Part 1/33 – **What's it all about?**

*09/06/15* – Introduction

Key thought – God is in control, and has a plan for the world and its people. He was in control in all the events recorded in the Bible. Faith clings to the truth that He is Lord in our lives, and that His plan is always good.

*God has a plan – a wonderful plan for the world and its people. How God put this plan into action, and carried it out, is the greatest story ever told. It is the story told in the Bible.*

*Our journey together through God's master plan begins today. The intent of this journey is to help you better understand this story of God and His people, and to help you learn about God's great plan. We hope that you will be excited and glad to discover how God does everything to make His plan come true.*

*We are glad you are here and we welcome you as a fellow pilgrim along this journey. May God use this time to grant you great spiritual growth in your love for Him and His Word and to help you become ever more sure that He truly cares for you and will carry out all His promises – according to plan. Blessings on your journey!*

1. What are some of the popular explanations of how our lives are shaped, and why things happen the way they do?

2. Where do we find God’s own explanation of life?

3. What is the key to unlock the secret of the whole story?

4. What are the three stages in God's plan?

5. Which stage are we in right now?

6. What is the key thing for you to realize as an individual when it comes to God's plan – the story of Jesus Christ?

Main Takeaways:

* God has an eternal plan for the world, which centers on the person God sent to be the Savior, and which is revealed in the Bible.
* You are included in the plan of God!

Key Bible passage: **2 Timothy 3:14–17** – It is only in the inspired Scriptures that we find the record of God’s plan for us. To believe His Word is to accept that we belong to His plan. It means that we have ‘salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.’

For reflection: Read **2** **Timothy 3:14–17**.

The Bible is God’s Word, so we can be sure that it is true! Through the inspired Scriptures, God has made known His plan to save the world through Jesus Christ. It is God’s means of making people wise to salvation and of helping them live as His people. *Why is the Bible God's Word even though it is written by men? For what purpose has God given us the Bible?*

Part 1/33 – **What's it all about?** – **Bible Study**

Bible search: *Reflecting on how God develop His plan and revealed it to His people in the Holy Scriptures.*

1. **Deuteronomy 4:32–39:** From the beginning, God had great plans for His chosen people, Israel. He protected them with mighty works, and explained His plans for them in His Word. *What special relationship did the Israelites have with the true God? Why?*

2. **Psalm 78:1–7:** Writing some time after David had become king, the Psalmist teaches his people about God's mighty acts for them, and encourages them to join him in praising God. *Why was it important that each new generation among the Israelites should learn of God's plans for them?*

3. **Ezra 7:6, 10 and Nehemiah 8:1-3:** God gave Israel His Word in writing. After the Israelites return to Palestine from exile in Babylon, God gathered His people around His Word under the leadership of Ezra. *Why was the written word of God so important for His Old Testament people?*

4. **Hebrews 1:1–3:** God carried out His plan to save the world through His Son, Jesus Christ, Who revealed His Word in a special way. *Why is Christ the key to understanding God’s whole plan?*

5. **Luke 1:1–4:** God inspired men to record the Good News about Christ, the person in whom His whole plan is centered. *What part did the writing of the New Testament play in God's plans?*

6. **Luke 24:44-49:** Jesus explained the Old Testament Scriptures to His disciples. He thereby prepared them for their work as His apostles, through whom God would carry on the next stage in His plan. *Why were the apostles such important people in God's plan?*

7. **Ephesians 3: 7–13:** At the right time, God revealed just what was involved in His amazing plan. *What was the secret plan which God revealed especially through the apostle Paul?*

8. **Revelation 22:12–17, 20, 21:** At the close of the apostolic age, Christ gave a final written message to His church as it waits expectantly for the consummation of God’s plan. What is the final great hope of God’s people?

For discussion

1. ‘God is in control.’ Discuss whether this is born out by our experience of life. In the light of such Scripture passages as **Psalm 139:1–14; Matthew10:28–30**, talk about some of the popular explanations of what life is all about.

2. Give examples of how God is still carrying out His plans today: through people who cooperate with Him; despite people who oppose Him.

3. How does it help us to know that, from the beginning to the end of the world, God is at work carrying out His amazing plan? Read **Romans 8:28–30**. Why can you be certain that you are included in God’s eternal plans?

For reflection: Read **2 Timothy 3:14–17**.

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