

GOD HAD A PLAN

God our Creator has always desired to have fellowship with man whom He created in His likeness, but man selfishly cut himself off from God. Man abused his God-given free-will to sin, to transgress against the One who breathed life into him and made him a living soul.

The Bible is the heavenly message from the mouth of God – “*all Scripture is inspired by God*” (2 Timothy 3:16). The Holy Scriptures reveal a loving, Almighty Father and Shepherd who guides and disciplines, who instructs and corrects, who protects and comforts, who warns and judges, with the ultimate plan of providing deliverance, redemption and salvation through His Anointed One for all who will believe.

Before time began God knew what would transpire before it happened. So when man disobeyed, God began speaking about a mystery. That mystery was a predestined plan from before creation. God the Father “*chose us in Him [Christ Jesus] before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless . . . He predestined us to adoption as sons, through Jesus Christ*” (Ephesians 1:4, 5). In accord with His own timing, He began revealing His plan, laying down the pieces that would lead up to and accomplish His great scheme of salvation.

The devil is a master of deception. Taking the form of a serpent he craftily deceived Eve who in turn influenced Adam (cf. Gen. 3:1-7; Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 11:3). With that first sin God promised that there would be One who would administer a crushing blow against God’s and man’s adversary. Addressing the serpent, God said, “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall crush you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.*” (Gen. 3:15)

God continued to speak through the ages through chosen fathers and prophets. His good news was even preached to Abraham – “*The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham*” (Gal. 3:8). Justification by faith was foretold by God when He promised to bless Abram (cf. Gen. 12:1-3). The blessing of Abram and his descendants multiplied them into a nation who inhabited the fertile land of Canaan. Those blessings prepared for the day when nations may be recipients of the greater spiritual blessing from the One who was Abraham’s seed. “*In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*” (Gen. 22:18) “*Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.*” (Gal. 3:16) God wants to bless man with the blessings of Christ, but you and I must believe in Jesus. God’s plan is that “*there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).