

God's Plan Before Time Began

Introduction:

1. Have you ever felt Old?
 2. But in Terms of Eternity—We Are Actually Very Young!
 3. The Bible Tells us about the Beginning (Genesis 1:1)
 4. But the Bible Also tells us some things before the Beginning
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I. GOD'S PLAN BEFORE TIME BEGAN

A. GOD EXISTED ETERNALLY BEFORE TIME BEGAN (Psalm 90:2)

1. There was a time when there was not time—and God was there
2. We mistakenly think of Time as Absolute So Everything Must Conform to Some Linear Line of Time and Space
3. But Augustine made this discovery in the 4th century... that God created Time at the moment He created the Heavens and the Earth.
4. “God is the only infinite, eternal, and unchangeable spirit, the perfect being in whom all things begin, and continue, and end.” (James Orr)

B. THERE WAS AN ETERNAL PURPOSE WITHIN THE HEART OF GOD BEFORE TIME BEGAN (Ephesians 3:8-9)

1. Paul felt double privileged: First that he was allowed to see the eternal plan God kept secret from before time began
2. Second: That He was Give the Privilege to Preach it to the World
3. This Eternal plan was kept within the heart of God, but now the whole world must know!

C. THIS ETERNAL PURPOSE WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AND COMPLETED IN JESUS CHRIST (Ephesians 3:9–12)

1. That the Manifold Wisdom of God:
 - a) Greek word here means Many-colored
 - b) God's Wisdom is beautifully iridescent
2. May be made known by the Church to the Principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*:
 - a) The church plays a much bigger role than we can even imagine
3. according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord:
 - a) What is This Eternal Purpose that is Accomplished in Jesus Christ?

D. TO GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE—ALL THINGS IN CHRIST (Eph. 1:9–10)

1. “God’s purpose was to “resolve” or “sum up” all things in Jesus as if Jesus Himself were the answer to a great and complex problem God wrote out on the “blackboard” of the universe.” (David Guzik)
2. **What is the problem of which Jesus is the Solution?**
 - a) The Problem is Sin that Separates us from God
 - b) The Solution is Jesus Who Paid Our Debt in Full at the Cross
3. **God Wants the Whole World to be Gathered Together in His Love
So He Made This Possible Through Jesus Sacrifice on the Cross**

E. THIS MISSION OF JESUS WAS FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD (1 Peter 1:18–20).

1. **This was the Plan from Before Time Began!**
2. **That We Would Be Saved By the Precious Blood of Jesus,
as a spotless lamb sacrificed for the sins of the world.**
3. **Not By Man-made Traditions or Self-made forms of Salvation,
But By Jesus!**

F. ETERNAL LIFE WAS PROMISED BEFORE TIME BEGAN (Titus 1:2)

1. **The Gospel Message Contains the Hope of Eternal Life**
2. **Which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began**
3. **The Gospel Offers LIFE – True Life — Eternal Life**

G. THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL WAS PLANNED BEFORE THE AGES (1 Corinthians 2:7)

1. **The Mystery of the Gospel, the Crucifixion of our Lord, was hidden from
before time began**
2. **Only a Few were given the privilege to know...**
 - a) On the Mt of Transfiguration Jesus began Speaking with Moses and Elijah
 - b) Luke tells us what they spoke about: They spoke of His death that would take place in Jerusalem...
3. **This was the Mystery of the Gospel—the Death, Burial and Resurrection of
the Son of God!**

H. THE GIFT OF GRACE WAS PLANNED BEFORE TIME BEGAN (2 Tim. 1:9)

1. **The Grace that would be provided in Jesus Christ was planned before time
Began**
2. **You can search all the world’s religions, philosophies and ideologies
but you will not find grace in any of them**
3. **Grace is only Found in One Place—In Jesus Christ!
It Cannot Be Found Anywhere Else!**

II. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. WHEN YOU ARE BORN AGAIN IN BAPTISM—GOD’S ETERNAL PLAN IS BEING FULFILLED IN YOUR LIFE

1. Being Born Again As a Child of God
2. Adopted into God’s Royal Family! (Ephesians 1:3–4)
3. You are not a mistake...

Your Not Here by Chance or Cosmic Accident

B. SO WHY DID GOD CREATE US? (Ephesians 1:4–5)

1. THE SETTING: Before Time Began – ‘Before the Foundation of the World’
2. THE PURPOSE: He Planned ‘us... as sons.’
3. THE FORETHOUGHT: ‘Predestined’ Shows Intent, Design & Purpose
4. THE MOTIVATION: ‘In love’ ‘according to the kind intention of His will’
5. THE PROCESS: by ‘adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself’
6. THE REASON: “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began” (Titus 1:2)
7. You Are Created for a Beautiful Life with God!

C. GOD DESIRES THAT THE WHOLE WORLD BE GATHERED TOGETHER IN HIS LOVE!

1. Which is Why He Hasn’t Ended the World Yet!
2. God is Long-suffering, not willing that any should perish but that all come to repentance
3. God Doesn’t Want You to Fail — He Wants You To Make It!
He Wants You To Succeed!

CONCLUSION:

1. This was the Eternal Plan of God (Romans 16:25–27)
2. There was a time when there was no time... and God was there
3. There will be a time when there will be no more time... and you will be there