

## God's Purpose for You

Jeremiah 1:4-10 New American Standard Bible

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
And before you were born I consecrated you;  
I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, “Oh, Lord God!  
Behold, I do not know how to speak,  
Because I am a youth.”

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me,  
“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’  
Because everywhere I send you, you shall go,  
And all that I command you, you shall speak.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
For I am with you to save you,” declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms,  
To root out and to tear down,  
To destroy and to overthrow,  
To build and to plant.”

## Introduction

Imagine your whole life is mapped out for you. Not just by anybody else but God. Wouldn't it be great if you live out His plan and purpose day in and day out? A good example is Jesus. Before the creation of the world, God has mapped out the entire life of Jesus the Messiah: His birth, mission, death, resurrection, and even His second coming. Many years later, Christ came to the earth and lived every day fulfilling God's plan for Him. What a life!

How about us? Well, most of us don't have such an adventurous life to live out or a grandiose purpose to boast about. Actually, I am glad that I am not Jesus Christ. I thank God for being me. I like being ordinary. Nothing fancy. Nothing to show off. Nothing to boast about. Just ordinary. Being ordinary doesn't mean that God has no plan for me. On

the contrary, He does have a plan for me. One thing I can tell you is this: it was God's plan for me to be born in Korea and come to America to serve as a missionary. That means a lot to Him and to me. What about yours? That's what we are going to think about this morning: God's purpose for you.

## **Content**

God's purpose for us is two-fold: His general purpose for all and His specific plan for you and me, His children.

### **God's Universal Purpose for Humanity:**

God has created everyone in His image and likeness, the Bible says. Every baby is born with divine print in their DNA. That means, we are not the final form of evolution, but the finest creation of God. We are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, not a byproduct of random chance plus time plus matter. We are God's masterpiece and His glory.

Let me be a little more specific. When God created us in His image and likeness, He embedded in us His characteristics that no other creatures have such as love and creativity.

God's Word explains divine purpose for humanity: we are created to **worship** the Creator (that's why only humans worship God--in fact, this is what unequivocally separates us from the apes), to **love** (God, each other, and even our enemies), to **fear God**, and to **walk humbly with God** (Micah 6:8). Hopefully, sometime later, I will cover this topic in another sermon. Such divine purpose applies to all people.

What about God's purpose for each individual?

### **God's Specific Purpose for You:**

Within the boundary of His universal purpose for all people that I explained a few minutes ago, God also calls out individuals to fulfill His plan and purpose in their lives. We are called to glorify God in our own specific contexts and in particular manners. E.g. 7.5 billions of people are called to live out God's general will for them. But God also calls out each one to fulfill God's plan for them in their unique situations and contexts.

Consider Jeremiah the Prophet, for example, who was active in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. in the land of Israel. God has called him out to warn His people of the impending doom and

destruction. When he spoke God's warnings to his people, he was hated, mocked, and persecuted. He was threatened to shut up. He was even imprisoned. In the end, he sadly witnessed the fulfillment of God's warning: the enemy's invasion and total destruction of his homeland. To serve as prophet in such a time was God's call for Jeremiah. No one else but he was able to do it.

Here's another example of God's unique plan for individuals. Consider Moses. Born in a Hebrew family, abandoned to the river, rescued by the Egyptian princess, adopted by her, raised in the Egyptian palace for the next forty years, tried to deliver his people in his own timetable with his own might to no avail, exiled in a foreign land for the next 40 years, started God's mission at the age of 80. What a life! What a God's mission for him! Moses alone could fulfill God's will for him and people of Israel. The list goes on. *Abraham, Joseph, David, Paul, Peter, John...* One thing is common though. All of them served and fulfilled God's plan and purpose for them. Uniquely. Faithfully. When they did, the kingdom of God advanced.

### **What about Me?**

So, the real question is: **what about me?** You may say, *I am not Jeremiah. I am not Moses. I am living in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Does God have a purpose for me?* The answer is a resounding YES! God has a unique plan for you, too, that only you can fulfill. The way I understand the uniqueness of God's plan for us is this: members and organs contribute their unique functions to the body. Or, in the household, different utensils (fork, spoon, pots, pans) in different shapes and sizes. Likewise, God has unique plan and purpose for each of us.

Concerning you, this is what God's Word says: He has laid out His plan for you *before the foundation of the world* (Ephesian 1:4). He has *chosen you to be saved* (2 Thessalonians 2:13). He has *predestined you to be His adopted child* through Jesus (Ephesians 1:5) and to have *eternal inheritance* in Christ (Ephesians 1:11). He created you for *good works* (Ephesians 2:10). He wants you to *glorify His name through your good deeds* (Matthew 5:16) and to *live for God's will* (1 Peter 4:2). All for you and me. E.g. Westminster Shorter Catechism summarizes God's purpose for you this way: *what is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever* [<https://reformed.org/documents/WSC.html>].

Once I preached a sermon on "the significance of the insignificant." You may think that you are a nobody and not important to anyone. I beg to differ. To God, you are important. In God's Kingdom, you matter. Eternally. You are a VIP in God's eyes. So am I. Remember: you are a child of the Heavenly King for whom God has a purpose.

A pastor named Rick Joyner visited Heaven in his vision. He met a homeless man up there. The man whom he knew about from his hometown. Let's call him Tom. In Heaven, Tom was wearing a crown of glory on his head. Pastor Joyner was impressed, actually, shocked. He thought it odd that Tom was recognized in Heaven with such an honor. On earth, nobody considered Tom great. Nobody cried for him when he died frozen one night. Yet, the same 'nobody' was 'somebody' in Heaven. The same 'insignificant' Tom was lifted up in God's presence.

Pastor Joyner later found out that Tom was awarded for one thing he had done on earth: in one cold night he gave up his winter jacket to his fellow homeless and froze to death afterward. In God's eyes, Tom fulfilled God's will with his last breath. Loving his neighbor. Only he could do it. Do likewise wherever you are, and God will remember it and His kingdom will advance.

## **Conclusion**

Let me end with a story of George Washington Carver: inventor of over 300 uses of peanuts. One night, looking up into the sky full of stars, he asked God, "*Lord, why did you create the universe?*" God's answer to him: it is too big of a question for you to ask. Carver went on: *Why did you create human beings?* The same answer: too big of a question to ask. Finally, Carver asked God, "*Why did you create peanuts?*" God said, "I am glad that you asked. That is the right question for you to ask." Then, God used Mr. Carver to invent so many great products out of peanuts that tremendously helped humanity in the years to follow. Only Mr. Carver could do it.

Let me emphasize this one more time. God's plan and purpose for you is so unique and specific that you are the only one who can fulfill it. Nobody else can. Go and do it every day and glorify God.

Amen.