

Destiny

September 17, 2006

Psalm 139:1-18 (NLT)

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O Lord, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.

[2] You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my every thought when far away.

[3] You chart the path ahead of me
and tell me where to stop and rest.

Every moment you know where I am.

[4] You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord.

[5] You both precede and follow me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head.

[6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too great for me to know!

[7] I can never escape from your spirit!

I can never get away from your presence!

[8] If I go up to heaven, you are there;

if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there.

[9] If I ride the wings of the morning,

if I dwell by the farthest oceans,

[10] even there your hand will guide me,

and your strength will support me.

[11] I could ask the darkness to hide me

and the light around me to become night—

[12] but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.

To you the night shines as bright as day.

Darkness and light are both alike to you.

[13] You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb.

[14] Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!

Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it.

[15] You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

[16] You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.

[17] How precious are your thoughts about me, O God!
They are innumerable!
[18] I can't even count them;
they outnumber the grains of sand!
And when I wake up in the morning,
you are still with me!

I want to talk to you today about God's wonderful plan for your life.

I have just read to you a Psalm written by King David. David was convinced that before he was even born, God knew all about him and had a wonderful plan for his life.

As he thought about his life, he realized that God knew all about him, God knew his thoughts. God knew what David was going to say before he even said it.

Wherever David went, he knew that God was there with him.

Listen to verse 13 again, David said;

Psalm 139:13

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalm 139:16

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Before David was even born, God had a record of his life. God scheduled each day for David long before that day arrived.

Somehow David got a revelation of the fact that God was thinking about him constantly. He said, "I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn towards me."

He said, “Each morning when I wake up, I realize that you are still thinking about me!”

What a gigantic revelation!

I want each of you to get the same revelation today.

- God formed you in your mother’s womb
- He saw you before you were born
- You’re not an accident of evolution
- You didn’t evolve from a chimpanzee
- You were created in the image of God
- He made you. And even before you were born, He had a wonderful plan for your life.
- He has each day scheduled.

Jeremiah wrote, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

I want you to know today that God is not against you, He is for you. He wants you to fulfill the **destiny** that He has planned for you. He wants you to be blessed and to be a blessing. He has a perfect plan for you each day.

The problem is, we often don’t listen to His still small voice saying....

Isaiah 30:21(NKJV)

“This is the way, walk in it,”

We don’t spend time in His presence each morning, we don’t listen for His instructions. And we go through the day doing our thing rather than doing His thing. And too often we get ourselves into trouble.

We’re like the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to whom **Jesus said**,

Matthew 23:37 (NKJV)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, **but you were not willing!**

God had a wonderful plan for the Israelites, but they did not fulfill the destiny that He had planned for them.

They died in the wilderness rather than entering the Promised Land, because they failed to walk in the way that God had planned for them.

I think there are multiplied millions of people who never reach their full potential. They never fully realize the destiny that God has planned for them because they do not seek the Lord and discover His perfect plan for their lives.

The Lord has a wonderful plan for each of us, but it's up to each of us to discover what that plan is and then live according to that plan.

He said,

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Jesus said,

Matthew 7:7&8 (NKJV)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

He didn't say some who asked would receive and others would not receive. He said, everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks would find, and everyone who knocks will have the door opened.

So if we're not finding out what His perfect plan for our lives is, it's because we're not seeking! We're not searching for Him with all of our hearts.

When the Lord stopped Paul on the Damascus Road, Paul said, “What shall I do Lord?”

And the Lord said to Paul, “Arise and go to Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are **appointed** for you to do.”

God had a plan for Paul’s life before he was even born, just like He did for David’s life, and just like He does for your life and for my life.

There are things that He has **appointed** for us to do. But we must discover what those things are and we must willingly walk in the path that He has prepared for us.

Paul said,

Eph 1:11 (NKJV)

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.

The word “**purpose**” means- a deliberate plan; an advanced plan; an intention a design.

God has a purpose for each of us; an advanced plan; a design for our lives.

God told Paul,

Acts 26:16 (NKJV)

But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

Paul told Timothy,

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

- I believe God’s purpose for my life, before I was even born, was to be the pastor of Elim Church. I believe I am exactly where He predestined me to be. And it’s a wonderful thing when you discover God’s plan and purpose for your life.

- I believe God's purpose for my brother's life was to become the Vice President of the Houston Chronicle and be a Christian witness to the hundreds of employees that he supervises.
- I believe God's purpose for my wife was to be my companion and partner and to be a wonderful loving mother to our children and a fantastic grandmother to our grandchildren.
- I believe God's purpose for Ann Roeder was to be the secretary of Elim Church and to learn to work a computer and to keep the records of this church in perfect order.

What I'm trying to say is, God's purpose is different for each of us and it's just right for each individual.

- But it's never God's purpose for you to waste your life.
- It's never God's purpose for you to break the law and end up in prison.
- It's never God's purpose for you to become an alcoholic or a drug addict.
- It's never God's purpose for you to be depressed and discouraged and fearful.
- It's never God's purpose for you to be lost.

Jesus came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) says,

The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

In other words, it's not God's will for you to perish. He wants you to have everlasting life, He wants you to be saved, and that's why Jesus came to this earth.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever** believes in Him should **not perish** but have everlasting life.

So first thing you must do to fulfill God's divine plan and destiny for your life is to **receive** Christ as your Savior and make Him Lord of your life.

John 1:11 & 12 (NKJV) says,

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

So if you want to reach the full potential that God has planned for you to reach, first you must receive Christ and make Him your Lord and you do that by believing on His name.

Many of you did that last week during the "Glory and the Fire".

But that's only the beginning!

God has given to each of you gifts and talents and abilities that He wants you to use for His glory.

It's up to you to develop those gifts, and the degree to which you develop those gifts will determine whether or not you will reach the destiny that God has predestined for you.

My brother didn't start out as the vice president of one of the largest newspapers in the world, he started out at seven years old throwing a paper route. The bags he carried the papers in almost dragged the ground as he rode his little bicycle around the east end of Houston.

He did a good job, he worked hard. Then, he started hand-slipping the Sunday Chronicle, he did a good job, he worked hard.

Then he got a job in the composing room, he did a good job, he worked hard. And he became the night foreman, then the day foreman, then he was promoted to the position of assistant production manager. Then production manager, he did a good job, he worked hard.

And finally, he became the vice- president of manufacturing.

That would have never happened if he had not dedicated himself and worked hard and developed the gifts and talents that God had given to him.

And let me tell you this, he has always been faithful to attend church. Not only does he attend church regularly, but he also plays the piano and serves on the deacon board and as he says, his most important role is to keep me humble.

My brother is my hero, He's been faithful.

You see **faithfulness** is the one thing that God is looking for above all others.

Jesus told a parable, He said,

Matthew 25:14 & 15 (NKJV)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave **five** talents, to another **two**, and to another **one**, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Did you get that? He gave them each talents according to their own ability and then he left it up to them to do something with the talents that they had been given.

- Then after a long time, he returned, and discovered that the servants to whom he had given **five talents** had developed those talents and gained five more talents in the process.

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)

His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

- The one who had been given **two talents** also used them and gained two more, and the lord said the thing to him as he did to the ones who had gained five.

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)

His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

- But the one who had received only one talent didn’t do anything with it, he hid it in the ground.

And when the Lord returned, he said,

Matthew 25:26 (NKJV)

‘You wicked and lazy servant....’

And He took the one talent that he had and gave it to the one who had ten.

The clear message of that parable is that God wants you and me to use the abilities and talents that he has given to us.

He wants us to reach the destiny that He has for us. But in order to do it, we’re going to have to develop and use the gifts that He has given us.

In any field of ministry or employment, there are those who **work hard** and do an outstanding job and get promoted. And there are those who want something for nothing and who are lazy and try to get out of doing work that they have been hired to do. And they end up staying where they are or losing their job altogether.

And usually they are the ones who are always complaining about how bad they are treated, and how terrible their boss is and what a sorry company they work for.

Listen to what I’m saying to you today.

God has a wonderful plan for your life, something that perfectly matches the gifts and talents that He has given to you. He has a destiny that He wants you to reach.

But to reach the destiny God has ordained for you, **you must discipline yourself.**

- You will never conquer the world, unless you first conquer yourself.

Lazy and disorganized people will never reach the full potential that God has ordained for them to reach.

- Those that want to fulfill God's destiny for their lives will **work** while others **waste time**, they will **study** while others **snooze**, they will **pray** while others **daydream**.
- They will overcome destructive habits
- They will discipline themselves to eat right and dress right and be persons of integrity.
- They will do those unpleasant tasks that must be done.
- They will work whether what they are doing is seen by others or not seen.
- They will **not** avoid difficult situations. They will **not** avoid dealing with difficult people even though it may be an unpleasant task.
- They will not procrastinate and they will tackle the hardest tasks first.

If you hope to reach the destiny God has for you, you must look to the future with faith and hope. You must be **optimistic** not **pessimistic**.

Someone has said, the **pessimist** sees **difficulty** in every **opportunity**, the **optimist** sees **opportunity** in every **difficulty**.

The **pessimist** hides his talents, the **optimist** uses it and develops it and in the process, **multiplies it**.

Have you discovered your place of destiny?

Are you where God has purposed for you to be?

Are you doing what He has destined for you to do?

You may say, “No, I am not where I know God wants me to be. As a matter of fact, you may have made some terrible decisions in your life, you may have done things that God specifically told you not to do. You may feel that you have really made a mess of your life. And you may even feel that there’s no way for your life to change, that you are simply doomed for failure.

I’ve got some good news for you, God still wants you to succeed, it’s never too late to get back on track.

It’s not too late for you to accomplish something of significance, God didn’t create you to be a failure, He created you to succeed.

So let me ask you, have you received Christ as your personal Savior? If not, you need to do that today, right now, you cannot possibly reach the destiny that God has for you if you do not receive His gift of eternal salvation.

And once you have done that, then ask Him to reveal to you His perfect plan for your life.

Don’t expect Him to reveal it all to you at once. His plan will be revealed to you in stages. Just like it was to Paul, God said, “I’m revealing this to you and there are things I will yet reveal to you.

- You might be like my brother and start as a paper boy and end up as the vice- president.
- Or you might be like me and start out mowing the grass and trimming the hedges around the church and end up being the pastor.

What you must do is, faithfully serve where the Lord has placed you. And when the right time comes, He will lead you on the next level.

If you’re faithful, you will look back over your life and see that the hand of God was leading you every step of the way.

You were created for a special purpose and to enjoy a special relationship with God, but that relationship was ruined by what the Bible calls sin.

Sin is choosing your desires in place of God’s desires.

But thank God, the relationship for which you were created can be restored by what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

Give Invitation!