

The Creator has a purpose

From the cosmic order of galaxies down to the intricacies of the tiniest cell, creation shows a design and purpose. Take for instance, the fact that earth is the only planet known to support life, it has the right range of temperatures, suitable gases in the atmosphere and life-sustaining water. Why such a perfect combination of conditions? Because the Creator intentionally designed this planet for life.

“He who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.”

Isaiah 45, verse 18.

Creation and completion

The Bible starts and ends with an ideal world.

The first chapter of the Bible describes creation. At the end this account comes a statement that implies a beautiful, peaceful, balanced world:

“God saw all that he had made and it was very good.”

Genesis 1, verse 31

No problems. No fear. No suffering. No violence. All was “very good”, as God intended it.

The focal point, the showplace of creation where human beings were to live was the Garden of Eden. In the middle of the garden were two special trees: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God gave Adam a commandment concerning this latter tree. He was not to eat fruit from it, on penalty of death.

But Adam and Eve decided they knew better than God, and broke this commandment. The consequence of their disobedience was catastrophic. Death, toil, and suffering entered the world. The rest of the Bible shows the way back to the world order the creator first intended. The final chapters of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, describe the time when God’s purpose will be complete.

“There will be no more crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21, verse 4

The key to God’s purpose

The creator has a purpose for the earth. This is the fundamental mes-

sage of the Bible.

The essence of his purpose is to restore the earth to its original state and establish on it a kingdom of people who truly know him. Peace, harmony and oneness with God fill this Old Testament description of his future kingdom:

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

Isaiah 11, verses 6 and 9

The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD. This promise appears a number of times in the Old Testament. Indeed it is the key to understanding the basics of God’s purpose.

What is the “Knowledge of the LORD”?

First and foremost, it involves knowing His character. The following passage, which appears towards the end of the Old Testament repeats the above promise with one change;

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

Habakkuk 2, verse 14

When Moses asked God to show him glory, God responded by describing the characteristics that comprise His goodness - mercy, truth, patience, forgiveness, and justice. (Exodus 34, verses 6 and 7)

God’s purpose will be complete when the entire earth reflects His goodness. The world will be governed by a leader possessing the personal characteristics of God Himself and filled with people who demonstrate these characteristics in everything they do and think.

The creator is active right now, preparing to fulfill His purpose in a new Creation filled with His glory.

World events are moving towards a climax that will culminate in the return of his son Jesus Christ to establish and rule this new world order.

Just as important, God is working with individuals who respond to Him and seek to understand and participate in his purpose.

A lifetime goal

God wants His character and goodness to be displayed in human lives.

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1, verse 27

An “image” is a mirror reflection. The Creator’s original purpose was for his image to be reflected in the human beings He created.

Adam and Eve were called upon to use their God-given will and intellect. They had to make a conscious decision to do things God’s way.

So do you. You have to take initiative to respond to the word of God.

“He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.”

2 Peter 1, verse 4

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You take on a lifetime mission when you make it your goal to be re-created in God's image, to share His goodness and ultimately his divine nature.

You undertake to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who's life demonstrated God's perfect character to humanity.

With God's help and mercy you strive to be recreated in the image of Christ. This re-creation is a transformation of self that starts with an understanding of God's purpose revealed in the Bible. Your understanding of God's message influences your attitudes and actions. Your life becomes reoriented and takes on new direction and meaning.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old one has gone, the new one has come!"

2 Corinthians 5, verse 17

The final reward of the faithful is a gift more wonderful than the human mind can imagine. God Himself will complete your transformation, making you a personal image of his eternal glory with perfect character and immortal nature.

Starting Points

What is the basis for the personal re-creation of which the Bible speaks? There are three essentials:

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13, verse 13

First comes faith— faith in God, His son Jesus Christ and his promises. Active and genuine faith leads to a building of character in the believer. The apostle Peter describes the development;

"Add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self control; and to self control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness;

and to brotherly kindness, love."

2 Peter 1, verses 5 - 7.

Hope for the future

Hope, the second essential is a positive attitude towards the future.

With daily news reports of human suffering, senseless violence, an ever-escalating arms race, contamination of what we eat, drink and breathe— how could a thinking person have any hope for the future?

The answer is by understanding God's purpose. Hope is not a vague, hesitant speculation that probably God will make everything turn out well. It is the expectation that his purpose will come to pass.

This awareness brings assurance in your personal life.

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8, verse 28

Human history is on its way to a conclusion which will bring the return of Jesus Christ to set up God's kingdom on a restored earth.

"Behold I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

Isaiah 65, verse 17

"In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

2 Peter 3, verse 13

Life without hope is meaningless and futile. Hope based on false assumptions or speculation brings disappointment or disillusionment. Hope measured in possessions or achievements leads to emptiness.

What the Bible offers is a clearly defined hope that is sure and true, a hope that helps you put into perspective the problems of daily life, knowing God is in control.

The highest good

"The greatest of these is love"

1 Corinthians 13, verse 13

From creation, the basis of God's purpose has been love.

Why did the creator give Adam and Eve the option to follow their own wishes? He wanted them to choose His way of their own free will. He did not create automatons. Rather, He wanted them to love him willingly, as he loved them.

They let him down.

Yet still God loves the human race. He still wants men and women to choose to love him. Jesus was once asked to identify God's greatest commandment. His reply could be summarized in one word: "Love"

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22, verses 37 to 39

"God is love." This quality displayed in his followers sets them apart from the rest of the world. It is the essence of the Creator's purpose and his goodness.

The Creator's purpose and your life

Was the world created by a purposeful God? Or is it the result of blind chance?

Is love the highest ideal for human motivation or is success a matter of survival of the fittest?

You as an individual, decide for yourself how you will answer these questions. The answers are a simple "yes" or "no". But the implications are far-reaching.

If you acknowledge that an active and living Creator is in control of human destiny, how well do you understand His message and purpose?

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If you accept love, not selfishness, as your standard - how does this affect your personal aspirations?

You can participate in the Creator's purpose. He can re- create you in his image. If you respond to His love.....

Recap

The Creator transforms willing men and women into people who demonstrate His character in their thoughts and actions.

Human history is headed for a climax when Jesus Christ will set up a perfect world order in which the faithful will receive the gift of divine nature.

Recommended Bible Readings

The God of the Bible : Isaiah 32, 44 and 55

The preaching of the apostle Peter: Acts 2 and 3

Peter discusses God's purpose for the individual and the world: 2 Peter 1 and 3