

# THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

*An Overview of the Plan for Mankind*



*For Beginner Students of the Bible*

A publication of the Sabbath Church of God  
Printed September 2019

Cover photo by Pinterest

Before time began two beautiful beings existed. They were so beautiful, it would take your breath away if you could look upon them. But you could not, for they could not be seen! They were very special beings. They were not human beings but spirit beings. Spirit beings are very real but cannot be seen. Then how could they be beautiful, one would ask?

If in your mind you could think perfect thoughts all the time, then you would have a little peek at their beauty. Their every thought was of sharing, giving, loving, kindness, cooperation, joy, peace and every good thing. In order for us to understand perfect beauty, we have beautiful things we can see. Beautiful things give us a small idea of how hugely awesome the perfection was of these two beautiful beings. Think of the highest, widest, purest waterfall tumbling down to the earth. Now just maybe you can get a little glimpse of their majestic beauty.

\*\*\*\*\*

These two spirit beings had names. One was called God, and the other was called the Word. God was the leader over the Word. In order for us to understand Their relationship, we can look at a family. God would be like the father or the head of a family. Just as everyone in a family shares the same last name, the Word was called God, too. There were two Beings in the God family. One was called God and the other the Word, who was also called God. The power that went out from both of Them was called the Holy Spirit.

Smith	One Smith family
Jim Smith	made up of two
	human beings, Smith
	being over Jim Smith

God  
God, the Word

One God family  
made up of two Spirit  
Beings, God being over  
God, the Word.

Because of Their perfection, They got along perfectly with each other. They never argued or got jealous of each other. They had perfectly beautiful thoughts. Part of Their beauty was perfect absolute cooperation. In order for us to understand perfect cooperation, we can listen to a huge orchestra playing a beautiful symphony together. A beautiful piece of music played by putting so many musical instruments together gives us a small idea of how hugely awesome Their perfect cooperation was.

\*\*\*\*\*

God and the Word wanted many more beings in Their family. They wanted children to love and who would love Them. They had the perfect unselfish desire to love and share love with others who would be just like Them. These two Beings came up with a plan to do just that. We will call it the Plan of God.

They had the ability to create. They could create by using Their special power that came from Them called the Holy Spirit. By this great power, They could create anything except one thing. They could create a being, but They could not make it love Them. This is where the challenge lie.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although God led the way for this plan, He gave the Word the opportunity to accomplish it. The Word set about tackling the awesome project. The first things the Word created were

helpers. These helpers would help Them accomplish this great plan, not that God and the Word needed help. They were all-powerful, all-knowing and capable in every way. This is just the way They chose to go about accomplishing the Plan of God.

The creation of many spirit beings called angels occurred. We do not know when this took place. We only know it was a very long time ago. The angels grew to love the God family and worshipped Them for Their greatness, Their perfection and Their love. But the angels were not part of the God family. It is true they were spirit beings like God and the Word, but they were not born of the God family. That was the ultimate goal of the Plan of God: to have children of God.

We do not know how many years went by after the creation of the angels. Next the Word created the universe with all the beauty we see when we look up into the night sky. This, of course, included the earth. The universe was not like the spiritual beings we have been talking about, for the universe was of physical matter that could be seen and touched. We can touch physical but not spiritual. The earth is the planet They would use for the special job of completing Their plan. When the earth was created, the angels shouted for joy! There was such excitement! The earth would be special, indeed, because it would be the home of every human being that would ever exist!

\*\*\*\*\*

As time went by, there would be special angels who were given special jobs. The very special angels were called archangels. There were only three archangels. One was called Michael, one was called Gabriel, and one was called Lucifer. Lucifer's name meant "light bringer". Lucifer was the most beautiful of all the angels. He was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, but he

was still under the charge of God and the Word. He was given the fantastic job of tending to the earth along with the other angels.

Eventually a very sad turn of events occurred. Lucifer's character turned ugly. He chose to become unloving, hateful, selfish and mean. What Lucifer wanted, he could not have, and that was to sit in God's place in the universe. Lucifer managed to lead one-third of the angels in a rebellion or uprising against God and the Word. Their spirit world became dark. If you could see them, you would see total sadness. There is no misery on earth to picture how they changed. But when we see a terrible thing on the earth, that is a little glimpse of how they became.

The role of Lucifer and the angels was to care for the earth, but instead a great war in heaven erupted. They fought God, the Word, Michael, Gabriel and all the other good angels. They were defeated and thrown to the earth. Because of their presence, all the spiritual beauty of the earth turned to darkness. The earth physically showed signs of what they had become spiritually. It still existed, but it was void of greatness.

God always calls things for what they are. Lucifer could no longer have a name that meant "light bringer", for he had become just the opposite. God changed Lucifer's name to Satan. Satan means "adversary" or enemy. The other angels who followed him were now called demons. If we could picture what these spirit beings had become, it would be like waste water as compared to beautiful, pure water. But they still had charge of the earth. God did not change the plan, even though Satan and his cohorts had changed their reason for existing. They no longer were helpers but enemies of God and the Word. Yet the Plan of God marched onward!

\*\*\*\*\*

The universe, including earth, had been created billions of years ago. We don't know exactly when. But we do know that six thousand years ago the Word set about furthering the Plan of God by bringing a little of their perfect beauty to a section of the spiritually darkened earth. This area of earth where the Word "healed" the spiritual waters was called The Garden of Eden. It was in this area the Word pushed back the ugliness of Satan and the demons. He gave renewed life to the plants, the animals and the sea creatures.

Twenty-four hour periods became known as days. Six twenty-four hour periods or days went by. During this time the Word went about the wonderful process of recreating the section of earth called the Garden of Eden for the first two human beings. After six days, the Word rested. He did not rest because He was tired, but because the Sabbath was being created by resting. Creation week had come to an end. The sun and the moon were now to help the first humans understand time. The Sabbath would be an example for humans to rest on that day. God wanted the first human beings to worship God and the Word and learn about Them and Their way of life of goodness on that day.

\*\*\*\*\*

The presence of human beings in the Garden of Eden was a point in God's Plan that must have been a very moving moment. The first two human beings that were created marked the beginning of a very important step in the plan. Their names were Adam and Eve. We have to remember God's goal was to increase the God family from two to many god beings. God and the Word wanted these beings to love Them of their own free will. They could not force them. This would be the first of

many events leading to that goal.

Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God. That means human beings look like God if He was to show Himself to us. He has hands, a back, fingers and a face just like human beings. Every human being also has a spirit. It is the spirit in man. We cannot see it, but that is what makes our brain different from the animal brain. We have complex thinking skills that animals do not possess. The spirit in man is what makes human life so precious over animal life. God in His supreme wisdom created the physical realm to help us understand the spiritual.

The Garden of Eden had many trees in it, including two trees that were symbols of two different ways of life. These two trees had names. The Tree of Life represented God's way of life. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represented Satan's way of life. The Tree of Life pictured love and giving. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil pictured hatred and getting.

\*\*\*\*\*

But God was dealing with physical creatures now instead of spirit. Adam and Eve were flesh and blood. When the Word set Adam and Eve in the garden, they were told they could eat from any tree in the garden, but not from the Tree of the Knowledge and Good and Evil. They were warned, but Satan presented himself to them in the form of a snake in the garden. He lied to Eve and convinced her to eat fruit from the tree that represented Satan's way of life. She then encouraged her husband, Adam, to eat too, and he did.

Now they understood what evil was. Now they were faced with a life of pressure to go Satan's way or choose God's way



instead. Had they of their own free will taken from the Tree of Life, they would have had the Holy Spirit as their power to do good. But instead they had to be banished from the garden, so they could not eat from the Tree of Life as well and gain eternal life. If that happened, sadly they would have lived in the same state as Satan and the demons: living forever in a state of hatred. Every human being to come after them would have to make the same choices every day of their lives.

To pick Satan's way always leads to unhappiness, selfishness, greed and hatred. These were the very same characteristics which embodied Satan. To choose God's way brings happiness, joy, love, harmony and peace. These were the same principles that embodied God and the Word. Every human being who would follow Adam and Eve would fight this struggle day in and day out. Sometimes they failed because all humans have sinned.

\*\*\*\*\*

Adam and Eve were flesh and blood, and they would eventually die. But part of God's Plan was to allow them to be part of the family of God by being born again as spirit beings. Then they could live forever in the God family! This would be possible for every human being ONLY after they had proven to God that they loved God's way of love over Satan's way of hate. To conquer good over evil of their own free will would have to be a requirement before the gift of eternal life could be shared with human beings.

Since Satan was a very powerful and wise being, no human being would be a match for Satan and win! God would have to give a small seed of the Holy Spirit to human beings, so they could withstand the obstacles Satan would throw in their way. God's Plan was to have human beings inherit not only the earth,

but the entire universe if they could accomplish this challenge of fighting off Satan! The stage was set for a deep hatred by Satan. You recall, his job was to care for the earth. Now that was being taken away from him. He hated human beings, and he became their enemy!

Every day, day in and day out, Satan is there in our lives bombarding us with invisible messages in the form of attitudes to get us to sin. Sin is choosing Satan's way over God's way. God has certain rules we must live by. He calls His rules the Ten Commandments. When we break one of these commandments, we have committed a sin. God could not look past sin. Sin has to be atoned for and erased. How could the Plan of God erase sin and provide the Holy Spirit as a helper for human beings to use to overcome sin, so they would have victory over Satan?

Good vs. bad  
Love vs. hate  
Light vs. dark  
Give vs. get

Three hundred and sixty-five days a year,  
every year of our lives.

What you are about to learn is incredible! God and the Word loved mankind so much that the Plan of God made the provision for sin to be erased if a perfect being died for everyone's sins! In other words, blood atones for, or erases, sin. Can you imagine the magnitude of that challenge! To live a perfect life, free of any kind of sin, sounds like an impossibility. The Word took up such a challenge for all people who have ever lived at any time!

\*\*\*\*\*

About two thousand years ago, there lived a virtuous woman named Mary whom God chose to give the seed of the Holy

Spirit, enabling her to become pregnant with a son. That son was the Word! He had no human being for a father, but God in heaven was the baby's father! An angel told Mary and her husband what was to be. They were filled with joy over their son who would be the Savior of the world for all mankind! The Word's name was now changed to Jesus Christ, the Son. God in heaven now became God the Father. If Jesus Christ could live a perfect life, upon His death the Holy Spirit would be made available to human beings who sought after God's way of life. The Holy Spirit would help human beings keep the commandments. This way of life can be called righteousness. Righteous men and women please God.

His perfect life would enable sin to be erased as well! Jesus Christ was willing to sacrifice His life. God the Father was willing to be separated from His Son for the first time ever! It was a tremendous sacrifice made for all human beings who ever lived and who would ever live in the future. But if there was anybody who could do it, it would be Jesus Christ because He had the Holy Spirit without measure. Yet He could be tempted by Satan just like every other human being.

\*\*\*\*\*

The entire 33 1/2 years that Christ lived as a human on earth, He never sinned! Satan tried to get Him to sin with every kind of temptation. Satan knew if he could not get Jesus to sin, eventually Satan would be doomed. At the time of Jesus' death and His resurrection back to heaven with His Father, Jesus had won the victory! Jesus Christ had done all that God's Plan required for human beings to become part of the God family. Because He lived a perfect life and His blood was shed, the Holy Spirit could now be available to humans. Now it was up to humans to make the right choices of living God's way over Satan's way. Jesus' death and resurrection meant victory over

Satan for human beings who would exercise their free will and choose God's way of life. This is how we willingly show love toward God.

According to God's Plan, human beings would live six thousand years on the earth as it was, before the God family would intervene. Six thousand years would be the time for Satan and his demons to influence the earth with their wickedness. Then their time would be up. They would be banished from earth and not be in charge of the earth any longer. Then there would be a one thousand year period called the Millennium. Jesus Christ would come back a second time to earth to live here during the Millennium.

Every week pictures this plan. Every day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day to God. The first six days of every week are for our own use. The last day of the week (the Sabbath) is given to God in worship and pictures the Millennium.

Many people blame God for unfortunate events that have taken place in the first six thousand years of mankind, when everything really revolves around people making choices because they have free will. Bad choices are made because man chooses Satan's way that leads to hatred, pain and sorrow. These are all of the things Satan stands for. Bad choices sometimes even hurt others who did not commit that particular sin. It all began with a bad choice by Adam, but all humans have sinned and all are guilty.

Sin of every kind of evil has been committed by man. In spite of all of this, God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son love us all and want all who have ever lived to enter Their family to enlarge it. They desire to share all that They have, for They

have perfect love. God is love!

\*\*\*\*\*

Over those six thousand years God has called a select group of people to have His Holy Spirit. They were called by God to be a part of His Church. They thirsted after righteousness and tried to do right. They would one day form His government on the earth during the Millennium. When Jesus Christ comes back a second time to the earth, He will be the Head of this government, just as He is the head of God's Church today.

It has been very difficult for this select group of people who have been called down through time. Satan and his demons have hated them more than any group of people because they knew eventually this group would take over the demons' place on this earth. God loves all people very much. All people will eventually have the Holy Spirit, for God is a fair God. But God is a rewarder of those who strive to obey Him and is working with those whom He has blessed with His Holy Spirit. The wonderful thing is all people will have the opportunity to become spirit beings! This is just the beginning!

His Church will be resurrected to a spirit life when Christ comes back to earth the second time. Many have died down through the ages, and some will be alive on earth when He comes back. Later, in an orderly fashion, God will resurrect all people to spirit life. He even will resurrect those who have been long dead, whether they lived to be one day old or 100 years old! Everyone will have a chance to accept God's way after they are taught it! God will not allow someone to become part of His family if they do not first accept all that He stands for. What a beautiful plan God's Plan is: to extinguish all bad and perpetuate all good!

\*\*\*\*\*

The good news is we are at the end of the six thousand year reign of Satan and his demons! Right now every nation, every city, every island and every mountain that we see has a demon over it, and Satan reigns over all of them. We can't see them, of course, because they are spirit, but they cause the terrible tragedies that take place every day. Every person they can cause to die early diminishes the number of people who will be in God's family because it extinguishes that individual's potential for future descendants. If Satan cannot have what he wants, he does not want anyone to have it! We can thank God for His wonderful plan, knowing that the demons and Satan will be taken care of once and for all.

But Satan is still the god of this world, and we cannot get away from him. He influences our thoughts by his attitudes like a receiver picking up radio waves. Only God knows exactly when Satan's time of reign over the earth will end. We can look forward to that time when we can make the earth the beautiful place it was intended to be, spiritually and physically.

Now we know the purpose of our lives! Develop righteous character by striving to do right. Beg God for mercy. Remember who the real enemy is. Overcome hateful and selfish ways. And people who develop righteous character truly will be rewarded the prize of all prizes in the end, and that is to be part of the God family in the wonderful world just ahead called the Millennium!

## BIBLE REFERENCES

Page 1: John 4:24, John 3:8, John 17:24, John 14:28, John 1:1

Page 2: John 4:34, John 1:12, Psalm 104:30, Colossians 1:16

Page 3: Hebrews 1:14, Job 38:4-7, Ezekiel 28:12-14

Page 4: Ezekiel 28:15-17, Revelation 12:4, Genesis 1:2

Page 5: Genesis 1:3, Genesis 2:2, Psalm 104:19, Genesis 2:15

Page 6: Genesis 1:26-27, Job 32:8, Genesis 2:9, Genesis 2:16-17, Genesis 3:6

Page 7: Romans 3:23, Ephesians 3:14-19

Page 8: Exodus 20:1-17

Page 9: John 1:14, Psalm 119:172, Hebrews 2:18

Page 10: Ephesians 2:1-5, John 12:31, I John 5:19

Page 11: I Corinthians 15:22-24, Ephesians 3:14-15, I Corinthians 15:51-57

Page 12: Revelation 21:7, Revelation 12:13

For a more in-depth study of this amazing story, visit our website [www.sabcog.org](http://www.sabcog.org) or write us at the Sabbath Church of God, P.O. Box 2413, Southern Pines, North Carolina 28388 USA