

## CHAPTER ONE

### GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MAN

God created man for a purpose. Man was placed on earth for a reason. What is our purpose? Why are we here?

It was God's intention from the beginning to give man, whom He created in His image and likeness, *dominion* over the earth, to rule and reign with Him.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion.....over all the earth...."*

**(Genesis 1:26)**

Before the foundation of the world and before man was ever created, God's purpose for man was to rule and reign with Christ from the kingdom of the heavens over the earth. Sometime in eternity past, all things were planned and created through God's Son and for God's Son.

*For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (Colossians 1:16)*

The foundation and the arrangement of Scripture is laid in **Genesis 1:1-2:3**,

*The heavens and the earth were created (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:18), the material creation was ruined because of Satan's sin (Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:13-19), God restored the ruined creation in six days, and He rested on the seventh day (Genesis 1:3-2:3).*

*Man was created (Genesis 1:26), man fell into a state of ruin because of sin (Genesis 3:6), God is presently taking six days [6,000 years] to restore man, and God will rest on the seventh day (the seventh 1,000-year period [Exodus 20:9-11; 2 Peter 3:5-9]).*

The restoration of man, patterned after the restoration of the material creation, is the scope of all Scripture. The entirety of Scripture is about that which is initially introduced and originated in an unchangeable manner in the opening thirty-four verses of **Genesis (1:1-2:3)**. The entirety of Scripture is about the creation of man, his ruin, his restoration over a six-day period (over a 6,000-year period), followed by a seventh day of rest (a seventh 1,000-year period — the future Sabbath Rest [**Genesis: 2:1-3; Hebrews 4:1, 9, 11**], the Messianic Era.

The key to understanding the Word of God begins with understanding this proper foundation set in the beginning of **Genesis**, where God began. If one can understand that the Word is about "redemption" and is fashioned around the same pattern of: 1) Creation 2) Ruin 3) Restoration 4) Rest, then he can build upon the rest of the Scriptures correctly. This arrangement is how God began His revelation to man. God took six days to restore the ruined material creation (because of Satan's sin).

In like pattern, God is presently taking six days (6,000 years) to restore man (because of man's sin). And then, in accord with the pattern established in the beginning, there will be a seventh day (1,000 years) which will be a day of rest. This "*Rest*" is the Sabbath Day, the Day of the Lord, the Millennial Kingdom to come. *All* of the rest of the Scriptures give further commentary and points to this very Day, the seventh Day. And once an individual can perceive this truth, he will also be able to understand the spiritual lessons throughout the entirety of Scripture, and he will be able to see that the central Person in Scripture is the Lord Jesus Christ, from the beginning to the end.

God's purpose for man (to rule and reign on the Seventh Day) is revealed throughout the entire Word of God. In the Old Testament, it was portrayed in types (figures, patterns, examples), and it was first offered to the Jews, God's chosen people. A "*type*" is a divine illustration of some truth which is foreshadowed. In the New Testament, it was revealed in the Gospels, in and through the Parables, in the Epistles and in the Book of **Revelation**.

Because of man's fall into sin, he failed to take on a position of rulership. He now had to labor in the field to prove his worthiness. Therefore, Satan continued to have rulership over the earth and will hold this position until a future time when he is taken down. Lucifer, the beautifully created angel known as Satan, who was given rule over the original creation, continued to hold the scepter of rulership, even in his fallen condition (the first to bring sin into the world by rebelling against God), even to this present day. Satan's rebellion concerned rulership (ascending above God—**Isaiah 14:13**) and as a result of this rebellion, the material creation of **Genesis 1:1** under the rule of Satan, became ruined.

*The earth was* [“became” or “to be”--from the Hebrew word “*hayah*,” Strong's #H1961] *without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.* (**Genesis 1:2**)

It is at this point in time that God spends six days restoring the ruined material creation, so as to establish it in preparation for an entirely new group of rulers who would be created for that specific purpose. And within His plans for man to rule, He made man a little lower than the angels so that he must prove himself worthy to replace the incumbent ruler, Satan. For man to attain the position for which he was created, to be elevated above the angels, and to rule and reign with Christ, he would have to parallel that which is seen in the six days of creation (six thousand years of work) followed by a seventh day of rest (the 7th one-thousand year period, which will be the Millennial kingdom). Each day for God is equivalent to a thousand years for man, as we see in **2 Peter 3:8**:

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

The day that man sinned in the Garden of Eden, his complete being— spirit, soul and body — became in a fallen state, a state of death. This is when God began his redemptive work in dealing with that death. This was the reason for Christ's death. In order to effect

the Father's plans and purposes in respect of rulership, Christ had to die in order to pay the price required by man's rebellion. All of these events — Satan's rebellion, the creation of man, the fall of man, Christ's death and resurrection and the need for redemption are all part of the process to bring about the fulfillment of God's plans and purposes for the ages, all of which points to the 7th day, the Millennial kingdom (1000 year reign of Christ) – the Messianic Era.

However, Satan will do everything in his power to keep his position of rulership. With one-third of the fallen angels who left with him, he is out deceiving those who threaten him most today — the Church. Since the early Church period, he has succeeded in distracting the attention of Christians from the truth of the Word by and through the formation of different man-made religions and Church programs. He has been successful in blinding them from understanding the truth by twisting, falsifying or omitting part of the Word of God; and also, by encouraging the ungodly imposition of self-generated religious acts performed by many of today's churches and denominations, none of which have any foundation in God's Word. Satan does this to disqualify those who compose the Church from obtaining rulership one day.

*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*  
**(Colossians 2:8)**

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* **(Ephesians 6:11)**

Satan's work, performed through the religious leaders of the past, was passed down throughout the generations in order to deceive the Church from knowing the mystery of the kingdom, which is the Church being offered the inheritance (an action that applies *only* to family members ["first-born sons"]) into the kingdom of the heavens.

*But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.*

*And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.*

*By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. (2 Peter 2:1)*

Today, Churches have completely eliminated the purpose of their creation — to rule and reign with Christ. They simply omit Scripture concerning Christ's second return for His Church, the Judgment seat of Christ, and the Millennial kingdom. Some Churches teach that the kingdom of God is not a literal kingdom, using the verse in **Luke 17:20, 21:**

*Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

During this time, Jesus was offering the kingdom of the heavens to the nation of Israel, and He presented Himself as their Messiah while in their midst [presence]. The words "*within you*" may also be translated "*in your midst.*" Thus, Jesus was referring to Himself. One day in the near future, Jesus will rule over all, and He will share

that rule with His people in His literal kingdom. And all will know when He has returned:

*“For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His Day.” (Luke 17:24)*

Within His redemptive work, God brought forth three first-born Sons — Christ, Israel and the Church — to fulfill His purpose of redeeming man to a future position of rulership. And in and through Christ (the Gentiles being grafted in with the Jews to make up the Church), Christians have the rights to the inheritance, as we see in **Galatians 3:29**:

*And if you are Christ’s then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Our position “in Christ” makes us part of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and therefore partakers of the promises that were first given to them. However, we must meet certain conditions in order to qualify for the future inheritance, as God’s firstborn sons and as the bride of Christ. Since Pentecost, God has been searching for a bride for His Son who will be taken out of the body of Christ (the Church), and who will qualify as co-heirs with Christ to rule and reign with Him in the kingdom of the heavens. Christ will return soon. When that time comes will you, as you stand before Him, be prepared?

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’, shall enter the kingdom of heaven [lit. kingdom of the heavens], but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.*

*Many will say to Me in that day [Day of the Lord], ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name?’*

*And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*(**Matthew 7:21-23**)

Jesus is speaking to Christians as only they call Christ by the name “*Lord*.” The Greek word for “Christian” is *Christianos* (Strong’s #G5546) and means “a follower of Christ” [**Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16**]. Note that “heaven” refers to the invisible heavens connected with the earth from which rulership takes place. When “heaven” is used in Scripture, it is used in the plural sense and can be translated, “in the heavens.” Heaven means “all above” and the expression, kingdom of heaven [lit. “kingdom of the heavens”] means “a particular region in the heavens” where God reigns. Who will enter the kingdom of the heavens? It is “*He who does the will of my Father in heaven,*” according to Jesus Christ.

*Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. (1 John 2:3-5)*

*How can we know and do the will of God?* God left Christians with the most important source ever written — the Holy Bible, which is His Word, and is alive and powerful. We were granted something amazing, to be implanted in our minds — the realization of how undeniably tiny we are in comparison to the heavens, yet rare and precious, that we belong to Someone greater than ourselves, that none of us are alone. A Christian cannot have a personal relationship with (i.e., know) Him without knowing His Word and abiding in it. The Word is a powerful tool and is God’s guidance for the Christian.

God reveals how much He loves us and what great plans He has for those who love Him. I wish every believer could feel that awe and humility — that hope that comes from His Word. In light of this, let us realize that His Word does not speak to the unsaved for they

cannot be holy or spiritual since within them they do not possess the Spirit of God. We see this in **1 Corinthians 2:14**:

*But the natural man [unsaved man] does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

The Bible was written for the saved; to teach them God's purpose for man. *It was not written for the unsaved. It is not about the unsaved.* As an all-knowing God, He knows your heart, thoughts and intentions. When Scripture speaks of sin and ungodliness, He is speaking of the Christian. Can Christians be ungodly? Of course they can! Christians have a sin nature and can choose to act according to their carnal ["fleshly"] ways. For this reason, God's Word instructs Christians on holy living. And in order for a Christian to know God, His plan and purpose, he must go to His source, the Word of God. Without knowing Him, one cannot realize their calling to the kingdom of the heavens.

And if we are to understand God's Word, we must begin where God began (the Book of **Genesis**), and follow through exactly in the manner God set forth the structure of His Word, so that we can build upon that foundation and understand the meaning behind the events and what is yet to come. Because we have the Spirit within us, the more eager we are to know God, the more He will reveal His Word to us by means of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, as we mature in the Word, the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, and we will be able to spiritually discern whether something said or written is true or false doctrine.

*But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:14)*

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [lit: God-breathed], and is profitable for doctrine [teaching] for reproof [to prove or convince] for correction, for instruction*

*in righteousness [right or just living], that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17)*

*For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12, 13)*

The Word of God is the measuring stick Christ will use at His judgment seat. God's message is alive and active, penetrating the innermost parts of a person. It distinguishes the thoughts and intents of a person's soul and exposes the spiritual motivations of a believer's heart. The words “*naked*” and “*open*” in **Hebrews 4:13** suggest complete exposure and defenselessness before God. All believers must give account to the all-seeing, all-knowing, and all-powerful God at His Judgment Seat one day.

A correct understanding of Scripture necessitates viewing the types in the Old Testament alongside their antitypes from the New Testament. This is the way in which God has structured His revelation to man. In the Old Testament, God led His people, the Israelites, out of Egypt to bring them to their inheritance, the land of Canaan. This was the land that God had originally covenanted to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Israelites who believed in Him were given instructions to place the shed blood of the lamb over their door posts so that their first-born sons would be saved from death (the substitute lamb's blood was placed to satisfy the shedding of blood as the sacrifice for redemption. Figuratively, Israel died that day; the sacrificial lamb being the substitute). God led them safely out of Egypt and for forty years they were in the wilderness. God tested their faith to determine who would enter the land of Canaan. Those who

remained faithful to Him, that is, only Joshua and Caleb along with the children (who were now young adults), from the first generation of the nation of Israel, were allowed to enter. Nearly two million Israelites fell away, lacking faith in God and committing idolatry. Not only were they not allowed to enter, but were destroyed.

The account of Israel is a “type” (example) for us to realize today (**1 Corinthians 10:1-11**). It is a word-picture for the New Testament “antitype”— all Christians. In the New Testament, God sent His only begotten Son, the Lamb of God, to shed blood for the sins of the world, so that whosoever believed in Him would be saved from the penalty of spiritual death. Since Pentecost, God has been testing each individual believer’s faith in order to determine who will be a bride for His Son and be able to enter the heavenly land, the kingdom of the heavens, and rule and reign with Him. Of course, God desires for all Christians to remain faithful to Him in order to be saved into His kingdom. This is His purpose for us.

*Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years.*

*Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.’*

*So I swore in My wrath, ‘they shall not enter My rest (My Kingdom—The 7th Day of Rest)’” (**Hebrews 3:7-11**)*

The land of Canaan is a *type* of the future kingdom of heaven. In order for individuals to have the rights of inheritance and possession in this land, then and in the future, they had to belong to the family of God as sons. In other words, they had to be saved individuals; and in the passage above, the children of Israel were indeed children of God. We see this in **1 Corinthians 10:1-5**:

*Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers [Israel] were under the cloud,*

*all passed through the sea,*

*all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food,*

*and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them and that Rock was Christ.*

*But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

However, because of their unfaithfulness and disobedience to God pertaining to the land, all adults but two were barred from entering into that land to enjoy its blessings. The outcasts of Israel were left with a great loss.

And just as the Israelites under Moses were eternally saved and called out of Egypt to realize an inheritance in another land, so Christians under Christ are eternally saved and are being called out of the world to realize an inheritance in another land, separate from the earth — a heavenly land.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)*

The word *inherit* or *inheritance* translated from the Greek word *kleronomeo* (Strong's #G2816) means "to be an heir" and

*Kleronomia* (Strong's #G2817) means "a possession." Upon our belief in the Lord, we then have access to this inheritance as sons of God because of our positional standing in Christ, handed down from the lineage of Abraham. We have been born again to receive this inheritance — we have been redeemed for a purpose. However, this inheritance is a reward to be received in the future and is not automatic, but conditional. It is dependent upon one's faithfulness to God. Only then can one be considered God's *firstborn* son and thereby be qualified to become the bride of Christ. The Greek word for "reward" is *misthos* (Strong's #G3408) which means "payment for service; wages." And because this salvation is inherited and therefore part of our reward, it must be earned through faithful obedience to the Word of God after we have been born again. Upon decisions and determinations at the Judgment Seat of Christ, an overcomer will then receive his rewards.

*...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

**(Colossians 3:24)**

You may be saying, "I am not interested in a reward or in ruling and reigning! I just want to serve Him and be able to enter the kingdom — that is good enough for me." But God says that our understanding is limited to the possibilities that He has in store for us. *God called us to rule and reign.* He has given us the Holy Spirit as a guide to provide a course of growth that will enable us to have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of the heavens. Imagine experiencing the joy and fulfillment of being accepted by our Lord at His judgment seat, of angels placing crowns on our heads, and of ruling and reigning by the side of Christ Jesus. *This is God's will for us.*

*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;*

*for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*  
**(2 Peter 1:10, 11)**

A Christian who comes to a full understanding of God's plan and purpose will begin to lay hold of the “*hope*” that is set before him. This “*hope*” is mentioned throughout the New Testament, and when properly understood, will transform him from a life of being self-centered to one of being Christ-centered. Very few people today are interested in the deeper knowledge of the Word of God. They are content to be babes in Christ throughout their life, ignoring the meat of the Word.

God has extraordinary things planned for the Christian’s future, yet most are unaware. The hope that God exhorts us to lay hold of relates to these “*extraordinary things*” in the coming kingdom, things having to do with ruling and reigning with Christ from the heavens. This is our motivation for overcoming the trials we face here on earth. The “*blessed hope*” centers on our anticipation of the appearing of our Lord in the air and the establishment of His kingdom. The “*hope*” of the Christian is that he will be qualified to enter the kingdom and occupy a position of rulership with Christ.

*...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...*” **(Titus 2:13)**

*...but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

**(1 John 3:2, 3)**

How many Christians have this hope? Sadly to say, not many do. Most Christians do not have any hope for the future kingdom. Not many hope to see the Lord. What a shame this is, considering that a life in the kingdom serving Christ will be the most awesome and glorious life one could possess, and it cannot be compared to the best life here on earth.

The following prayers were written from the pen of Paul, which he offered on behalf of the Ephesians and the Colossians. These prayers are a most significant revelation from God, which merit our closest attention and earnest study.

Paul prays for the Ephesians, who are eternally saved and growing in grace, that they may receive the full knowledge of God's Word:

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks to you, making mention of you in my prayers:*

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

*the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;*

*that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe... (Ephesians 1:15-19)*

As soon as he heard of the faith of the Colossians, Paul began interceding by praying to God for them, asking that they may be filled with the knowledge of His will:

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,*

*that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

*strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy,*

*giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-14)*

God has laid out His plan of redemption since eternity past and has qualified those Christians whom *He foreknew would walk worthy of the Lord* to be partakers of the inheritance in the age to come. This is what these prayers reveal.

**God's will** is that we abide in faithful obedience to His Word so that we will be victorious in our race of the faith. This means walking in the Spirit, being transformed into the image of Christ. God has made it clear to "*do business*" until He comes (**Luke 19:13**). This means we must show our worthiness to enter the kingdom by growing in the Word, doing good works for Him, and eagerly awaiting His return.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

**(Romans 12:1, 2)**

**God's purpose** is to redeem man to the position for which he was originally created — to rule and reign with Christ in the kingdom of the heavens.

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,*

*having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,*

*that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

*In Him we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*  
**(Ephesians 1:7-12)**

**God's calling** is a heavenly calling to the kingdom. He is calling all Christians to abide in His Word and overcome their life in this age in order to be qualified for inclusion into the kingdom in heaven. Life here on earth is only for a short while, just a temporary dwelling. Christians are not to be a part of this world, but separate, awaiting their true home — a heavenly home.

*These [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah] all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth...*

*But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.* **(Hebrews 11:13, 16)**

God's will, purpose and calling is exactly the same for all Christians — to rule and reign with Christ in the coming Kingdom Age. And the time is near.