

GOD DETERMINED

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Spiritual Seeing – From The Beginning

By

Barbara Samuel

We are going to briefly look at God's Eternal Plan in Christ, but as we do I want to emphasize that we are dependent upon God for **Spiritual Seeing**. And we need to realize the blessed time that we live in. Because the Spirit of Truth has come after the Resurrection of Christ we now can know: we can see and understand The Truth and Reality of God's Plan **by the Spirit**. We need to consider what a blessing this is: because what had been hidden under the Old Covenant has now been made known by Christ and The Cross.

- **Colossians 1:26:** *“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:”* And this manifesting and making known is even greater not only than the Old Covenant view, but also how the disciples knew Jesus when they walked with Him in the flesh.
- Consider **Luke 10:23:** *“And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: 24: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things*

which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.” Jesus told those who were with Him during His earthly ministry that the Prophets and Kings of the Old Covenant desired to see the things that you see (HIM!), but **they did not**. And He said that their eyes were blessed. But this doesn’t just mean a visual seeing in the natural. The “desired to see” means to have knowledge of, to be sure. It is speaking of Spiritual Seeing, Spiritual Sight that brings TRUE knowledge and assurance. When you have seen by The Spirit... you know, you are sure, you can stand fast! And until you see by The Spirit of God HIS Truth, and see with HIS knowledge you can still doubt and be confused. And under the Old Covenant The Truth was hidden: they could NOT see and experience The Truth of what God had prepared.

Now those of Jesus’ day saw more than the Old Testament Prophets and Kings, but they still only knew Jesus after the flesh. Those under the Old Covenant were looking for One to come as the fulfillment of all that was written. But when He came, there was just a seeing in the flesh. Something was still hidden from them. **Luke 18:31:** *“Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32: For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. 34: **And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.**”* Jesus spoke to them of what the Prophets had written concerning The Son

of Man – **THE CROSS**, but they understood none of these things because this was still hidden from them.

There was still a greater “**KNOWING**”. They were only knowing Him in the flesh according to the flesh and for the flesh, but they didn’t know Him **as from the beginning**. They didn’t see Him, and they COULDN’T see Him at that time according to God’s Eternal Plan. The Cross – His Death, Burial and Resurrection was always “The Mystery”. The Prophets spoke of a Reigning King, but then God spoke of the Suffering Servant and they couldn’t reconcile those two views. But this Mystery was made known by The Cross which was always God’s Eternal Plan from the beginning. This is the Knowledge, the Seeing that we can have today: not someday when we go someplace – but NOW because of The Finished Work of The Cross.

Jesus could not make them know this BEFORE The Cross. **John 16:12:** *“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13: Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15: All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”* It would take The Spirit of Truth coming after The Cross when He had ascended to guide them into all Truth. The Spirit would glorify Christ and reveal all things: make known – the “all things of God” that had been hidden in the types and shadows of the Old Covenant. The things that God had promised “to come”: THE PROMISED ONE had now come, and now they could KNOW the Mystery of God in

The Person of Christ. Jesus said The Spirit of Truth will make The Truth that had been manifested at The Cross known to them, and give them Spiritual Sight: so that they could now **see that which was from the beginning.**

And this is the “Seeing” and “Knowing” that God would have us to come to also. **II Corinthians 5:16:** *“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.”* This is Knowing Him as in the beginning: as God has Eternally known Him. And we must see “The End” (the fulfillment, the goal reached) as **from the beginning** – all according to what God has planned in His Son Jesus Christ by The Cross. Remember HE was with The Father “in the beginning”. **John 1:1:** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* This was the “Seeing and Knowing” that the Apostle John spoke of: referring to Jesus in His Incarnation and the manifestation of The Word of Life. This is Who He was: The Mind and Thought of God brought to mankind in the very Person of The Son of God, who functioned in the earth as The Son of Man. This is THE ONE – as **from the beginning** that they declared to believers: not just a man in the flesh. **I John 1:1:** *“That which **was from the beginning**, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2: (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”* And this has been a challenge to my heart: how are we

“Seeing and Knowing Him”? After the flesh, or **as He is from the beginning?**

I would like us to consider the greatness and immutability: the unchangeable nature of God’s Eternal Plan in Christ: our Great Salvation. And I pray that as we search the Scriptures together we will be assured that this Plan came from the very Heart and Mind of God even before the world was created: that this is what satisfies the Heart of God, and it is in accordance with this Plan that God has, and always will continue to work.

Consider these scriptures:

- **Ecclesiastes 3:14:** *“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. 15: That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.”*
- **Isaiah 55:10:** *“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”* Now this has been fulfilled in THE WORD HIMSELF – The Lord Jesus who left Heaven and came to the earth and ACCOMPLISHED all that The Father sent Him to do by His Cross. This Scripture is a great ASSURANCE to us regarding God’s

Word: but it also contains a severe warning that we cannot alter God's Word in any way and try to change it for our own purposes and benefit. **Revelation 22:18:** *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* That which GOD had determined from the beginning is Eternally established in the Heavens and will never change. We must always be cognizant of this fact.

Now this is all summed up in the very Person of The Lord Himself who said in **Revelation 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."* We are speaking of The Lord Jesus Christ as the fulness of God's Eternal Plan Who is "The Same". **Hebrews 13:8:** *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* He is Eternally The Eternal Word of God – The One Who changes not! And He is The One that God has seen, who He requires: The One that fully satisfies the Heart of The Father, and always will.

It is so important that we understand that God ALWAYS functions according to HIS Eternal Plan: what He has planned and determined to have from the beginning. We can say that this is His Thought: His Word, which is not just a mental process: but in actuality His "Thought" produces and brings to Life that Thought. God does not merely "speak" His

Word, but He brings it “to pass”. This is The LOGOS. The Lord always “performs His Word”: and He always works in accordance with His Mind, His Will: what He has Eternally established. Now it is important for us to understand that this is the Nature of the Godhead concerning God’s Thought: but I want this also to be practical for us. Often we ask what does God want: what is God’s Will “for me”? And the answer can only truly be found in what God determined in the beginning. **God’s purpose “for you and I” must be found in His Eternal Plan and Purpose in Christ Jesus.** And except we find Purpose in Christ and come to God’s Purpose, everything else is in vain. It may be religious and satisfy “our flesh” but that does not satisfy God’s Heart. God’s Plan was always to sum up everything of Spiritual Life and our Relationship with Him in the very Person of His Son. **Ephesians 1:10:** *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”* And this is NOT speaking of a future time: “the fulness of times” (the fulness of all times, the Old Covenant time) CAME at The Cross! Now God says everything, and finds everything FULFILLED **IN SON.**

And I pray that we will begin to consider “our Salvation” not just in our limited temporal view, but from an Eternal View – God’s View **from the beginning.** **II Thessalonians 2:13:** *“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning** chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **14:** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* And I want us to see here the phrase “from the beginning” because this is what we have to ask God to show

us: what HE had established in His Heart to have “in the beginning”. This is what God has always desired, and what He now HAS in Christ by The Work of The Cross. And this is essential to our Spiritual growth because sadly when we are ignorant of what God planned “in the beginning” and what He Eternally HAS in Christ, and that He Eternally Works in this understanding, we can easily misinterpret God’s Work, and fail to understand His Ways. And we often can be found at “cross purposes” with God. This is why it is so necessary that we come to Spiritual Sight – His View of all things; and not rely on our carnal, human understanding.

So this is what we want to consider: what God has planned “**from the beginning**”.

- **Romans 8:29:** *“For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30:** Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”* “Predestinate” means to “limit in advance, to determine before, to ordain”. God DETERMINED something before anything else was made for those who He called. According to His Purpose He predestinated a People who would be conformed to The Image of **HIS SON**. Notice that His Son is the goal: not us. **His Son is what God determined before**, in the beginning. God desires a full expression of His Son in us. And this is the “good” that He always works towards: what pleases Him – His Son. **Romans 8:28:** *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* We must “see” this.

The end (the goal, the purpose) is not “me”. The end is **HIS SON**.

- **Ephesians 1:5:** *“**Having predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will... **11:** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”* The “adoption” is speaking of the recognition of this SON in us as Born-Again Believers: bringing us into a Relationship of Oneness, of Sonship with The Father in The Son. This has been predetermined according to God’s Will and Purpose. And I want us to see that if we are NOT agreeing with God’s Predetermined Eternal Plan, and allowing Him to accomplish this IN US, we are going against HIS Counsel and Pleasure.
- **I Corinthians 2:6:** *“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: **7:** But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God **ordained before the world** unto our glory: **8:** Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”* “The hidden wisdom” of God that He ordained before the world was even created was **THE CROSS**. The Roman Government did not devise The Cross to accomplish God’s Plan: GOD did “from the beginning”. At the time of Jesus’ Death they thought they were eliminating a problem: but because they did not know God’s Plan as “from the beginning”, He only used them to crucify Jesus so that His Plan could be fulfilled!

This is how effective God's Predetermined Plan is! And it would not be accomplished any other way.

- **I Peter 1:18:** *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20: Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,”* His Death on The Cross was foreordained even before the creation of the world. He was “The Perfect Lamb that was slain” even before the world was created. HE was the ONLY One that would satisfy the righteous requirements of God. And when He actually went to The Cross He **accomplished** everything that God had foreordained that Death would do.

I want us to fully understand that this all came out of God's Heart, and even before the world was created God **determined** what The Son of God would do as The Son of Man to accomplish God's Plan. Remember “determine” means ‘to mark out, to decree, to limit’. This was the “baptism” that Jesus had ever before Him, and that dictated everything that He did. He KNEW – according to His Father's Plan that He would go to The Cross to fulfil God's Plan. **Luke 12:50:** *“But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!”* He could not turn away from The Cross, because that was the reason He came to the earth.

- **John 12:27:** *“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause*

came I unto this hour.” This is what His Father had determined.

- **Luke 22:22:** *“And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was **determined**: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!”*
- **Acts 4:26:** *“The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. **27:** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, **28:** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel **determined before to be done**.”* Herod and Pilate were gathered together against Jesus, but everything of Jesus’ death was what God’s Hand and Counsel had already determined would be done. His Death on The Cross was all determined before the world, man or sin. And God simply used Pilate to do it.
- **Acts 2:23:** *“Him, being delivered by the **determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”*
- God had determined in the beginning “this time” - and it is speaking of The Cross. **Acts 17:26:** *“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath **determined** the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;”* God had determined “the times before appointed”, and the bounds. And those times came to their end at The Cross. We must see that The Eternal Plan of God is not dictated

by what man does or by man's time. But God has appointed and determined everything. It is all done according to "His appointed date and time" which speaks of The Work of The Cross.

But it is important that we understand that God not only appointed a TIME, but He appointed "A MAN" – and that Man is His Son: The Son of God coming to the earth to go to The Cross as The Son of Man.

- **Acts 17:31:** *"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness **by that man whom he hath ordained**; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."* And we must see "the day" that God appointed to judge the world in righteousness is not a day in the future: but it is defined by "THAT MAN" whom He hath ordained: the very Person of Jesus Christ. And to give assurance of this, God raised Him from the dead. So we must see "this Day" – "the appointed Day" is an Eternal Day and it is NOW – in The Man God ordained.

So we clearly see in these Scriptures that God determined His Eternal Plan in Christ by The Cross from the beginning. And the beauty of this for us is that **GOD DETERMINED A FINISHED WORK IN THE BEGINNING**. And His Son came and Finished The Work to the total satisfaction of His Father. **Hebrews 4:3:** *"For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world."* This is what God wants us to SEE and with His Spiritual Seeing we truly can rest in His Finished Work. AMEN.