

## The Bible: God's Purpose For the Ages

- Everything is out of God (1 Corinthians 8:6; Romans 11:36)
- God creates the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)
- God creates man (Genesis 2:7)
- Man is tempted and sins ... the consequences is death (Genesis 2:17)
- Death (mortality) passes to all mankind, and all sin (Romans 5:12)
- God chooses Abraham as His instrument to bless all people (Genesis 12:3)
- God chooses Jacob as His instrument to bless all people (Genesis 28:14)
- Jacob's name is changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28)
- Jacob's descendents become known as the Israelites (Exodus 1:6)
- God chooses the Israelites as His instrument to bless all people (Remainder of Old Testament)
- Thru Moses the Law is given to the Israelites (Exodus 20)
- The nation of Israel grows & flourishes under David and Solomon (2 Samuel, 1 Kings)
- The kingdom divides and weakens due to Israel's sin and disobedience (1 Kings 12)
- The Israelites are defeated and taken into exile (2 Kings 17, 25)
- [How can God use Israel as His instrument to bless all people?]
- The prophets tell of a day when the kingdom will be restored to Israel
- John the Baptist proclaims to Israel that the kingdom is near ... repent and get ready (Matthew 3:1)
- Jesus proclaims to Israel that the kingdom is near (Matthew 4:17)
- Jesus sends out His disciples to Israel to proclaim that the kingdom is near (Matthew 10:7)
- Jesus goes only to the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 15:24)
- [Remember, Israel is the instrument God has chosen to bless all people]
- Under the leadership of the Jewish leaders, Israel rejects the kingdom & crucifies the king
- After the resurrection, Peter proclaims ... Repent, so restoration will come, & Jesus returns (Acts 3:19)
- Time and again, the Jews reject the message ... and the kingdom (Acts 28:23)
- Israel is "calloused" and set aside until the complement of nations enters (Romans 11:25)
  - Paul is severed as the apostle to the Gentiles
  - The restored kingdom for Israel is delayed ... God now working thru the Body of Christ
  - Gentiles are joint heirs with the Jews
  - Christ's Ambassadors, as if God entreating thru us – "Be conciliated to God" (2 Cor 5:20)
  - Making known the secret of His will, to head up ALL in Christ (Ephesians 1:10)
  - We await not the restored kingdom, but Christ to call us to meet Him in the air (1 Thes 4:13)
- Then Tribulation comes upon the earth as the kingdom approaches (Revelation)
- Christ (the King) returns to restore the kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 19:11)
- Christ reigns ... all peoples on the earth blessed thru Israel (Revelation 21:5)
- The wicked are cast into the lake of fire ... the second death (Revelation 21:8)
- Christ reigns until all enemies are under His feet ... all are subjected (1 Corinthians 15:25)
- Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess (Philippians 2:10)
- The last enemy (death) is abolished (1 Corinthians 15:27)
- Christ gives up the kingdom to God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24,28)
- God is All in all (1 Corinthians 15:28)