

I. Introduction: God and His Eternal Plan

A. The Absolute Supremacy of God

1. Theme: God is supreme over all things; the universe exists for His pleasure.
2. Text: Psalm 89:5-8
3. Reading: Revelation 1:12-18

B. God's Eternal Plan

1. Theme: History is overseen by God, Who is bringing all things to pass according to His eternal Sovereign will and plan.
2. Text: Isaiah 46:8-13
3. Reading: Ephesians 1:3-10

II. Creation – God's Plan Set In Motion

A. God's Creative Work

1. Theme: God created everything that exists – including the heavenly and earthly realm, and the spiritual and physical aspects of the universe.
2. Text: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16
3. Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

B. God's Plan for Creation

1. Theme: Creation was formed and filled by God to reveal His glory.

2. Text: Genesis 1:1-2; Genesis 2:1-3

3. Reading: Psalm 19

C. Man: The Image of God

1. Theme: Man, the uniquely physical-spiritual being, is the image of God and crown of creation.

2. Text: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7

3. Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

D. God's Call for Mankind

1. Theme: As the image of God, mankind is called to form and fill the world, thus developing creation to display God's glory.

2. Text: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:4-7; 2:15

3. Reading: Psalm 8

III. Fall – God's Plan Seemingly Disrupted

A. Paradise Lost: The Fall of Humanity

1. Theme: Satan always tempts us to doubt God's word and His motives, and to seek our autonomy rather than submit to God.

2. Text: Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7

3. Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

B. The Consequences of the Fall on Mankind

1. Theme: The fall produced spiritual and physical death, division and distress for all mankind.
2. Text: Genesis 2:16-17; 3:8-24
3. Reading: Romans 5:12-21

C. The Consequences of the Fall on Creation

1. Theme: Because of mankind's sin, the entire created order has fallen under the curse, and suffers the effects of the fall.
2. Text: Genesis 3:17-19
3. Reading: Romans 8:18-25

D. Common Grace – Restraining the Effects of the Fall

1. Theme: Despite the catastrophic effects of the fall, God continues to be gracious and has provided various ways of restraining the effects of the curse so that it does not destroy everything.
2. Text: Matthew 5:43-45; Romans 2:14-15
3. Reading: Psalm 145:8-16

IV. Redemption – God's Plan Restored

A. Our Redemption in Christ (God's Saving Grace)

1. Theme: Salvation from sin comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
2. Text: Romans 3:9-26
3. Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

B. The Method of Redemption – The Incarnation

1. Theme: Since we could not save ourselves, God the Son became human to work redemption for us.
2. Text: Galatians 4:4-6
3. Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

C. Our Redeemer - Christ the Second Adam

1. Theme: As the Second Adam, Christ has worked redemption and is restoring God's original purposes for mankind.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; 45-47; Romans 5:14
3. Reading: Hebrews 2:5-9

D. The Cosmic Scope of Christ's Redemptive Work

1. Theme: Christ's redemptive work affects not only the human spirit, but all of our human nature, and all of creation as well.
2. Text: Colossians 1:15-20
3. Reading: Isaiah 55:7-13

V. **Consummation – God's Plan Accomplished**

A. New Testament Eschatology – The Now But Not Yet

1. Theme: The key to New Testament eschatology is understanding the difference between this age and the age to come, the now and the not yet.
2. Text: 1 John 3:1-3
3. Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

B. Living by the Spirit in the Now But Not Yet

1. Theme: Believers have been given the Holy Spirit, Who gives us a first taste of the coming age and is a guarantee that all the blessings God has promised will be given to us.
2. Text: Ephesians 1:14-15
3. Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

C. Death and the Intermediate State

1. Theme: When people die, their soul continues in conscious existence while awaiting the resurrection of the body on the last day.
2. Text: Luke 23:38-43
3. Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

D. The Resurrection of the Body (Part 1)

1. Theme: The people of God have always believed in a resurrection of the body, and Christ is the guarantee of this hope.
2. Text: John 5:28-29
3. Reading: Psalm 16:7-11

E. The Resurrection of the Body (Part 2)

1. Theme: At the resurrection, our present bodies will be raised and transformed to be like Christ's resurrected and glorified body, exhibiting both continuity and discontinuity with our present body.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 15:35-44
3. Reading: Philippians 3:17-21

F. The New Heavens and the New Earth (Part 1)

1. Theme: The new heavens and the new earth are our eternal home, and those who love and serve God will experience the removal of the curse and the consummation of God's original purposes for mankind.
2. Text: Revelation 21:1-8
3. Reading: Revelation 22:1-6

G. The New Heavens and the New Earth (Part 2)

1. Theme: The new heavens and new earth will exhibit both continuity and discontinuity with the present heavens and earth.
2. Text: 2 Peter 3:10; Matthew 19:28
3. Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

H. Life in the New Heavens and Earth

1. Theme: In the new heavens and earth, God's purposes for creation will be fulfilled, and our deepest longings and desires will be satisfied.
2. Text: Revelation 21:1-4
3. Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

VI. Conclusion – Living With An Eternal Perspective

A. Preparing for the Judgment

1. Theme: All humans will stand before God's judgment throne, and only those who trust in Christ will enter the new heavens and earth.
2. Text: Revelation 20:11-15
3. Reading: Romans 4:1-8

B. A Life Built to Last

1. Theme: Christians are called to build their lives and ministries in such a manner that they will survive the coming judgment and bring eternal rewards.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
3. Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

C. A Life for God's Glory

1. Theme: Our entire lives matter to God and are to be lived in service to Him and with a view toward eternity.
2. Text: 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:23-24
3. Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

D. A Life That Fulfills God's Purpose

1. Theme: God calls us to live a life of love and service toward Him and others.
2. Text: Matthew 22:36-40
3. Reading: Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation - A
Brief History of the Universe

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