

The Church in God's Eternal Purpose

Eph. 3:8-11

Introduction:

- A. Members of the church are beneficiaries of God's eternal purpose (vv. 10, 11).
 - 1. Purpose a mystery in past ages (v. 9)
 - 2. Purpose now made known by the church (v. 10).
 - 3. Purpose now clear with establishment of church and revelation of the New Testament.
- B. With church in place, we can now see God's purpose unfolding in the Scriptures.

Discussion:

I. We See it in Certain *Promises* of the Scriptures.

- A. The seed promises.
 - 1. The seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15).
 - 2. The seed of Abraham (Gen. 22:18)
 - 3. The seed of Isaac (Gen. 26:4)
 - 4. The seed of Jacob (Gen. 28:14).
 - 5. The seed is Christ (Gal. 3:16)
- B. The Lord's promises (Matt. 16:18, 19; Mk. 9:1).

II. We See it in Certain *Prophecies* of the Scriptures.

- A. David (Psa. 110:1; 132:11; cf. Acts 2:30, 34).
- B. Isaiah and Micah (Isa. 2:1-4; Mic. 4:1-4).
- C. Daniel (Daniel 2:44).

III. We See it in Certain *Providence* of the Scriptures.

- A. Preserving man through Noah (Gen. 6).
- B. Development of chosen nation to bring Christ and church.
- C. Preservation of chosen nation until Christ and church.
 - 1. Preserving it through Joseph.
 - 2. Preserving it through Esther.
 - 3. Preserving a remnant out of Babylon.

IV. We See it in Certain *Prototypes* of the Scriptures.

- A. Melchizedek a type of the priesthood and rule of Christ. (Gen. 14)
- B. Blood sacrifices a type of the blood of Christ.
- C. Tabernacle/temple a type of the church.

Conclusion:

- A. God's eternal purpose is not longer a mystery — now see what God was up to.
- B. We can become conformed to God's eternal purpose by becoming members of his church.