

10/24/2021

Sunday Morning

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- I. As we Believers we know that God has a plan. We can sometimes allow ourselves to forget that He has a plan if we get too caught up in the events of this fallen world, but none the less it doesn't change that He has a plan.
- a. We've known that God's plan involves the cross for the sacrifice of His Son to redeem man.
 - b. We've also known that God's plan includes His Son eventually being revealed as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - i. I wonder though, how many of us as Believers know that the cross plays a larger role in God's plan than simply being about man's redemption. The cross plays a significant and vital role in God's plan as Jesus being revealed as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - ii. A few years ago I remember listening to one of Jim's messages and I remember him saying that Jesus' Crucifixion was really so much bigger and more far reaching than simply man's salvation. The cross's effect ripples throughout eternity.
 - iii. That intrigued me. I believed this to be true but I wanted to understand it through scripture.
 - iv. That's what this study is about today.

II. **THE PLAN** - We see this plan all the way back in Genesis:

- a. **Genesis 3:15 (NASB95)** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
 - i. Some attributes of this plan:
 - 1. We see that God is not taken by surprise by Satan.
 - 2. We see that God already had a plan.
 - 3. We see that this plan is a person ("He").
 - 4. Bruise = Crush
 - 5. That person is going to crush Satan's head. In other words a mortal wound is going to be delivered to Satan.
 - 6. We also see that Satan essentially sealed his fate on that day.
 - 7. When we see God tell Satan that he will bruise Jesus' heel we are to understand that this is an image of the cross.
 - ii. It's here that I really want talk more about the cross and how it ties into Jesus' final act as the **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.

- b. Let's start by setting up what, for many Christians (including myself), has always been God's plan as it relates to the cross. The plan tends to go something like this:
- i. In the beginning God created man.
 - ii. Man fell
 - iii. God saved man by the sacrifice of His Son on that cross.
- c. As I've studied more, I've come to see where my view of the cross was too small.
- d. Here's why: Because the focus of that plan is man.
- e. We actually get a hint of the bigger picture of the cross in Isaiah 53:
- i. **Isaiah 53:10-12 (NLT)** 10 But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands. 11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. 12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.
 1. Notice that God's "good plan" was for His Son to be crushed and to be grief stricken. That can be hard to grasp or accept.
 2. But we see that something happens with God's good plan after His Son is crushed and caused grief.
 3. "Yet" – what a great word. Notice what happens *after* His Son makes the offering for sin:
 - a. he will have many descendants.
 - b. He will enjoy a long life,
 - c. and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.
 - d. When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied.
 - e. 12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier
 - f. Why are these things done for Jesus: "**because he exposed himself to death.**"
 - g. In other words because of the cross!
- f. Paul reminds us in Ephesians what God's plan has been all along:
- i. **Ephesians 1:9-10 (NLT)** 9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ--everything in heaven and on earth.
- g. The plan, from the beginning, has been, currently is and always will be about His Son.
- h. The plan is to bring everything under the authority of Jesus Christ.

- i. Man's redemption is simply a part of the larger plan.
 - i. When will this happen? There's an important phrase in our verses in Ephesians 10: **"At the right time"**
 - ii. It's a great reminder of two things:
 - 1. This plan is still in the process of happening
 - 2. That God has all of this under control.
 - a. **Daniel 2:44 (NASB95)** "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

II. WHEN IS THIS ETERNAL KINGDOM GOING TO HAPPEN?

- a. **Revelation 5:1-4 (NLT)** 1 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: "Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it. 4 Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it.
 - i. **Revelation 5:4 (NLT)** 4 Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. Have you ever wondered why John wept bitterly because this scroll couldn't be opened?
 - 1. **What does John know about this scroll?** I believe John knows that there's a scroll that must be opened and revealed at the end of time in order for everything to be brought to completion and for Jesus Christ to come to rule:
 - a. **Daniel 12:7-9 (NASB95)** 7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed. 8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?" 9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.
 - 2. The fact that no one can open this scroll is shaking John to his core. If this scroll can't be opened, if not even Jesus can come forward and open this scroll what has John placed his faith in? It has been utterly useless.
- b. **Revelation 5:5-14 (NLT)** 5 But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and

among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. 7 He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. 8 And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. 12 And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered-- to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing." 13 And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever." 14 And the four living beings said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.

i. Revelation 5:5 (NLT) 5 But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals."

1. Notice in this passage that Jesus is described as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. We see the Elder describe Jesus as the Kingly figure we know Him to be. But take notice at how John sees him:

ii. Revelation 5:6-8 (NLT) 6 Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders.

1. John references Jesus as a slaughtered lamb? Here's why:

iii. Revelation 5:9 (NLT) 9 And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

1. **How does the cross play into this scene?** We learn that it's the cross that creates this path because of Jesus' willingness to:

- i. Leave perfection
- ii. Become sin
- iii. Destroy the power of sin by being slaughtered
- iv. Enables Him to be the One and only One who could even be considered worthy to open the scroll.

iv. Revelation 5:11-12 (NLT) 11 Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. 12 And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was

slaughtered-- to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.”

1. **Isaiah 53:12 (NLT)** 12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.
- v. **Revelation 5:13-14 (NLT)** 13 **And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: “Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.”** 14 **And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.**
 1. **Ephesians 1:10 (NLT)** 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ--everything in heaven and on earth.
- c. Both John and Paul’s account of this scene is prophetic. The difference in John’s account is that God gives John the opportunity to see this scene happen as it’s going to in heaven. John sees the moment in time that Paul is prophetically talking about in Ephesians 1:10.
- d. The cross was the only way. But more than simply redeeming you and I the cross did something else. The cross opens the way for this scroll to eventually be taken by Jesus and begin the process of unwinding all things so that God places everything under His authority.

III. KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

- a. **Philippians 2:8-11 (NASB95)** 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - i. **Knee** - berek (beh'-rek)
 1. Knee
 2. weak from fear (fig.)
- b. **John 2:18-22 (NASB95)** 18 The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

- i. **Destroy** - lyo (lü'-o) to loose one bound, i.e. to unbind, release from bonds, set free
- c. Jesus went to Hades and made a proclamation:
- i. **1 Peter 3:18-19 (NASB95)** 18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,
 - 1. What did He proclaim?
 - 2. What were those spirits in prison thinking when they saw Him?
- d. **Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)** 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."