

1 February 2015

What God has purposed He will do it! (Purposed Pt 1)

Introduction.

This is our first study on the word “purposed” in the Scriptures.

Three points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

1. What the Lord purposes to do, He will do it.
2. The Lord has purposed evil against our enemies.
3. The Lord has purposed to bring down all the honourable of the earth.

Meanings of key words.

* The Hebrew words that are translated “purposed” are also translated: consider, devise, invent, plot, and think evil. The Greek words that are translated purposed are also translated: conceive, consult, take counsel, determine, set forth, judged, make, be minded, ordain, and willed,

Our three points in more detail.

1. What the Lord purposes to do, He will do it.

Supporting Verse.

Is.46: 11 “Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken [it], I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed [it], I will also do it.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Verse 5 Israel is being asked “To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, compare me, that we may be like?” Verse 6 “They lavish gold out of the bag...and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.” Verse 7 “one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.” Verse 9 & 10 begin with the word “Remember”, with verse 9 being a blunt reminder of who He is, “for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.”

* Verse 10 continues “Declaring the end from the beginning”, saying “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” In other words, all that God speaks forth, which is His delight, He has purposed to do it (Is.46: 11 & see also Jer.4: 28).

Other scriptural support.

Jer 4:28, Is.14: 27.

Scriptural examples.

* God purposed in Himself “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” (see Eph.1: 10). As believers we look forward to this promise being fulfilled at the rapture (1Thes.4: 16 & 17).

Application of our verse today.

* That which the Lord has purposed to do today is different to what He did in the ages before, and will do in the ages to come, but all will be as He spoke it out (just as he did so when He created the heaven & earth, see Gen.1: 9), and purposed in His written work.

Illustration.

* I was speaking to a Roman Catholic (RC) recently who told me that he believed he was going to heaven when he dies, because that is what he believes, and he is allowed to believe what he wants.

* His son has moved away from Catholicism and become a Jehovah Witness (JW) and the RC respects his son’s choice. After he shared his beliefs I asked: “what about the Protestant, Mormon, JW, or Muslim, who would say exactly the same, how do we determine which is truth and which is error?” “Oh”, he replied.

Learning from our Illustration.

* The RC I met was either ignorant of what God has done in Christ, or he rejects His Son, and so it makes no difference to him that God had purposed through Christ to gather all who believe into one body, and **only those** in Christ will spend an eternity in heaven. The myth that good people go to heaven will only be a reality, as with all other myths, if God had purposed it, **if** He had spoken it and the words recorded in His Holy Writings. Otherwise, we can all believe what we like,

even if it be from a fairy tale like Bell and the Dragon. Unless the Lord has purposed it, what a person believes is a fable. Hence, that which the Lord has purposed He **will** do.

Challenge & or encouragement

* Let us be mindful of listening to what people believe, especially when they share their understanding of life after death, and let us speak to them from the Scriptures. Because it is only what God has purposed, has caused to be written, that will come to pass. He has purposed heaven for believers and hell-fire for those who reject Christ, therefore He will do it.

2. The Lord has purposed evil against our enemies.

Supporting Verse.

Is.19: 12 "Where [are] they? where [are] thy wise [men]? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* What has the Lord purposed against Egypt? In verse 14 we see that "the Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit." He purposed to bring a perverse spirit to cause them to err.

Other scriptural support.

Deut.30: 7, Is.23: 9, Jer.49: 20 & 50:45.

Scriptural examples.

* If Israel does evil in the eyes of the Lord then He **will** purpose to do evil unto them (Deut.30), and likewise if they hearken unto the Lord and turn from their evil ways, then, according to Jer.26: 3 the Lord will repent of the evil which he purposed to do unto them (see also Jer.36: 3).

Application of our verse today.

* Today our enemies are those who are the enemies of the Cross (those who walk contrary to Pauline teaching, see Phil.3: 18), and unless they repent of their error, then God will purpose tribulation upon them (2Thes.1: 6). For those who reject Christ then, as we have seen in our first point, God has purposed evil against them with eternal damnation in hell after they die.

Illustration.

* There have been preachers on the street who have been told to "stop preaching the gospel of Christ crucified because it is not what we are to do today", yet often those making such demands claim they are Christian. They get quite enthusiastic about stopping the preaching, claiming that it is disruptive, and the street is not the place for preaching but rather church is the place. When they are asked if they know what the gospel is today, and do they hear the gospel of Christ preached in their church, they will often reply, "no".

Learning from our Illustration.

* For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ today, for those who seek to desist from preaching today, whether they claim to be Christian or affirm that they reject Christ, the Lord has purposed evil against them.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* For the wicked who devise devices against God's children He has purposed evil against them. If they are those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ then the evil He has purposed against them is hell fire, eternal damnation, eternal separation from God in the pit of hell. If they are backslidden believers who oppose the work, the evil purposed against them will be in the form of chastisement.

* Let us encourage, regardless of whether they are lost or backslidden who oppose the work, or are enemies of the cross of Christ, to repent and turn to God, that He may repent of the evil which He has purposed to do against them. And remind the lost that until they believe in the Son of God, that He bore their sin on Himself, then that which He hath purposed (in His word) in the form of evil against our enemies, He will do it.

3. The Lord has purposed to bring down all the 'honourable' of the earth.

Supporting Verse.

Is.23: 9 "The Lord of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, [and] to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Verse 5 & 8 indicate that the rebuke from the Lord is focused on Tyre as it was previously reported of Egypt. And her traffickers are the 'honourable' of the earth. The traffickers are merchant-men, and merchants are also known as traders. Tyre is seen as a crowning city (verse 8).

"Verse 9 "The Lord of hosts hath purposed to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth", those who were honourable in their own eyes.

* How did He purpose to bring down the honourable? He gave "A commandment...to destroy the strong holds", those that make the city in the eyes of its inhabitants, proud (see also Job 22: 8), therefore, we say that the Lord hath purposed to bring down all the 'honourable', all the proud of the earth.

Other scriptural support.

2Sam.22: 28, Is.10: 33 & Zech.10 : 11.

Scriptural examples.

* The city of Babel built a tower "whose top may reach unto heaven", and hence they desired to be as gods. But the Lord purposed to bring them down, and in the next verse the scriptures record that "the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded", and the Lord purposed to bring them down by confounding their language (verse 7), and scattered them abroad (verse 8).

Application of our verse today.

* How does our verse apply to believers in the body of Christ today? Whether a person is in the faith (2Cor.13: 5), or outside of the ark (which today is Christ), a person can be haughty, and needing to be brought low, and therefore God will have purposed to bring them down.

Illustration.

* There are many examples of proud men but only one that can be identified from Scripture, the Pope, who "exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2Thes.2: 4). And if you are not sure that this verse applies to the Popes of Rome, who say they are descendants of Peter, well, read some Popish history where they have referred to themselves as Christ on earth. They have exalted themselves above God. Such a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing (Gal.6: 3).

Learning from our Illustration.

* Regardless of how proud, how haughty we are in this life, the Lord has purposed to bring us down. So if a man puts himself above God, or makes himself to be wise when he is not wise, then the Lord purposes to bring him lowly (Lk.18: 14). And if we sense pride, or arrogance in ourselves, then be sure that others around us who have discernment will pick it up. May we learn from the Scriptures that if we are haughty, and think ourselves to be something, then God has purposed to bring us down.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* This is one lesson that is easier to learn by obeying the Scriptures, rather than the Lord God purposefully bringing us down by tribulation. If we do not have the resolve to seek the Lord and learn from the Scriptures, then be sure that the Lord has purposed for each who are proud, to be brought low.

Summary of our three points.

1. What the Lord purposes to do, He will do it.
2. The Lord has purposed evil against our enemies.
3. The Lord has purposed to bring down all the 'honourable' of the earth.