

Bible Study - Lecture XI
Brookland Baptist Church
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
Presenter: James A. Jamison, D. Min.

Exercise from last week

Draw a stream running down a mountainside. Now add boulders, logs, and debris to represent the ways your wrong choices, circumstances or mistakes have temporarily hindered God's purposes. Finally trace an alternate route for the stream to continue downstream. Likewise, let this picture remind you that God's ultimate will is being accomplished in your life.

Discerning the Will of God

Having made the foregoing distinctions in regard to the will of God, such as: the Intentional Will of God, the Circumstantial Will of God, the Permissive Will of God, the Ultimate Will of God, and the Sovereign/Decretive Will of God, we may inquire now whether it can be discerned by us and how. One approach is to determine God's plan and purpose for our lives. So tonight we will again deviate from Laird and make use of this excerpt on purpose shared by Rick Warren from his landmark book, *The Purpose Driven Life* to help us understand that we are not an accident and our lives have purpose.

Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. He was not at all surprised by your birth. In fact, He expected it. Long before you were conceived by your parents, you were conceived in the mind of God. He thought of you first. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence but,

God-incidence that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you!

- Isaiah 44:2a says, “I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.” – Contemporary English Version (CEV)

God prescribed every single detail of your body. He deliberately chose your race, the color of your skin, your hair, and every other feature. He custom-made your body just the way He wanted it. He also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality.

Leonardo da Vinci painted, only, one Mona Lisa. Beethoven composed, only, one Fifth Symphony. And God made, only, one version of you! God custom-designed you for a one-of-a-kind assignment — “to each according to each one’s unique ability” - (Matthew 25:15).

- Psalm 139:15 says you know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; you know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. – The Message Version (MSG)

Because God made you for a reason, He also decided when you would be born and how long you would live. He planned the days of your life in advance, choosing the exact time of your birth and death. Psalm 139:16 says, You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book! — The Living Bible (TLB)

God also planned where you’d be born and where you’d live for His purpose. Your race and nationality are no accident. God left no detail to chance. He planned it all for His purpose. Acts 17:26 says, From one man He

made every nation... and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. – New International Version (NIV)

Nothing in your life is arbitrary. It's all for a purpose. Most amazing, God decided how you would be born. Regardless of the circumstances of your birth or who your parents are, God had a plan in creating you. It doesn't matter whether your parents were good, bad, or indifferent. God knew that those two individuals possessed exactly the right genetic makeup to create the custom "you" he had in mind. They had the DNA God wanted to make you.

While there are illegitimate parents, there are no illegitimate children. Many children are unplanned by their parents, but they are not unplanned by God.

God's purpose took into account human error, and even sin. God never does anything accidentally, and He never makes mistakes. He has a reason for everything He creates. Every plant and every animal was planned by God, and every person was designed with a purpose in mind. God's motive for creating you was His love. — Ephesians 1:4 (MSG) Long before He laid down earth's foundations, He had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of His love.

God was thinking of you even before He made the world. In fact, that's why He created it! God designed this planet's environment just so we could live in it. We are the focus of His love and the most valuable of all His creation. James 1:18 says, God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all things he made. - New Century Version (NCV)

This is how much God loves and values you! God is not haphazard; He planned it all with great precision. The more physicists, biologists, and other scientists learn about the universe, the better we understand how it is uniquely

suited for our existence, custom-made with the exact specifications that make human life possible.

Why did God do all this? Why did He bother to go to all the trouble of creating a universe for us? Because He is a God of love. This kind of love is difficult to fathom, but it's fundamentally reliable. You were created as a special object of God's love! God made you so He could love you. This is a truth to build your life on. – 1 John 4:8 tells us, God is love. It doesn't say God has love. He is love! Love is the essence of God's character. There is perfect love in the fellowship of the Trinity, so God didn't need to create you. He wasn't lonely. But He wanted to make you in order to express His love.

To support this idea God says, in Isaiah 46:3-4, "I have carried you when you were born, and I will still be carrying you when you are old. Your hair will turn gray, and I will still carry you. I made you, and I will carry you to safety." - Easy To Read Version (ERV)

If there was no God, we would all be "accidents," the result of astronomical random chance in the universe.

Without seeking God's purpose for your life, without reading his word, life would have no purpose or meaning or significance. Neither would there be any hope beyond your brief years here on earth. The good news is that there is a God who made you for a reason, and your life has profound meaning! We discover that meaning and purpose only when we make God the reference point of our lives. The Message paraphrase of Romans 12:3 reads, the only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what He does for us.

This poem by Russell Kelfer sums it up:

You are who you are for a reason.

You're part of an intricate plan.
You're a precious and perfect unique design,
Called God's special woman or man.

You look like you look for a reason.
Our God made no mistake.
He knit you together within the womb,
You're just what He wanted to make.

The parents you had were the ones He chose,
And no matter how you may feel,
They were custom-designed with God's plan in mind,
And they bear the Master's seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not easy.
And God wept that it hurt you so;
But it was allowed to shape your heart
So that into His likeness you'd grow.

You are who you are for a reason,
You've been formed by the Master's rod.
You are who you are, Beloved,
Because there is a God!

Questions for Reflection

1. What areas of your personality, background, and physical appearance are you struggling to accept?
2. Do you feel at this point in your life that you have discovered your purpose?

3. What do you feel God is calling you to do?
4. What is your response to God uniquely making you exactly as He did, with the family He gave you, the physical traits He gave you, in the place and time He planned your birth?