers who take up the Sword, must perish (death of the carnal nature) by the Sword. This death by the sword is a necessary part of the conversion process.

I'll explain this concept further:

After an Elect believer receives the first blow to their head by the sword of Christ, their carnality (Old Man) starts slowly dying. This slow process of judgment within the believer causes a spiritual war to develop between the Early Rain of the Spirit and the believer's carnality.

During this spiritual war, Satan will come to the aid of the believer's carnality via the spirit of anti-Christ. This spirit will strengthen the "Old Man" (carnality of the believer) because the spirit of anti-Christ will masquerade as Christ and will fully deceive the believer. While under Satan's influence, the believer will follow the ways of Satan instead of the ways of Christ. In other words, the believer will commit adultery with Satan (like Adam and Eve did) and will fall from grace (be cast out of the Garden of Eden).

With the spirit of anti-Christ now indwelling the believer, the believer will become <u>worse than</u> the first; a Man of Sin.

The Man of Sin is presented in Revelation chapter 13 as the Seven Headed Beast. And since the believer's deadly head wound which came from the sword of Christ is now healed, the world will be amazed by the strength of the beast and his ability to make war. They will then ask "who is able to make war with him?"

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Since the Old Man (now a Man of Sin) continues to live, the spiritual death that the believer needed to pay to satisfy their sin debt remains <u>unpaid</u> and they remain under the Law of Sin and Death.

To make Satan's ability to deceive mankind even easier, mankind's carnal nature has a built-in preference for "works" (Satan's way) over faith (Christ's way):

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, the old is better.

The Old Wine represents the blood of the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant of Law. The Old Covenant is man's attempt to be acceptable to Christ by their own "works". With this approach, the remission of sins is not possible.

Heb 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The New Wine represents the blood of Christ which Christ shed for the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my <u>blood of the New Covenant</u>, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

The New Covenant of Grace through Faith is the only acceptable approach to Christ and it is based solely on the <u>works of Christ</u> "lest any man should boast" (**Eph 2:9**).

Under the New Covenant, Christ will change mankind from "within" (spiritually). However, this approach to Christ is rejected by mankind's carnal nature because it inherently believes that mankind has at least some ability to make themselves acceptable to God. Mankind's inherent belief in "self-worth" is responsible for the many religions of the world and is one of the reasons why a called out believer will always mix their own "works" with faith.

When a believer commits this sin of mixing "works" with faith, they are trying to serve two masters:

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

At this point, the believer has truly fallen away and turned to religion for their salvation. They have experienced the <u>Abomination of Desolation</u> (**Mat 24:15**). This is the one and only sin that leads to a believer's spiritual death (**1John 5:16**). And from this death, the believer <u>cannot</u> be renewed by repentance:

Heb 6:4 For <u>it is impossible</u> for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 <u>If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance</u>; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The Doctrine of Free Will is the most common belief that causes a believer to fall away. They use this "works" based belief system to differentiate themselves from why unbelievers are worthy of hell and why they are not. They falsely believe that they made the right choice from their supposed "free will" because they were smarter, wiser or just not as evil as those who rejected Christ. But in truth, they are not. Their decision to accept Jesus as Lord solely came from the work Christ did within them beforehand. Christ did this work when He gave them the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Because a fallen away believer cannot be renewed by repentance, they will remain in this lost, spiritually worsened condition until Christ comes to them a <u>second time</u>. In this age, Christ is <u>only</u> coming a second time to His Elect - the First-Fruits of the harvest of mankind. They have been chosen from the foundation of the world and are the only ones who are going to be saved at this time.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.

However, the rest of mankind will not be forgotten by Christ. Their salvation will come in the final age (Lake of Fire age). Since mankind's salvation is 100% the work of Christ, no man has

the ability to choose the timing of their own salvation. Only the Elect have been chosen by God to be saved in this age. Everyone else must wait for the final age for their day of salvation.

However, in the final age, there is a group order for salvation that has been established by God: the remaining Gentiles will be saved first, then after their "fullness" has come into the Kingdom of Heaven, the remaining bulk of physical Israel will finally be saved.

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Mat 19:30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

If a person has been chosen from the foundation of the world, Christ will not let them physically die in their sins. He will come to them a second time and give them the <u>Latter Rain of the Spirit</u>.

Unlike the Early Rain, the Latter Rain will be plentiful and will "confirm thine inheritance":

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain (Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

The Latter Rain is also called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the same baptism which the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost and it is the same baptism which Paul received after being in Damascus for three days. With this baptism, the new child of God is born.

The Latter Rain of the Spirit occurs at the Second Coming of Christ when Christ comes to one of His Elect during this present age.

Christ's second coming is a <u>reoccurring spiritual event</u>. It is not the falsely claimed one-time event which happens at the end of this physical age.

These verses apply:

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne...

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

After Christ comes to an Elect believer a second time and gives them the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the Day of the Lord will immediately follow with judgment upon the Man of Sin/Old Man. After their judgment is complete, the Elect believer will be fully converted.

What I have presented above is an abbreviated summary of how Christ saves one of His Elect in this age. They are the First-Fruits of His harvest of mankind.

And as I said earlier, Christ will not forget the rest of mankind and will NOT leave them to rot in the field. In the final age, at the end of the harvest season (Feast of Tabernacles), Christ will finish His work within them and bring in the full harvest of mankind. Then it will be testified to be true that ALL who died "in Adam" is the same ALL who will be made alive "in Christ".

1 Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as IN ADAM ALL DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE.

1 Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

God does not fail and He never makes mistakes. What mankind is experiencing now is how God produces His children. This is why mankind was created. And due to the successful work of Christ, no one will be lost. This truth is the meaning of life that seems to elude most people.

One final point:

Mankind is NOT restored to the Father because it is mankind's "will" to be restored to Him. Mankind is restored to the Father because it is God's "will" for it to happen.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Mankind truly has a loving and merciful creator who will do all that is necessary to save each and every one of us. In the end, God will have many new children!