

April 12 2015.

The devil's purpose is to harm us, whereas God's purpose is oneness in the body of Christ (Purposed Pt 4 & final).

### Introduction.

This is our fourth and final study of the word "purposed" in the Holy Scriptures.

### Previous points covered.

1. Purpose in your spirit to go or do.
2. Then start walking, or doing to fulfil what you have purposed,
3. Then as you walk or do, purpose to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

### Three points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

1. When you know the enemy has purposed to attack you, do something.
2. God has made known to us the mystery of His will which he purposed in Himself.
3. God purposed in **Christ Jesus** that Jew and Gentile would be fellowheirs of the one body.

### Our three points in more detail.

1. When you know the enemy has purposed to attack you do something.

#### Supporting Verse.

2Chr 32: 2 & 3a "And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the mountains..."

#### Context and meaning of our verses.

\* 2Chr.30: 26 "So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon...there was not the like in Jerusalem."

\* 2Chr.31: 20 "And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord. Verse 21 ...to seek his God, he did it with all his heart and prospered." Yet, because of the sin of Israel God allowed their enemies to enter into Judah, and encamp against the fenced cities (2Chr.32: 1), where the king of Assyria purposed to fight against Jerusalem. Once Hezekiah saw that his enemy purposed to attack, he did something, "He took counsel with his princes...to stop the waters...which were without the city" (verse 3).

#### Other scriptural support.

Ps.140: 4

#### Scriptural examples.

The enemies of Israel sought to defy "the armies of the living God with Goliath (1Sam.17: 36).

#### Application of our verse today.

\* We are not part of Israel, and our enemy is not the king of Assyria nor any of Israel's enemies identified in the Old Testament. So today we make a spiritual application of this verse and say that "our adversary the devil, is as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1Pet.5: 8). Hence, our enemy, the devil is constantly at our fence-line, he is constantly at our front door and has purposed to devour us, to deceive, and we need to be doing something in response.

#### Illustration.

\* Hezekiah was in the battle of his day, and once he "saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem" he set forth to defend the city from his physical enemy. I remember at BCNZ Karen found the symbol of satanism (the inverted pentagram) drawn in chalk outside the door of the women's lounge room. She let the authorities know so it could be removed, and set up a prayer group to pray over the college.

#### Learning from our Illustration.

When you see something as bold and blatant as a satanic symbol or less bold, which indicates that our enemy has purposed to attack you, then do something by using the "weapons of our warfare",

which “are not carnal, but mighty through God...” (2Cor.10: 4). “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...but against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph.6: 12).

\* If you are in the body of Christ, if you are a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ, then the enemy has purposed to devour you, and his attack is not over in a short burst, like the physical enemies of Israel, but our enemy has purposed to attack when you are most vulnerable.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Our encouragement today, especially to the young in the faith and those not eating pure spiritual food, or spending time with the Lord in prayer, is to be vigilant because our enemy the devil has purposed to attack you, when you are weak, tired and when you make “provision for the flesh” (Rom.13: 14). And when he does attack do something like put on the armour of (Eph.6: 12–18).

## 2. God made known to us the mystery of His will which He purposed in **Himself**.

Supporting Verse.

Eph.1: 9 “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* What is that mystery that was revealed to Paul (not Peter) that was purposed by God according to His good pleasure? It is revealed in verse 10 – “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.” Which I suggest is the time of the rapture when believers (“all things” as meaning people – see Eph.1: 22 & Col.1: 20) who have died and their spirit has gone to heaven, will return with the Lord and those who are saved and still alive will be brought up to meet the Lord in the air (1Thes.4: 14–17).

\* God did not make this mystery known to Abraham, Isaiah, Daniel or Peter, but unto “us”, which indicates the church via the apostle Paul, and He purposed it according to His good pleasure.

Application of our verse today.

\* The epistle to the church at Ephesus (a Gentile church) is written by the apostle Paul (the apostle to the Gentiles), and therefore applicable to us today. Hence, those in the body of Christ today are assured to be gathered in Christ at the fulness of times, along with all others in Christ. Why? Because this mystery was made known to the church and was purposed in God and is certain.

Illustration.

\* The Roman Catholic religion believes that their Pope descends from the apostle Peter, to whom Christ gave the keys to the church, and hence Peter in **their** view is the first Pope. But God made known to **Paul** the mystery of His will, that those dead and alive in the body of Christ (not the body of Rome) would meet the Lord in the air. How can Rome’s interpretation of Matt.16: 18 & 19 mean that Christ appointed Peter to be head of His church when such an interpretation contradicts other passages where God gave to Paul this mystery of those in the body coming together in the clouds?

Learning from our Illustration.

\* If you get an opportunity to sit next to a Roman Catholic who believes his church teachings, then ask him how can Peter be the first Pope if Christ did not reveal to him the mysteries of God that were hid from other ages, but rather gave them to Paul. For God made known to the church via Paul (his true church – the body of Christ) the mystery of His will which He purposed in Himself.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Encourage the young that are in Christ, that God’s will which was a mystery, but is now revealed unto His church through the Scriptures, is that all things (believers), past, present, and future will be gathered together in one, in Christ. So if your family is in the body of Rome, they will not be brought together in Christ because what God has purposed, He will bring it to pass. And God has made known to His church the mystery of His will (that we will be gathered together in one, when Christ comes in the clouds) which He purposed in Himself.

### 3. God purposed in Christ Jesus that Jew and Gentile would be fellowheirs.

Supporting Verse.

Eph.3: 11 "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Verses 3 and 4 speak of the mystery that had been written "afore", which had not been made known in other ages (verse 5). And that mystery is: "Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (verse 6).

\* Verse 9 confirms that in the mystery he has just mentioned there is fellowship (between Jew and Gentile in the body) which was hid in God, "who created all things in God". Verse 10 "To the intent that now **unto** the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known **by** the church the manifold wisdom of God". What does that verse mean? Well, when the church "preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;" (which is the "manifold wisdom of God"), they make it possible for all men to see the fellowship of the mystery (of one body – Jew and Gentile in Christ), and the intention is also that "**unto** the principalities and powers" in heaven would this mystery be known. Then we have our verse "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord". Therefore, the eternal purpose which God purposed in Christ is that all those that are in earth and in heaven, (Jew and Gentile) are "fellowheirs, and of the same body...in Christ".

Application of our verse today.

\* Our verse is from Paul's letter to the Gentile church at Ephesus and so is applicable to us today.

\* Today believers are spiritually in heaven, whilst our bodies are physically here on earth that the church would preach the manifold wisdom of God to make known the fellowship of the mystery (Jew and Gentile in one body) according to His eternal purpose in Christ.

Illustration.

For the believers that have gone before us, for those who have physically died and are in the body of Christ, they will be spiritually and physically with the Lord. So when we go to a funeral of a brother in Christ, there will always be the human pain of knowing that we will not see them again in this life (as was the example of Paul when he departed "unto the ship" Acts 20: 38, see preceding verse – 37). And because God has purposed Jew and Gentile to be fellowheirs, we are one body (alive or dead), and therefore there is no difference spiritually, whether dead or alive, we are with the Lord.

Other Scriptural support

Heb.9: 15.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* The promises given to Abraham are fulfilled in Christ (Gal.3: 29). The hidden mystery that the Gentiles would be fellowheirs is fulfilled in Christ (Eph.3: 6). **None** of God's promises are fulfilled in Mohammed, whom the Muslims claim came after Christ. **None** are fulfilled in Krishna, or their latest god whom they claim came after Christ. **None** of God's eternal purposes are purposed in the Mormon's prophet Joseph Smith nor his angel Moroni, but God's purposes were purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord, that Jew and Gentile believers are fellowheirs of one body.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Next time you sit next to a Hari Krishna ask them: where does it say in their holy book that their god purposed anything in their latest prophet, that came after Christ (and therefore they claim to be the most valid prophet from God). Because the Scriptures say that the Lord Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, He was the first and the last that God has sent to save man from their sins, and speak God's words, and it is only through Him that man must be saved, and it is only in Him that God has purposed His eternal purposes, and in Him both Jew and Gentiles are fellowheirs.

Summary of our fourth and final study and our three points covered.

1. When you know the enemy has purposed to attack you, do something.
2. God has made known to us the mystery of His will which he purposed in Himself.
3. God purposed in Christ Jesus that Jew and Gentile would be fellowheirs of the one body.