



God Himself

Suzanne D. Williams

It was the plan of the ages, set in place by GOD HIMSELF. God would send God to earth, conceived by God, so that God could die and inherit what God willed God to have.*

God wrote the rules. He made a God-promise with a man named Abraham, whose descendants would become as innumerable as the stars in the heavens, as the sand by the seashore. God swore by God to keep God's Word because there was no God any greater.

It was ALL GOD, the people created in God's image after God's likeness, the nation set apart as God's. The God-rescue was underway. God would do what God said He would do according to the Laws He wrote to do it.

It was God's plan. It was God's story, God's plot, to be done in God's timing, the way God had chosen. And no other one could do it.

He prophesied it. God spoke through God's prophets of the type and measure of God's plan. Over ages of time, He detailed God the Deliverer as Emmanuel, God with us. God would come and God would accomplish everything God required of Himself. The LAMB OF GOD provided by God in a body prepared by God before time began.

Son of Man, Son of God, the LIGHT, the LIFE, Lord of all, Lord of Hosts, Lord of the Sabbath. Healer, Savior, both High Priest and Sacrifice. God's body on earth was the curtain into God's Presence. God giving access to God so that God could come and live in men and be their God.

God as Father revealed by God as Son through the power of God as Spirit, a God-union eternal

God's Great Plan

Becky Combee

As a child growing up in the home of a church musician, Easter always meant special music. I suppose we also had a drama depicting the Resurrection, but it is the music that comes to my mind and strikes the chords of my heart. After hours and hours of practice, the latest cantata was always presented by the choir, and as a teenager, I was allowed to participate.

I never understood Resurrection. My knowledge of the Scripture began and ended at the cross. Today, I frequently say, "We must kneel at the cross, but we also must stand at the empty tomb and spend some time sitting in the upper room." I have a more complete understanding after many years of study.

God's great plan for the ages was to rescue man from sin. This plan of rescue would include the death and Resurrection of the Son of God who would carry the sins of the world. The apostle Peter wrote that this plan was determined before the world began.¹ In his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, he states that this plan was by the foreknowledge of God. I love translations and appreciate the New Living Bible which says it was a prearranged plan and the Message Bible which calls it "the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God."²

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, men became children of sin and darkness. The Scripture records, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."³ This means sin was bigger than Adam and Eve; it included you

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and forever and everlasting. One God of all. One Father of all. The First-begotten Son of God. God the Holy Spirit, the very Breath of GOD HIMSELF.

God as LOVE. God as GRACE. God as HOLINESS. GOD as RIGHTEOUSNESS, as WISDOM, as FIRE and GLORY. GOD as KINDNESS. GOD as COMPASSION. GOD as PATIENCE, such LONGSUFFERING. Never rushed, never surprised, never absent-minded, never late.

All the aspects of God, all His GOODNESS sent to earth on God-display. GOD walking as MAN and GOD in order to lay down the life of God at the hour of His choosing. BUT GOD. But God knew the end before the beginning and what God had decided would happen would come to pass as God had spoken it when He spoke it. BECAUSE GOD.

This was a God-finale. God would raise God from death, victorious over hell and the grave. It was GOD HIMSELF from start to finish, a triumph underscored by God, a RESURRECTION powered by God, a KINGDOM designed by God, for one reason only.

Not because ONLY GOD could do it, although

that is true. Not because God was all-knowing and all-powerful. These are for certain. No, God's Story came to pass because God longed to reunite with His children and return to them the God-power given before the first chapter was written.

A God-narrative which is still ongoing. God is seeking those who haven't heard what God did, who don't know God as Jesus, who haven't seen God as Father, who once baptized in God as Spirit will never be the same again. Full salvation as GOD HIMSELF offers it, no strings, no condemnation, and complete forgiveness.

But time is short, and the rest of this tale on the horizon. Because one day soon, at an hour ONLY GOD KNOWS, GOD THE KING will descend from heaven with a shout, and we who are GOD'S CHILDREN shall be caught up together with Him, and forever be WITH GOD.

Don't miss the story.

Scriptures To Read: (God Himself) 2Chr 13:12; Is 45:18; 1Th 3:11; Rev 21:3 ~ (the Lord Himself) Is 7:14; 1Th 4:16 ~ (the Spirit Himself) Rm 8:26 ~ (God-story) Rm 4:1-3 MSG

**God (the Father) would send God (the Son) to earth, conceived by God (the Holy Spirit), so that God (the Son) could die and inherit what God (the Father) willed God (the Son) to have.*

(Continued from "God's Great Plan")

and I. We, too, chose the way of sin.

But God! God in the fullness of time sent His Son to redeem men.⁴ The word "redeem" is very important. It means to buy back from the power and authority of another, to pay the price to rescue and deliver men from the darkness of Satan's kingdom. What was the price? It was death. Jesus was the Lamb slain for the sins of the world. "For the wages of sin is death."⁵

Through sin, death had captured the spirit of man. Now men were separated from God, from His kingdom and His life. Men had become a part of Satan's kingdom, sharing his nature. Jesus succinctly stated this when He said, "Ye are of your father the devil."⁶

But remember! God had a plan—a preordained, predetermined, deliberate, well-thought-out, plan of rescue. This plan would send Jesus to die for the sin of men. He would face our enemy, Satan, defeat him, and rise from death's

grip victorious. He could then grant eternal life to all who would believe. The Scripture says, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."⁷

God's complete plan of salvation would remove men from Satan's kingdom and transfer them into the kingdom of His dear son.⁸ Through Jesus' death and Resurrection, men could live! This is the message of Easter! Jesus is alive. He paid the price for sin and was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit.⁹ Now all men can live. Really live!

The songwriter, Albert Ackley, captured the glorious truth of Resurrection when he wrote, "He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today." He understood man's Resurrection through Jesus Christ when he penned, "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart." Today, sing with our hymnist! "Sing Eternal Hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King." Celebrate Easter!

¹1Pe 1:20 ²Act 2:23 ³Rm 3:23 ⁴Gal 4:4-⁵Rm 6:23 ⁶Jn 8:44 ⁷Rm 6:23 ⁸Col 1:13 ⁹Rm 8:11 ¹⁰"He Lives" by Alfred H. Ackley