

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREDESTINATION

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PART 11: GOD'S PURPOSE AND TIMING

The most important thing as a Christian is knowing God's timing for your life and being totally synchronized with Him. This doesn't mean being ahead or behind God, but walking precisely with God in His timing and reaping the benefits of being an obedient servant who is in the right place at the right time. God has a predestined plan for each human being and our goal should be to seek it and live in its presence.

GOD'S TIMING FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

It is important to understand that God called Terah and his family to serve him but God has never called a piece of land to follow Him. Don't fall into the trap of grouping the two together. God is not sentimental and one day the entire earth will be dissolved and vanish. **2 Peter 3:10-13**

Let's take a look at the different phases of the nation of Israel. Each phase was totally unique and would not be duplicated.

THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL – 211 YEARS

This period began in the city of Ur, in the country of the Chaldeans (modern day Iraq) and ended when the family of Jacob arrived in Egypt. God had predestined the final outcome of this period and the people were called to reject idolatry, not to mix with ungodly nations around them and walk in faith with God. They were to preserve the Word of God and be in lineage of the future Messiah. **Hebrews 11:8-22**

THE CRADLE YEARS – 430 YEARS

The cradle years started and ended in Goshen, a province of Egypt. The predestined plan of God was for the descendants of Abraham to preserve the Word of God, greatly multiply and wait for the day when they would move back to the Promised Land where the Messiah would someday be born. **Genesis 50:24-26; Hebrews 11:22**

THE EXODUS – 1 YEAR

This was a short period upheaval like the world had not seen since the days of Noah and the flood. The Hebrews witnessed the systematic destruction of Egypt and its people and they were eventually driven into the wilderness. They went from living in houses, farming and having plenty to being nomads and living in tents. **Hebrews 11:24-29**



THE WILDERNESS YEARS – 40 YEARS

God's original will for Israel was to move them through the wilderness and up to the Promised Land. But they were not thankful of being moved from slavery into freedom and complained about everything. When they finally came to the border of the Promised Land, they faithlessly declared that it was impossible to enter the land and they were better off going back to Egypt. **Numbers 13:25-33; 14:1-10**

The Hebrew's which came out of Egypt were spoiled brats who had no respect for God. But He was not going to let them have their own way as they were to experience the inescapable predestined will of God. **Numbers 14:11-12**

God would have wiped them out if Moses had not interceded for his people. **verses 13-19**

God pardoned the people but meted out a punishment that only those who were below the age of twenty would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Caleb and Joshua were exempted because of their faith. **verses 20-32**

Those who were twenty years and older were told they would only live for another forty years, which meant that those who were 20 years old at this time could only live until age 60. **verses 33-37**

The adults were not willing to accept their punishment and thought they could repent and move into the Promised Land. It is foolhardy to go against God's predestinated will because it will only bring death and destruction. **verses 39-45, Hebrews 3:7-19**

POSSESSING THE LAND – 49 YEARS

Moses and Aaron were not allowed to enter the Promised Land because they had defamed God in their anger. **Numbers 20:1-12**

Moses was not removed from his leadership role but still had to pay the price for his rebellion. **Numbers 27:12-14**

Even if Moses was greatly loved and favored by God, there was still a punishment for his disobedience. He did not lose his salvation and place in heaven, but it cost him the glory on the earth of bringing the people into the Promised Land. **Deuteronomy 34:10-12; Galatians 6:7-9**

Moses did not get angry when he was told he could not enter the Promised Land. He was not a selfish person who sought fame and power; instead, he bowed to the predestined will of God and prayed for a leader who would take the people into the Promised Land. **Numbers 27:15-23**

Once Joshua had become the next leader, God confirmed His predestined plan and made it clear that He would keep His promises and give them the land. **Joshua 1:1-9**

At the end of his life, Joshua declared his faith in God and that he was not turning away from serving God. The generation living at that time responded in like manner. **Joshua 24:14-28**

Joshua led the people of Israel for about 49 years but they were not able to secure all the land during these years and drive out all the different people living in the Promised Land. Joshua realized that it would not be done in his lifetime and made sure the remaining land was divided up according to the predestined will of God. **Joshua 13:1-6**

It was 731 years from the time that God called Terah until they finally settled in the land and moved into the next phase, the time of the judges.

SUMMARY

1. God methodically worked to prepare the way for the Messiah to be born on the earth. It was 1,885 years from Adam until the birth of Terah another 2,231 years until the birth of Jesus in 4,116. If we use God's time table as recorded in 2 Peter 3:8, it was only 2 days, 3 hours and 1.42 seconds for God.

All God asked of the descendants of Terah was to believe in Him, not have any idols and obey His commandments. They would be saved and live in paradise after death on the earth, and then heaven, if they obeyed God and looked forward to the Messiah and repented of their sins. God didn't ask the people to try to bring the Messiah to the earth, nor were they put in charge of events; they were simply told by God what to do and leave the results to Him.

As we are living some four thousand years after Israel possessed the land, we are told to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, repent of our sins, obey God and walk in His statutes. It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility, not ours, to enlarge God's earthly kingdom. **John 15:1-17**

2. As Christians, we are predestined to share the Gospel with those around us and build our lives around this commandment from Jesus, the Messiah. **Matthew 28:18-20**

You and I will not know the future until we get there!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?