

4-7-2024 Sunday Sermon Message  
Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16  
Text: Ephesians 1:1-23

Title: **Before the foundation of the world, God planned to adopt as His adopted son in Christ**

The Apostle Paul testified that God had already planned to send His only begotten Son, Christ, into the world even before He laid the foundation of the world. It's a mysterious thing. Before God laid the foundation of the world, He created man in the world. But because God is omniscient, we cannot dare to imagine what will happen in the future.

If we let our imagination run wild, we can imagine that God knew before the foundation of the world that Lucifer, who had sinned for the first time in heaven, would come down to earth where he would lay his foundation and tempt the man he created to sin and lead them to death. However, God is an all-knowing God who knows everything beyond our imagination.

But as the Apostle Paul and the Apostle John testified, God's will for the purpose of Christ's appearance in the world was to destroy the devil who sinned before the foundation of the world:

**"<sup>14</sup> Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;<sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage....<sup>8</sup> He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."**(Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 John 3:8)

The Apostle Paul testified that God is blessed because He wants to give all the invisible spiritual blessings that are in Christ to those who will be His

children. In this regard, Jesus said this in his last prayer on earth:

**"<sup>24</sup> Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."**(John 17:24)

The Apostle Paul testified that God chooses His children when a person believes in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and enters into Christ through the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ:

**"<sup>4</sup> According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:<sup>5</sup> Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,<sup>6</sup> To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."**(Ephesians 1:4-6)

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the saints in Rome, he testified about becoming children of God and entering into Christ:

**"<sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."**(Romans 8:29-30)

He also testified that the work of glorification is to enter into the body of Christ:

**"<sup>3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?<sup>4</sup> Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.<sup>5</sup> For if**

**we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:”(Romans 6:3-5)**

He also testified of the man who was chosen to be God's adopted son in Christ:

**“<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.<sup>18</sup> And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;<sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”(II Corinthians 5:17-19)**

Whoever is saved by grace through faith in the gospel of Christ's grace, abides in Christ, and is destined to be adopted as the Son of God, testifies that through the Holy Spirit the mysterious will of God is made known:

**“<sup>8</sup> Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;<sup>9</sup> Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:<sup>10</sup> That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”(Ephesians 1:8-10)**

Before the beginning of the seven-year tribulation, which is the last of the seventy weeks for Israel, as prophesied by God through the prophet Daniel, God will rapture the church of God, the bride of Christ in Christ, to heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

The Apostle Paul testified of the inheritance given to the church:

**“<sup>19</sup> And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,<sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,<sup>21</sup> Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:<sup>22</sup> And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”(Ephesians 1:19-23)**

Now, when Christ returns to the earth at the end of the great tribulation, judges the world, kills the antichrist and false prophets who destroyed the heavens and the earth outside of Christ by throwing them alive into the lake of fire, and throws the devil into the abyss of the bottomless pit and seals it up, and establishes His kingdom, God's will be fulfilled on earth just as His will was done in heaven.

At this time, the mysterious will of God's dispensation will be fulfilled in Christ.

At this time, the riches of the glory of the inheritance for the saints who are called in Christ will be fulfilled in heaven and on earth. The Jews who have entered into Christ will be blessed to become a nation of priests in the new earth, and the Church of God, the children of God, will reign with Christ as kings and priests for a thousand years (Revelation 5:9-10).

After that, the Church of God will enjoy the inheritance that He has given as a guarantee through the Holy Spirit forever and ever. The Church, the bride of Christ, will be His helper who goes with Christ through all things in the universe and fills all things. The Apostle Paul testified of this great hope and inheritance:

**“<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”(Ephesians 1:23)**

Amen! Hallelujah!