

**God's Plan & Preparation  
for the Church**

**Acts 2:22-24**

**Two things in regard to the church:  
1] There was preparation and,  
2] there was a plan.**

**When did preparations for the church  
begin?**

**What was the plan?**

**The answer to both questions is stated  
in v. 23.**

## Acts 2:23

Jesus was: “delivered  
up according to the  
definite plan and  
foreknowledge of  
God”

# 1 Peter 1:18-20

<sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you...

The phrase 'foreknown before the foundation of the world' tells us of the preparation;  
**(Phil. 2:5-8) - THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS IN THE MIND OF GOD BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD!**

This was **PURPOSED** to occur by **GOD**. It was according to a definite plan (Acts 2:23) Jesus was: “delivered up according to **the definite plan** and foreknowledge **of God.**”

Elsewhere rendered:

**God's set purpose – NIV**

**determined purpose – NKJV**

**God's determined plan – HCSB**

**determinate counsel – ASV**

**the definite plan – ESV**

**predetermined plan – NASV**

Of this purpose/plan the bible elsewhere reads:

Psa. 57:2- I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

Psa. 138:8- The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;

Prov. 16:4- The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Prov. 19:21- Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Isa. 46:9-10- I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Isa. 55:11- so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

From these, we see that God's purpose was set forth as **GOING TO BE FULFILLED!** Both good and wicked men would be utilized in the fulfilling of this plan.

**Acts 2:22-24; Prov. 16:4; Rom. 9:22-23**

**Notice the plan-the order within this plan; according to God's purpose.**

Eph. 1:5- he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Eph. 3:9-11-making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,



Eph. 3:11- This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, - **it existed before time**

2 Tim. 1:9-who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...

**Accordingly, we find Jesus saying:**

John 12:27- "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? **But for this purpose I have come** to this hour.

John 18:37- Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. **For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.**"

**The gradual unfolding of God's purpose:**

**Gen. 3:15 - seed of woman**

**Gen. 12:3 - Abraham**

**Gen. 26:4 - Isaac**

**Gen. 28:14 - Jacob**

**Gen. 49:10 - Judah**

**Acts 2:29-30 - David**

**Gal. 3:14; 4:4-5 - Christ**

**Gal. 3:26-29 - Christians**

## GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ABRAHAM

Rom. 4:11- He (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,

Heb. 6:17- So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, (to Abraham)

**Who were the benefactors of the oath to Abraham?**

Rom. 8:28- And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**What was God's purpose for the heirs?**

## **The purpose accomplished!**

James 5:7-11- <sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**There was preparation & planning to our salvation.**

**There is order to the plan (of salvation).**

**Romans 6:17-18 - But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.**

**It has been accomplished!**