

Prov. 19:21: Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Intro: How often do your plans get frustrated? How often do your plans simply not happen?

- **Jas. 4:13-16:** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such & such a town & spend a year there & trade & make a profit" – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time & then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live & do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

- **Prov. 16:1:** The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD

- **Prov. 16:9:** The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps; **Prov. 16:33**

God's plan & purpose will come to pass, & it is better than yours, so trust Him & follow Him!

1. Many Are The Plans In The Mind Of A Man

Prov. 19:21: Many are the plans in the mind of a man

a. Man is created in the image of God, so he plans: Gen. 1:27: God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male & female he created them.

- Reflect like mirrors; moral beings; relational beings; speaking; ruling; rational; creative; planning

b. Many are the plans of man: Man makes lots of plans, but he can't always do them all.

- **John Kitchen:** The contrast is between the diversity & instability of man's plots & the singularity & certainty of God's plan . . . A man is driven by a sometimes unpredictable variety of thought processes, able to come up with a multitude of various plans & to creatively devise all manner of goals. This variety is in contrast to the singular counsel [purpose] of God.

c. When sin entered the world, man's plans opposed God's purpose: At the fall, Adam opposed God's purpose. Now we all do. **Rom. 3:23:** for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God

- **Rom. 3:10-12:** None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. **GOSPEL!**

2. The LORD Can Stop The Plans Of Man

- **The rest of the points of this sermon explain:** but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

a. God can stop all your plans: Ps. 33:10-11: The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. **(Isaiah 40)**

- **Jer. 19:7:** in this place I will make void the plans of Judah & Jerusalem

- **The Flood; The Tower Of Babel; Exodus; David & Goliath; Book Of Daniel**

b. Death stops the plans of man: Ps. 146:3-4: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

c. You need God & God's plan to be in all of your plans: Ps. 127:1: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

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3. The LORD Turns The Plans Of Man Wherever He Pleases

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a. The LORD turns the plans of kings: Prov. 21:1: The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

b. The LORD turns the plans of the wicked: 1 Sam. 2:25 (Eli warned his wicked sons): But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death.

c. The LORD turns the plans of men toward salvation or toward damnation: Jn. 1:12-13:

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **Rom. 9:15-24:** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, & I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, & that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, & he hardens whomever he wills. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use & another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath & to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory – ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

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4. The LORD Uses The Wicked Plans Of Wicked Men For His Good Purposes

a. The story of Joseph in the Old Testament: Ps. 105:16-17: When he summoned a famine on the land & broke all supply of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

b. The cross of the LORD Jesus Christ: Jn. 11:47-53: So the chief priests & the Pharisees gathered the council & said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs." ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, & the Romans will come & take away both our place & our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all." ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² & not for the

nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

- **Acts 4:27-28:** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod & Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles & the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand & your plan had predestined to take place.

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5. The LORD Plans Everything That Happens In Order To Accomplish His Good Purpose

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- **Ps. 115:3:** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

- **Ps. 135:6:** Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven & on earth, in the seas & all deeps.

John Piper: "Is God Less Glorious Because He Ordained That Evil Be?"

a. The LORD plans life & death: Job 1:21-22: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, & naked shall I return. The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

- **Deut. 32:39:** See now that I, even I, am he, & there is no god beside me; I kill & I make alive; I wound & I heal; & there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

b. The LORD plans disease: Exod. 4:11: Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

c. The LORD plans natural disasters: Ps. 105:16: When he summoned a famine on the land & broke all supply of bread

- **Ps. 135:7:** He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain & brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

- **Ps. 148:7-8:** Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures & all deeps, fire & hail, snow & mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

- **Mk. 4:39-41:** he awoke & rebuked the wind & said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" & the wind ceased, & there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" & they were filled with great fear & said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind & the sea obey him?"

d. The LORD plans destructive animals: 2 Ki. 17:25: [Assyrians populated Samaria with foreigners] at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the LORD. Therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

- **Dan. 6:22:** My God sent his angel & shut the lions' mouths, & they have not harmed me

e. The LORD plans all calamities: Isa. 45:7: I form light & create darkness, I make well-being & create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.

- **Amos 3:6:** Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

f. The LORD plans everything: Job 42:2: I know that you can do all things, & that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

- **Dan. 4:35:** all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

- **Isa. 46:9-11:** remember the former things of old; for I am God, & there is no other; I am God, & there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning & from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, & I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, & I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, & I will do it.

- **Ps. 139:16:** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

- **Eph. 1:11:** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

- **Matt. 10:29:** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? & not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Charles Spurgeon: I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes – that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens – that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence – the fall of . . . leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche.

WCF (Of God's Eternal Decree): God from all eternity did, by the most wise & holy counsel of his own will, freely & unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass

g. If you are a Christian, the LORD plans everything for your good: Jer. 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare & not for evil, to give you a future & a hope. [Card from Mom; **Spurgeon:** When you can't understand His hand, trust His heart.]

- **Rom. 8:28:** & we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

- **Rom. 8:32:** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ["My Father Knows What's Best For Me" poem]

God's plan & purpose will come to pass, & it is better than yours, so trust Him & follow Him!

Christ Jesus' Plans And Purpose Stand
All Guided By His Sovereign Hand
Though Man Does Plan And Rights Demand
Christ Rules And Reigns O'er All The Land
All Other Hope Is Sinking Sand
For Christ Would Die Just As God Planned
He's Cursed And Crushed Told Beforehand
But Rose Alive – On Death He'd Stand

His All Authority Expand
So Trust The King Who's Good And Grand
When You Can't Fathom What He's Planned
Hope In His Mercy-Heart And Hand
For All Events He Does Command
All For Your Good – Love Understand
All Other Hope Is Sinking Sand
All Other Hope Is Sinking Sand!