

The Plan - Beginning to End
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God has given us the remarkable ability to anticipate. We see patterns in the weather and we know a storm is coming. We plan our days and weeks with a reasonable expectation that those things will happen. We know from experience that certain actions bring about certain results. It's almost as if we can see the future, but not quite.

God is interested in our future. Why would He bother with prophets and reconciliation and salvation if the future wasn't important? God wants us to have hope and a future, an eternal one. (Jeremiah 29:11) That's what Easter is all about. Life after death is the best possible future. But what about now? What about the future that's right in front of us? How do we, the church, plan for the future?

God gives us a clue when He says in Revelation 21:6, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." First, we look backwards to the beginning. What did God create this place to be before selfishness wrecked it? Then let's look to the end. The resurrection of Jesus has confirmed that He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Because He is risen, we also will rise. One day He will return and breathe new life into us in a perfect world.

How does looking to the beginning and the end help us with our planning? It shows us the plan - God's plan. God's plan for our world is redemption and restoration. God's plan for our world is for people to be made whole and for truth to reign. God's plan is beauty, compassion and interdependency. He had that plan in the beginning and it will return in perfection at the end. So, here's the question. In the midst of a broken, sinful world, can we come up with a better plan than that? Can our plans outshine His plans? No. So, let's figure out how to align our plans with His plans.

Have you ever noticed how redundant the Bible is? It just seems like the solution to every problem is to love God and your neighbor. That's the plan. Simple, right? God's plan is easier said than done. A world full of every kind of selfishness stands in the way of us fulfilling God's plan. What makes it even more complicated is that every generation has a different flavor of selfishness. The challenges of today aren't the same challenges as 50 years ago. We must adapt our tactics, even while God's plan remains the same.

God has given us the remarkable ability to anticipate. Much like the prophets, we can see the kinds of things that will happen if the world continues with its current version of wickedness. We can see the disarray, dysfunction and destruction that it will cause. We can anticipate the kinds of trauma and heartbreak that will result. We can see it coming, but we don't have to just stand by.

Let's be ready to pick up the pieces when they fall. Let's be the consistent voice of universal truth and unconditional love. Let's be ready to hear hurts and love like Jesus. Let's demonstrate wholesome, Godly relationships and teach how to do that. Let's break out of our comfort zone and deploy on the rescue mission that is Christianity.

That's the plan.