

What's God Up To?

Choosing God's Plan

October 25, 2009; Part 1 of 3

"God gave me the responsibility of bringing his grace to you. He let me understand the mystery of his plan through a revelation...and the mystery about Christ. In past generations this mystery was not known by people. But now God's Spirit has revealed his plan through his apostles and prophets. The mystery is that through the Good News, people who are not Jews Gentiles may now share with the Jews in God's blessing! They belong in the same body and share the same promise that God made in Christ Jesus." *Ephesians 3:2-6 GW*

The Mystery of History in 5 Acts

ACT 1: _____

- To Reveal _____

"Everything comes from God; everything exists by his power and **everything** is intended for his glory." *Romans 11:36 NLT*

- To Express _____

"... **His compassion** is intertwined with everything he does." *Psalms 145:9 LB*

- To Form _____

"In his goodness **God chose** to make us his own children by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his choice possession." *James 1:18 NLT*

"When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all **the great family of God** --some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth." *Ephesians 3:14-15 LB*

ACT 2: _____

"**Sin came into the world** because of what one man did, and with **sin came death**." *Romans 5:12 NCV*

"We've all sinned and proved that we are **utterly incapable** of living the glorious lives God wills for us." *Romans 3:23 MSG*

"For creation was **condemned to lose its purpose**... Yet there was still this hope that all creation will one day be set free from its slavery to decay and will share the glorious freedom of the children of God." *Romans 8:20-21 TEV*

ACT 3: _____

"**Jesus was given** to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God." *Romans 4:25 NCV*

"When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God." *Romans 5:6 NCV*

"The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. **God destroyed sin's control over us** by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins." *Romans 8:3 NLT*

ACT 4: _____

"... How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him!" *1 Kings 18:21 NIV*

"If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether or not my teaching comes from God." *John 7:17 NIV*

"Christ died for all so that those who live **would not continue to live for themselves**. He died for them and was raised from the dead so that they would live for him." *2 Corinthians 5:15 NCV*

"Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, and between life and death." *Deuteronomy 30:15 TEV*

ACT 5: _____

"Jesus died for us so that we can live with him forever, whether we are dead or alive at the time of his return." *1 Thessalonians 5:10 LB*

"**This is his plan**: At the right time God will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth." *Ephesians 1:10 NLT*

"Then **God's home will be with his people**. He will live with them, and they will be his own... He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be **no more death, suffering, crying, or pain**. These things of the past will be gone forever." *Revelation 21:3-4 CEV*

"All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are... All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay." *Romans 8:19 & 21 NLT*