



## Misperceptions

### Misperceiving the plan of God

#### I. The misperception

*God is love, therefore God's plan is to save lost people, bless every believer with an abundant life and answer all our prayers because He loves us*

*A. When we emphasize an attribute of God or spiritual truth to the exclusion of other attributes or truths, then our understanding of that truth is no longer true*

#### II. The Reality

**III. Based on Scripture, how should we understand God and His plan**

## Isaiah 55:8-11

For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
 Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup> "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
 So are My ways higher than your ways  
 And My thoughts than your thoughts.  
<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
 And do not return there without watering the earth  
 And making it produce and sprout,  
 And providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;  
<sup>11</sup> So will My word be which goes out of My mouth;  
 It will not return to Me empty,  
 Without accomplishing what I desire,  
 And without succeeding *in the purpose* for which I sent it.

## Psalm 139

LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.  
<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I get up;  
 You understand my thought from far away.  
<sup>3</sup> You scrutinize my path and my lying down,  
 And are acquainted with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup> Even before there is a word on my tongue,  
 Behold, LORD, You know it all.  
<sup>5</sup> You have encircled me behind and in front,  
 And placed Your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup> *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
 It is *too* high, I cannot comprehend it.  
<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
 Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there;  
 If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.  
<sup>9</sup> *If* I take up the wings of the dawn,  
*If* I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand will lead me,  
 And Your right hand will take hold of me.  
<sup>11</sup> *If* I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,"  
<sup>12</sup> Even darkness is not dark to You,  
 And the night is as bright as the day.  
 Darkness and light are alike *to You*.  
<sup>13</sup> For You created my innermost parts;  
 You wove me in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and  
 wonderfully *made*;  
 Wonderful are Your works,  
 And my soul knows it very well.  
<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You  
 When I was made in secret,  
*And* skillfully formed in the depths of the earth;  
<sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my formless substance;  
 And in Your book were written  
 All the days that were ordained *for me*,  
 When as yet there was not one of them.

#### Isaiah 40:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,  
 And measured the heavens with a span,  
 And calculated the dust of the earth with a measure,  
 And weighed the mountains in a balance  
 And the hills in a pair of scales?  
<sup>13</sup> Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,  
 Or as His counselor has informed Him?  
<sup>14</sup> With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding?  
 And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge,  
 And informed Him of the way of understanding?  
<sup>15</sup> Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,  
 And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;  
 Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust...  
<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before Him,  
 They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God?  
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?

### Romans 8:28-37

<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to *become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers *and sisters*; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? *Will* tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written:

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG;  
WE WERE REGARDED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

### 2 Corinthians 4

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary *greatness* of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; <sup>8</sup> *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are constantly being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh.... <sup>14</sup> knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. <sup>15</sup> All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that

is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner *person* is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal

## Romans 8

<sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, we will share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

### IV. The truth about God and His plan

1. God is infinite and perfect
2. God is sovereign and omnipotent
3. God is good and He is wise
4. God is purposeful and loving

5. **God is just and merciful**
6. **God is immutable and faithful**
7. **God's plan will always reflect His character, purposes and love for His people**
8. **God's plan is counter-intuitive**

## **V. Our response**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.