

# The Eternal Purpose of God

Read: Ephesians 1:9-12; 2:4-7; 3:10-11

God has a purpose, a grand design He has willed to accomplish: He wants to display **HIS GLORY** in human redemption!

1. It is ETERNAL.
2. It is being executed even now.

God has made PROMISES relating to His purpose: seen in the fact that:

1. His covenants are called “the covenants of promise” (Ephesians 2:12).
2. His children are called “the children of promise” (Romans 9:8).
3. His Son is the certainty of the promise (2 Corinthians 1:20).

God has a plan by which He is moving towards the accomplishment of His purpose.

1. His plan centers on the work of a Person --- the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. His plan is committed to the care of a divinely ordained instrument:
  - a. The man of God --- using
  - b. The Word of God --- by
  - c. The Spirit of God.

God has a program by which His plan is being implemented:

1. A program of eight immutable covenants:
  - a. Edenic
  - b. Adamic
  - c. Noahic
  - d. Abrahamic
  - e. Mosaic
  - f. Palestinian
  - g. Davidic
  - h. New
2. A program of eight dispensational dealings:
  - a. Edenic
  - b. Antediluvian
  - c. Postdiluvian
  - d. Patriarchal
  - e. National
  - f. Ecclesiastical
  - g. Messianic

h. Eternal

3. A Program of eight righteous judgments (see my chart Eight Judgments in the Plan of God):
  - a. Christ on the Cross
  - b. Self-Examination
  - c. Chastening by God
  - d. Judgment Seat of Christ
  - e. Judgment of Nations
  - f. Judgment of the Jews
  - g. Judgment of Angels
  - h. Great White Throne Judgment

God has the power (authority and ability) to execute His program – His Sovereign Rule - -- The Kingdom of God. Psalm 22:28; 103:19; Acts 1:3; and 28:30-31. **Definition:** The Kingdom of God is the sovereign rule of God. The Kingdom of God of necessity involves:

1. A Sovereign – God as King
2. A Seat – The Throne of Heaven
3. A Sphere – The Domain of all time and eternity
4. Subjects – Redeemed of All Ages and Unfallen Angels

There are six aspects of the Kingdom of God:

1. Ultimate – The Sovereign Rule of God over the entire universe and every created being.
2. Spiritual – The Sovereign Rule of God over the hearts of His people.
3. Historical – The Sovereign Rule of God over national Israel.
  - a. The Theocracy – Direct Rule of God as Divine King, Moses to Samuel
  - b. The Monarchy – Rule of Native Kings, Saul to Zedekiah
    - i. United Kingdom – Saul to Solomon
    - ii. Divided Kingdom –
      1. Rehoboam to Hezekiah (Judah – Southern Kingdom)
      2. Jeroboam to Hoshea (Israel – Northern Kingdom)
    - iii. Single Kingdom – Hezekiah to Zedekiah (Judah)
  - c. The Dependency – the rule of Alien Kings (Nebuchadnezzar to the Man of Sin)
4. Mystery – The Sovereign Rule of God over professing Christendom
5. Messianic – The Sovereign Rule of God over the nations of earth during the Millennial Kingdom
6. Eternal – The Sovereign Rule of God over His redeemed Universe.

There are four manifestations of the Kingdom of God:

1. From Adam to Abraham – Paternal in Character; Racial in Scope.
2. From Abraham to Christ – Legal in Character; National in Scope.
3. From Christ to the Rapture – Ecclesiological in Character; International in Scope.
4. From the Rapture to the Great White Throne – Messianic in Character; Universal in Scope.

Adapted for Principles and Praxis of Prophecy, from unpublished class notes taken by Kevin S. Lucas at Bob Jones University.