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THE SONS OF GOD: The Sign for Which the Whole Creation Groans

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The Sons of God Revealed Through the Transition from That Which Is in Part to the Fullness of God's Eternal Purpose

By Carl Timothy Wray

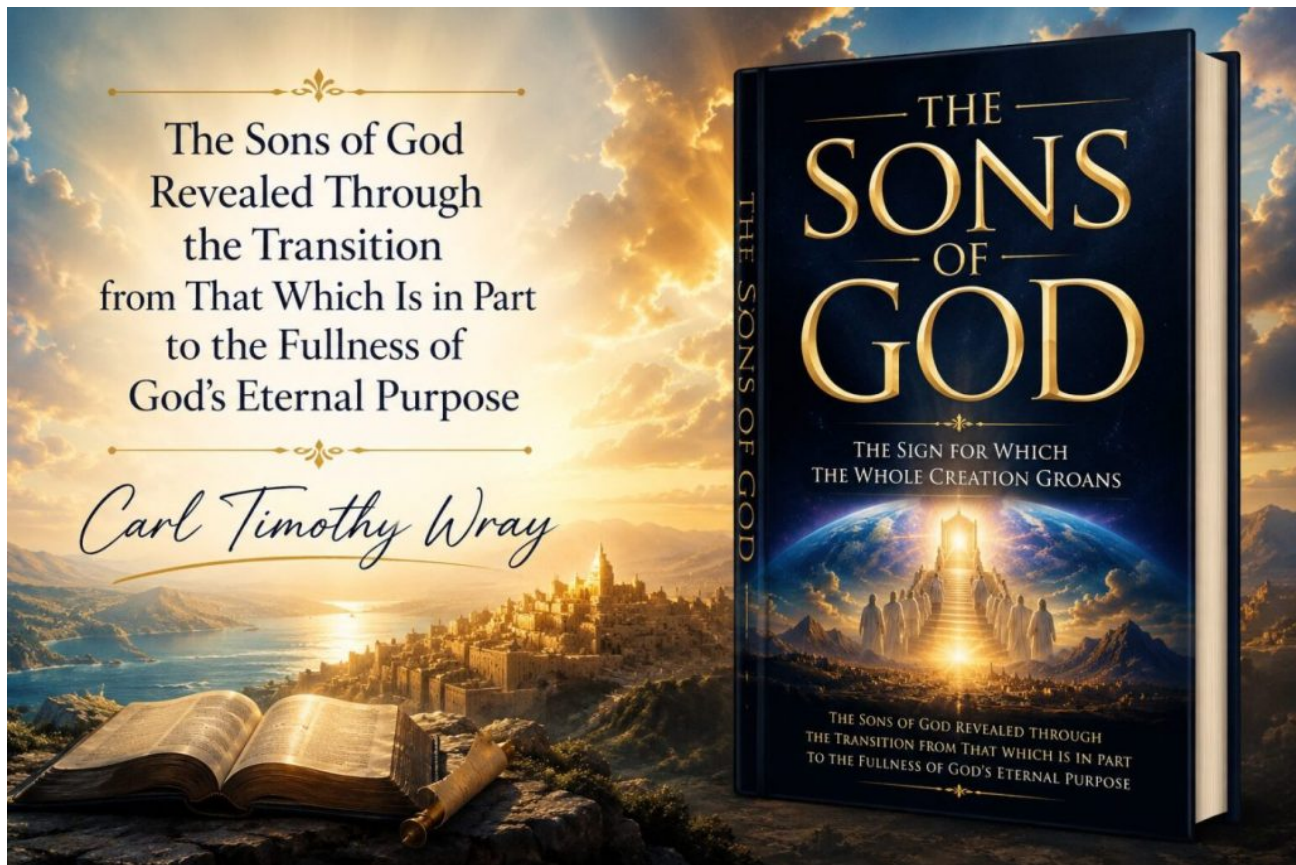
For more than four decades, [*Carl Timothy Wray*](#) has devoted his life to searching the Scriptures with one desire: to discover and proclaim the revelation of Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation. Through hundreds of books and thousands of hours of biblical study and teaching, his ministry has focused on unveiling the finished work of Christ, the eternal purpose of God, and the unity of the whole counsel of Scripture.

In this book, he follows one prophetic thread through the Bible to explore the question raised in Romans 8: **What is the sign for which the whole creation groans?** By tracing God's purpose from before the foundation of the world to the consummation of all things, this work presents a unified vision of the manifestation of the sons of God and the fullness of [*Christ's kingdom*](#).

The Sons of God: The Sign for Which the Whole Creation Groans explores the biblical revelation of the sons of God by tracing God's eternal purpose from Genesis to Revelation. Centered on Romans 8, this book examines the transition from that which is in part to the fullness of God's purpose, connecting the manifestation of the sons of God, the redemption of the body, the Melchizedek priesthood, Mount Zion, the Kingdom of God, and the reconciliation of creation into one unified scriptural vision. Designed for readers seeking a comprehensive study of God's eternal purpose, this book follows the thread of Scripture from creation to the consummation of all things in Christ.



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Introduction

The Scriptures tell one story.

Though written across centuries by many authors, the Bible reveals one eternal purpose unfolding from Genesis to Revelation. Every covenant, every promise, every prophet, every feast, every symbol, and every revelation contributes to that unfolding purpose.

At the heart of that purpose stands a remarkable declaration:

“For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of
 of God.” — Romans 8:19

Creation is waiting.

Creation is groaning.

Creation is expecting.

But what is it waiting for?

This book is an exploration of that question.

Rather than treating the manifestation of the sons of God as an isolated doctrine, these pages follow the thread of God's purpose through the whole counsel of Scripture. From the creation of man in Genesis, to the promises made to Abraham, to the prophets, the feasts of Israel, the ministry of Christ, the writings of Paul, and the visions of Revelation, one divine purpose unfolds with remarkable consistency.

The central theme of this book is that the Scriptures reveal a great transition—from that which is in part to the fullness of God's eternal purpose. The manifestation of the sons of God stands at the center of that transition and becomes the sign for which the whole creation groans.

This journey is not simply about understanding prophecy. It is about seeing the unity of God's purpose.

It is about following one thread from beginning to end.

May the Scriptures speak.

May Christ be revealed.

May the eternal purpose of God become clearer with every chapter.

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Chapter One

God's Dream Before the Foundation of the World

Every Great Story Begins with Purpose

Before there was a universe, before there was time, before there was sin, before there was redemption, there was purpose.

The Bible does not begin with God's reaction to man's failure. It begins with God's intention for mankind.

To understand the sons of God, we must begin where God began.

Not at Calvary.



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ecost.

Not even in the Garden of Eden.

We must begin in the heart of God before the foundation of the world.

God's Original Design

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion..."

— Genesis 1:26

The first chapter of the Bible introduces God's purpose for humanity.

Notice that before man performs anything, God declares what man is to become.

Made in His image.

Made after His likeness.

Given dominion.

This is not merely the story of Adam.

It is the revelation of God's eternal purpose.

Everything that follows in Scripture unfolds from this divine intention.

Dominion Was Never an Afterthought

God did not create mankind simply to exist.



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mankind to express His nature and to reveal His government throughout creation.

The image speaks of His character.

The likeness speaks of His life.

Dominion speaks of His rule.

These three truths become the foundation upon which the entire Bible is built.

As we continue through the Scriptures, we will discover that every covenant, every promise, every prophet, and every revelation moves toward the fulfillment of this original purpose.

Before the Foundation of the World

Jesus Himself takes us beyond the opening pages of Genesis and reveals that God's purpose reaches back even further.

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

— John 17:24

Before creation existed, there was love.

Before time began, there was purpose.

Before the first star was spoken into existence, the Father already knew the end from the beginning.

The unfolding story of Scripture is not God inventing a plan as history progresses. It is the unfolding of a purpose established before the foundation of the world.



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Chosen Before Time Began

Paul continues this same thread.

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

— Ephesians 1:4

The purpose of God did not begin with Abraham.

It did not begin with Moses.

It did not begin with Israel.

It did not begin with Bethlehem.

It began before the foundation of the world.

This truth becomes one of the great keys to understanding the Bible.

Everything in time serves what God purposed before time.

The Lamb Was Never Plan B

Peter reveals another remarkable truth.

“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

— 1 Peter 1:20



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as not God’s response to Adam’s fall.

Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world.

Redemption was not an emergency plan.

It was part of the eternal purpose that God determined in Christ before creation began.

The cross reveals the wisdom of God, not His surprise.

One Thread Running Through the Bible

From Genesis to the apostles, one truth continues to emerge.

God has never abandoned His purpose.

His methods have unfolded through different ages.

His covenants have revealed different aspects of His plan.

His prophets have spoken in many ways.

But His purpose has remained unchanged.

The same God who declared, "Let us make man in our image," is the God who works all things according to the counsel of His own will.

The Scriptures do not present many purposes.

They reveal one eternal purpose unfolding through many generations.



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g Ahead

If God's purpose was established before the foundation of the world, then an important question must be asked.

How has that purpose unfolded throughout history?

Has God changed His original design?

Or has every covenant, every promise, and every revelation been moving toward the same glorious fulfillment?

That question leads us naturally to the next chapter.

The Promise That Never Changed.

Chapter Two

The Promise That Never Changed

One Purpose Through Every Generation

If God's purpose was established before the foundation of the world, then the next question naturally follows.

Did God ever change His purpose?

As we journey through the Scriptures, the answer becomes wonderfully clear.

The ages changed.

The covenants changed.



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God changed.

The administrations changed.

But God's eternal purpose never changed.

The promise simply became clearer with every generation.

The Promise to Abraham

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..."

— Genesis 22:18

The promise given to Abraham was never intended to end with one family or one nation.

From the very beginning, God's heart embraced **all the nations of the earth**.

The promise was larger than Israel.

Larger than one covenant.

Larger than one generation.

God was already looking toward the reconciliation and blessing of the nations.

The promise had become clearer, but the purpose had not changed.

Paul Reveals the Seed

Centuries later, Paul opens the mystery hidden within the promise.



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Abraham and his seed were the promises made... And to thy seed, which is Christ."

— Galatians 3:16

The promise was never centered upon natural descent.

It was always centered upon Christ.

Everything God promised Abraham finds its fulfillment in His Son.

The promise has one center.

Jesus Christ.

Once we see Christ as the promised Seed, the entire Bible begins to harmonize.

The Promise Is Expanded

Paul continues.

“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

— Galatians 3:29

The promise now opens before us.

What God promised Abraham reaches beyond one nation.

Those who are in Christ become heirs of the promise.

The promise has always been moving toward a people united in Christ.



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Not by genealogy.

But by the purpose of God fulfilled in His Son.

The Prophets Saw the Mountain

The prophets looked beyond their own generation.

Isaiah saw a day that reached far beyond the kingdoms of men.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established... and all nations shall flow unto it.”

— Isaiah 2:2

Notice the direction.

The nations are not fleeing from the earth.

They are flowing to the mountain of the Lord.

The purpose of God is drawing the nations toward Himself.

The promise to Abraham begins to take prophetic shape.

The blessing of all nations remains God’s purpose.

The Knowledge of the Lord

Isaiah was not alone.



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w the same glorious vision.

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

— Habakkuk 2:14

This is not the language of defeat.

It is the language of fulfillment.

God’s purpose has always been larger than individual redemption.

His purpose reaches to the ends of the earth.

His glory.

His knowledge.

His kingdom.

His life.

The prophets continually lift our eyes beyond the present age to the fullness of God’s purpose.

The Promise Finds Its Direction

Every promise moves in the same direction.

Every prophet points toward the same horizon.

Every covenant carries the same thread.



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God has never abandoned what He purposed before the foundation of the world.

Generation after generation, He has unfolded His plan with perfect wisdom.

The story is moving forward.

The promise is becoming clearer.

The purpose is drawing nearer.

Looking Ahead

If the promise never changed, then why did God establish different administrations throughout history?

Why the Law?

Why the prophets?

Why Pentecost?

Why the gifts of the Spirit?

Why the fivefold ministry?

The answer is found in understanding that every administration serves the same eternal purpose.

That brings us to the next chapter.

Pentecost—God's Glorious Ministry of Preparation.



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Chapter Three

Pentecost—God’s Glorious Ministry of Preparation

God Never Gives a Temporary Work Without an Eternal Purpose

The promise never changed.

But God has unfolded that promise through different administrations, each serving His eternal purpose.

Every administration was necessary.

Every season revealed more of Christ.

Every work of the Spirit moved God’s people one step closer to the fulfillment of His purpose.

Pentecost was not the destination.

Pentecost was God’s glorious preparation for what was yet to come.

The Promise of the Father

Jesus spoke of a promise that would change history.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”

— Acts 1:8



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The Day of Pentecost was not an accident of history.

It was the fulfillment of the Father's promise.

The Holy Spirit was poured out to empower the Church, reveal Christ, proclaim the gospel, and gather a people unto His name.

Pentecost marked the beginning of a glorious administration that would carry the gospel to the nations.

The Birth of the Church

Luke records the fulfillment.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come... they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..."

— Acts 2:1,4

The Church was born in power.

The gospel spread throughout the world.

Lives were transformed.

The sick were healed.

The dead were raised.

The gifts of the Spirit operated.

The kingdom of God was proclaimed.



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... began at Pentecost has blessed countless generations.

Pentecost must never be viewed with anything less than gratitude and honor.

It was God's work.

It was God's Spirit.

It was God's wisdom unfolding His eternal purpose.

Christ Gave Gifts to His Church

As the Church grew, Christ continued His work by giving ministry gifts to His body.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

— Ephesians 4:11

These ministries were not given to exalt individuals.

They were given to equip the saints.

They were given to build the Body of Christ.

They were given to strengthen, mature, and prepare God's people.

Every true ministry points away from itself and toward Christ.

The Goal of the Fivefold Ministry

Paul tells us why these gifts were given.



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...the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

— Ephesians 4:12

God has never desired a weak Church.

He has always desired a mature people.

The purpose of ministry is not dependence upon ministers.

It is the growth of the Body into the measure God has ordained.

Every sermon.

Every act of service.

Every gift of the Spirit.

Every labor of love.

Every sacrifice.

Everything moves toward maturity.

Growing Into Christ

Paul continues.

“...till we all come in the unity of the faith... unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

— Ephesians 4:13



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direction.

Paul never points the Church backward.

He always points forward.

Forward into unity.

Forward into maturity.

Forward into Christ.

Pentecost was never about remaining where we began.

It was about growing into the fullness of Christ.

The Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost continually leads the Church toward God's appointed goal.

A Glorious Ministry With a Greater Hope

As magnificent as Pentecost is, the apostles themselves continued to speak of a hope still before them.

Paul preached with power.

He established churches.

He revealed mysteries hidden from ages.

He finished his course.

Yet he also wrote of creation groaning, of believers waiting, and of the redemption



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His ministry was complete.

His hope remained alive.

That is not a contradiction.

It is a revelation that preparation and fulfillment are not the same.

Pentecost is glorious because it prepares the people of God for the fullness of His eternal purpose.

Looking Ahead

If Paul reached spiritual maturity, fulfilled his ministry, and finished his race...

Why did he still groan?

Why did he still speak of waiting?

Why did he still long for something yet to come?

The answer opens one of the greatest revelations in all of Scripture.

It is the groan of the mature.

That is where we now turn.

Chapter Four

The Groan of the Mature



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A Question That Demands an Answer

If Pentecost is the final destination of God's purpose, then one question remains.

Why did Paul still groan?

This is not a small question.

It reaches into the very heart of God's eternal purpose.

Paul was not a spiritual infant.

He was not struggling to know Christ.

He was not living in defeat.

He was not lacking the power of God.

He was the apostle to the Gentiles.

He preached Christ throughout the nations.

He established churches.

He revealed mysteries hidden from ages and generations.

He declared the whole counsel of God entrusted to him.

Yet Paul tells us there remained something for which he eagerly waited.

Why?



The Whole Creation Groans

Paul writes:

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

— Romans 8:19, 22

Notice where Paul begins.

Not with one believer.

Not with one church.

Not with one nation.

He lifts our eyes to the whole creation.

Creation itself is waiting.

Creation itself is groaning.

Creation itself is looking toward a moment that has not yet arrived.

This is one of the greatest questions in all of Scripture.

What is the whole creation waiting to see?



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we Ourselves Groan

Paul then includes himself.

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

— Romans 8:23

Paul does not speak as a man without the Spirit.

He says, **“we... have the firstfruits of the Spirit.”**

He does not speak as a man without revelation.

He does not speak as a man without victory.

He speaks as one who has received the firstfruits, yet who still waits for the redemption of the body.

The groan is not the cry of defeat.

It is the expectation of fulfillment.

Clothed Upon With Life

Paul returns to this same hope in another letter.

“Not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:4



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: longing to escape.

He was longing for mortality to be swallowed up by life.

His hope was not centered in death.

His hope was centered in the triumph of life.

The language is consistent.

Romans.

Corinthians.

The same apostle.

The same hope.

The same expectation.

Pressing Toward the Prize

Even near the end of his ministry, Paul continued to look ahead.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

— Philippians 3:14

Paul never lost sight of the goal.

His ministry was fruitful.



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s faithful.

His revelation was profound.

Yet his eyes remained fixed upon the fullness of God's purpose.

He pressed forward because he knew God's work was moving toward a glorious consummation.

I Have Finished My Course

Near the end of his life, Paul could say:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

— 2 Timothy 4:7

What remarkable words.

Paul finished his course.

He kept the faith.

He fulfilled the ministry entrusted to him.

Nothing remained undone concerning his calling.

Yet the hope he had written about remained before him.

This is not contradiction.

It is revelation.



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complete the ministry God has given him within one administration while still pointing toward the fullness of God's eternal purpose.

The Turning Point

Romans 8 is not describing spiritual failure.

It is revealing holy expectation.

Paul was not looking backward.

He was looking forward.

Forward to the redemption of the body.

Forward to the manifestation of the sons of God.

Forward to the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose.

The groan of the mature is not the sound of despair.

It is the sound of hope standing at the threshold of fulfillment.

Looking Ahead

If the whole creation is waiting...

If Paul was waiting...

If believers possessing the firstfruits of the Spirit were waiting...

Then what is the event for which they waited?

Paul has already given the answer.



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Now we must follow him into one of the greatest declarations in all the Scriptures.

The Sign for Which the Whole Creation Groans.

Chapter Five

The Sign for Which the Whole Creation Groans

One Scripture That Changes Everything

There are passages in the Scriptures that illuminate individual doctrines.

Then there are passages that illuminate the entire Bible.

Romans chapter eight belongs in the second category.

Here, the apostle Paul pulls back the curtain and allows us to see God's purpose from the perspective of creation itself.

Creation is not merely existing.

Creation is waiting.

Creation is expecting.

Creation is groaning.

But why?

The Earnest Expectation of Creation



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“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”

— Romans 8:19

The Holy Spirit immediately directs our attention to one event.

The manifestation of the sons of God.

Paul does not say creation waits for another prophet.

He does not say creation waits for another revival.

He does not say creation waits for another movement.

He identifies one great expectation that stands before the whole creation.

The manifestation of the sons of God.

If the whole creation is waiting for this one event, then this subject cannot be a minor theme within the Scriptures.

It must stand among the central purposes of God.

Subjected in Hope

Paul continues.

“For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.”



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is 8:20

Notice the remarkable language.

Creation was subjected.

But it was subjected in hope.

Hope means God never abandoned His purpose.

Even in the midst of weakness, decay, and mortality, the Creator established hope from the very beginning.

Hope has always pointed toward fulfillment.

The Glorious Liberty

Paul now reveals why creation waits.

“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

— Romans 8:21

The goal is not merely individual blessing.

The goal reaches to creation itself.

Bondage gives way to liberty.

Corruption gives way to life.

The purpose of God reaches beyond one individual and extends to the whole



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The hope announced in Genesis continues to unfold.

The Whole Creation Groans

Paul repeats the truth.

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

— Romans 8:22

This is not the groan of hopelessness.

It is the groan that precedes birth.

Throughout the Scriptures, travail always anticipates the bringing forth of what God has purposed.

Creation is not mourning the absence of purpose.

Creation is longing for its unveiling.

We Ourselves Also Groan

Paul now includes the saints.

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit... waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

— Romans 8:23



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Who possess the firstfruits of the Spirit still look forward.

The apostle joins himself to that expectation.

He is not ashamed to say that he waits.

He is not ashamed to say that he groans.

His hope reaches beyond what he has already experienced.

He looks toward the redemption of the body.

The firstfruits create expectation for the harvest.

The Sign

The question must now be asked.

If the whole creation waits...

If creation groans...

If the saints groan...

If Paul groans...

What is the sign for which they are waiting?

Paul has already answered.

The manifestation of the sons of God.

This is the thread that begins to gather the entire Bible into one unified vision.



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The promise made before the foundation of the world.

The dominion declared in Genesis.

The blessing promised to Abraham.

The hope proclaimed by the prophets.

The ministry of Christ.

The outpouring at Pentecost.

The expectation of the apostles.

Each one moves toward this great unveiling.

The Thread Begins to Converge

From this point forward, the Scriptures begin to converge with increasing clarity.

The symbols multiply.

The witnesses increase.

The testimony grows stronger.

The stone cut without hands.

The kingdom that fills the whole earth.

The priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

The man-child.



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The overcomers.

The one hundred and forty-four thousand.

Mount Zion.

The deliverers upon Mount Zion.

Different witnesses.

One thread.

Different pictures.

One purpose.

Different revelations.

One eternal design.

Romans 8 becomes the doorway through which these witnesses are gathered into one testimony.

Looking Ahead

If the manifestation of the sons of God is the sign for which the whole creation groans...

When does that manifestation occur?

What changes when that transition takes place?

What does Paul mean when he speaks of that which is in part giving way to that



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complete?

Those questions lead us naturally into the next chapter.

The Transition from That Which Is in Part to Fullness.

Chapter Six

The Transition from That Which Is in Part to Fullness

God Is Always Moving Toward Fullness

From the opening pages of Genesis, one truth becomes increasingly clear.

God never begins a work with the intention of leaving it incomplete.

Every seed looks toward a harvest.

Every promise looks toward fulfillment.

Every shadow looks toward its substance.

Every beginning anticipates its completion.

The entire testimony of Scripture reveals a God who brings His purpose to its appointed fullness.

That Which Is in Part

Paul writes:



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“We know in part, and we prophesy in part.”

— 1 Corinthians 13:9

Notice Paul's language.

He does not diminish what God has given.

He simply identifies its measure.

There is genuine knowledge.

There is genuine prophecy.

There is genuine ministry.

Yet Paul says these belong to that which is **in part**.

The Spirit truly works.

Christ is truly revealed.

The Church is truly built.

But Paul points beyond the present measure toward something greater.

When That Which Is Perfect Is Come

Paul continues.

"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."



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1 Corinthians 13:10

The Scriptures now introduce a transition.

Not from truth to error.

Not from Christ to something greater than Christ.

But from partial measure to fullness.

God never intended His people to remain forever in what is partial.

The purpose of every divine administration is to move His people toward the fullness of His purpose.

From Glory to Glory

Paul speaks of another transition.

“But we all... are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

The work of the Spirit is progressive.

He reveals Christ.

He transforms.

He conforms believers to the image of the Son.

Every movement of the Spirit advances God’s eternal purpose.



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Nothing stands still in the kingdom of God.

Everything moves toward His appointed end.

Mortality Swallowed Up by Life

Paul returns to the hope that filled his heart.

“That mortality might be swallowed up of life.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:4

Notice the direction.

Paul does not describe life being swallowed by mortality.

He declares the opposite.

Mortality is swallowed up by life.

This is not merely improvement.

It is transition.

The language points toward the triumph of God’s life over everything belonging to corruption and death.

Our Citizenship

Paul writes again:

“...who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...”



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— Philippians 3:20–21

The apostle's hope remains consistent.

He speaks of transformation.

He speaks of conformity.

He speaks of glory.

The purpose of God does not stop with forgiveness.

It moves toward complete conformity to Christ.

The same Christ who redeemed His people also brings His work to completion.

The Pattern Never Changes

Throughout the Scriptures, God reveals the same pattern.

Passover leads to Pentecost.

Pentecost points beyond itself.

Promise moves toward fulfillment.

Preparation gives way to manifestation.

The firstfruits anticipate the harvest.

Every step serves the next until God's purpose stands complete.

The Lord never abandons what He begins.



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He always finishes what He starts.

The Great Transition

The transition from that which is in part to fullness is not the abandonment of what God has done.

It is the fulfillment of what He has always intended.

Everything the Spirit accomplished through the ages has been moving toward this unveiling.

The preparation was glorious.

The fulfillment is glorious.

The promise was true.

The fulfillment is true.

The journey has always been from measure to fullness, from beginning to completion, from promise to manifestation.

Looking Ahead

If there is one great transition...

Then the Scriptures should bear witness to it again and again.

Not always with the same language.

Not always with the same symbol.

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same divine purpose.

The next chapter follows those witnesses across the whole Bible.

The stone cut without hands.

The kingdom that fills the earth.

The priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

The man-child.

The one hundred and forty-four thousand.

Mount Zion.

The deliverers upon Mount Zion.

Many witnesses.

One thread.

One purpose.

One glorious transition.

Chapter Seven

One Sign Revealed Through Many Witnesses



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Peaks with Many Voices but One Purpose

The Scriptures never present God's eternal purpose through one picture alone.

Instead, the Holy Spirit paints the same reality with many different images.

One prophet sees a stone.

Another sees a kingdom.

Another sees Zion.

Another sees a priesthood.

Another sees a man-child.

Another sees overcomers.

Another sees the firstfruits.

Another sees the sons of God.

The symbols change.

The revelation does not.

The names change.

The purpose does not.

The Holy Spirit is revealing one glorious reality from many different vantage points.



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One Cut Without Hands

Daniel saw the kingdom long before its fullness appeared.

“Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands... and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.”

— Daniel 2:34–35

Daniel does not see merely a stone.

He sees a kingdom that begins small and ultimately fills the whole earth.

The mountain fills the earth because the kingdom of God reaches its appointed fullness.

The vision points beyond the kingdoms of men to the everlasting kingdom established by God Himself.

The purpose has never changed.

The Kingdom That Shall Never Be Destroyed

Daniel continues.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...”

— Daniel 2:44

Every kingdom established by man eventually passes away.

God’s kingdom does not.

It grows.



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It fills the whole earth.

The thread continues.

A Priest Forever

David looks ahead.

“The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

— Psalm 110:4

Centuries later, the writer of Hebrews opens the meaning.

“...made... after the power of an endless life.”

— Hebrews 7:16

The priesthood reaches beyond genealogy.

Beyond mortality.

Beyond succession.

Its foundation is life.

Not temporary life.

Endless life.



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es continue revealing the same movement—from what passes away to forever.

The Man-Child

John now sees another witness.

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron...”

— Revelation 12:5

The picture changes.

The purpose does not.

Authority.

Rule.

Government.

The fulfillment of God’s purpose advancing through Christ.

The same thread appears again.

The Firstfruits upon Mount Zion

John is given another vision.

“And, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand...”

— Revelation 14:1



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speaks of God’s established government.

The Lamb stands there.

Those with Him stand there.

Once again the Scriptures point toward God's purpose reaching its appointed goal.

The picture has changed.

The testimony has not.

Deliverers Upon Mount Zion

Obadiah joins the chorus.

"And saviours shall come up on mount Zion... and the kingdom shall be the Lord's."

— Obadiah 1:21

Notice how the prophet ends.

"The kingdom shall be the Lord's."

Every witness has been moving toward the same conclusion.

The kingdom belongs to the Lord.

His purpose fills the earth.

His government stands forever.



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...many Witnesses Become One

Daniel.

David.

Isaiah.

Obadiah.

Paul.

John.

Different generations.

Different symbols.

One testimony.

The Scriptures are not asking us to choose between the stone and the kingdom.

Between the priesthood and Zion.

Between the man-child and the firstfruits.

Between the sons of God and the overcomers.

They are inviting us to see the unity of God's eternal purpose.

Every witness points toward the same glorious reality.

Every prophet is looking toward the same horizon.



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Every apostle is proclaiming the same Christ.

Every symbol contributes to one unfolding revelation.

The Thread Is Now Visible

The further we travel through the Scriptures, the clearer the thread becomes.

What appeared as separate revelations now stand together.

The stone.

The kingdom.

The priesthood.

The sons of God.

The firstfruits.

The man-child.

Mount Zion.

The overcomers.

The deliverers.

The Lamb.

They are no longer isolated truths.

They become one unified testimony revealing God's eternal purpose moving toward fulfillment.



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Looking Ahead

If the Scriptures bear witness through many symbols to one great transition...

What does that ministry look like when it stands in the earth?

What changes when the preparation gives way to fullness?

What does the ministry of the fullness of Christ accomplish?

The next chapter answers those questions.

The Ministry of Fullness.

Chapter Eight

The Ministry of Fullness

The Great Transition

The Scriptures have led us to this moment.

God's purpose was established before the foundation of the world.

The promise never changed.

Pentecost faithfully prepared the people of God.

Paul revealed the groan of creation.



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lared the sign for which the whole creation waits.

The prophets and apostles bore witness through many symbols.

Now the transition stands before us.

The ministry of preparation gives way to the ministry of fullness.

The Power of an Endless Life

The writer of Hebrews reveals the foundation of this priesthood.

“...who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.”

— Hebrews 7:16

The ministry of fullness is not established upon natural succession.

It is not sustained by human strength.

It is not measured by the limitations of mortality.

Its foundation is the life of Christ.

The same life that conquered death.

The same life that ascended above all things.

The same life that lives forever.

This is the life that establishes the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.



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Christ the Firstborn Among Many Brethren

Paul writes:

“For whom he did foreknow... that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

— Romans 8:29

The Father did not reveal His Son merely as an isolated wonder.

He revealed Him as the Firstborn.

The Firstborn speaks of a divine purpose reaching beyond one Person to a family brought into conformity with the Son.

The glory revealed in Christ becomes the pattern toward which God’s purpose moves.

A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

The writer of Hebrews declares:

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved...”

— Hebrews 12:28

The kingdoms of this world rise and fall.

Empires appear and disappear.

Human governments pass away.

dom of God remains.



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Its foundation cannot be shaken because its King cannot be shaken.

Its life cannot be overcome because Christ has overcome.

Its purpose cannot fail because God finishes everything He begins.

Established in Zion

Isaiah declares:

“Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

— Isaiah 2:3

God’s purpose does not end with a people gathered to Him.

It continues through a people sent by Him.

Zion is presented throughout the Scriptures as the place from which the government of God proceeds.

The word of the Lord goes forth.

His righteousness is proclaimed.

His ways are made known.

The kingdom advances according to His purpose.



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...ers of Reconciliation

Paul writes:

“And hath committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:18

The ministry of Christ has always been a ministry of reconciliation.

It proclaims peace where there has been division.

Life where there has been death.

Hope where there has been despair.

Grace where there has been guilt.

Mercy where there has been judgment.

The life freely received becomes the life freely given.

The mercy received becomes the mercy extended.

The grace received becomes the grace proclaimed.

The love revealed in Christ becomes the love carried into the world.

The Kingdom Advances

Isaiah saw the nations coming.

Habakkuk saw the earth filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Daniel saw the stone become a mountain that filled the whole earth.



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The prophets were not describing unrelated visions.

They were bearing witness to the advancing purpose of God.

The kingdom does not retreat.

The kingdom advances.

The light shines.

The knowledge spreads.

The government of Christ increases.

His purpose moves steadily toward its appointed fulfillment.

The Living Testimony

The ministry of fullness is not merely another message to be preached.

It is the living testimony of the triumph of Jesus Christ.

It bears witness that the Lord is faithful to complete what He began.

It proclaims that His kingdom cannot fail.

It reveals that His purpose has never changed.

Everything promised before the foundation of the world continues moving toward its appointed fulfillment.

The whole creation has waited.



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s have spoken.

The apostles have testified.

The Scriptures have declared the purpose of God from generation to generation.

Now every witness points to the triumph of Christ and the completion of His eternal purpose.

Looking Ahead

If the ministry of fullness reveals the advancing kingdom of God...

What does that kingdom accomplish in creation?

How do the prophets describe the earth under the reign of Christ?

How does the Bible portray the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all nations?

Those questions lead us into the next chapter.

The Kingdom Filling the Earth.

Chapter Nine

The Kingdom Filling the Earth

The Kingdom Has Always Been God's Purpose

From the beginning, God's purpose has never been limited to one family, one nation, or one generation.



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has always been destined to fill His creation.

The prophets saw it.

Jesus proclaimed it.

The apostles preached it.

The book of Revelation brings it to its glorious consummation.

The kingdom of God is the great theme that runs through the whole counsel of God.

The Stone Becomes a Mountain

Daniel saw the beginning of God's everlasting kingdom.

"And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

— Daniel 2:35

The stone does not remain a stone.

It becomes a mountain.

The mountain does not remain confined to one place.

It fills the whole earth.

This is the language of increase.

This is the language of fulfillment.



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The purpose of God moves steadily toward its appointed end until His kingdom fills the earth.

A Kingdom That Shall Never End

Daniel continues.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed... and it shall stand for ever.”

— Daniel 2:44

Every kingdom built by man has an ending.

God’s kingdom does not.

It cannot be conquered.

It cannot be replaced.

It cannot be overthrown.

It stands forever because it is established by the King of kings.

The Increase of His Government

Isaiah adds another witness.

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...”

— Isaiah 9:7



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notice the language.

Increase.

Not decrease.

Expansion.

Not retreat.

The government of Christ continually advances according to the purpose of God.

His peace increases.

His righteousness increases.

His kingdom increases.

The prophets consistently speak with one voice.

The Nations Shall Flow Unto It

Isaiah continues.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established... and all nations shall flow unto it.”

— Isaiah 2:2

The direction is remarkable.

The nations are drawn toward the mountain of the Lord.



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o learn His ways.

They come to walk in His paths.

The word of the Lord goes forth from Zion.

The government of God is revealed.

The kingdom is not hidden.

It becomes the hope of the nations.

The Earth Filled with His Glory

Habakkuk declares:

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

— Habakkuk 2:14

What a magnificent promise.

Not one nation.

Not one continent.

The earth.

The knowledge of the Lord spreads until His glory fills creation like the waters covering the sea.

This has always been God’s purpose.



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The prophets never lost sight of it.

Neither should we.

The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth

Jesus confirms the promise.

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

— Matthew 5:5

Christ does not speak of abandoning the earth.

He speaks of inheritance.

The kingdom of God is not the surrender of creation.

It is the fulfillment of God’s purpose for creation.

The One who created all things is also bringing all things toward His appointed end.

Every Enemy Under His Feet

Paul carries the vision forward.

“For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”

— 1 Corinthians 15:25

The reign of Christ is purposeful.

Every enemy is brought beneath His feet.



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The last enemy is death.

Nothing contrary to God's eternal purpose remains forever.

The kingdom advances until every opposing power has been brought into subjection to Christ.

God All in All

Paul concludes the vision.

"That God may be all in all."

— 1 Corinthians 15:28

The kingdom does not exist for its own sake.

It exists to accomplish the Father's eternal purpose.

Every promise.

Every covenant.

Every prophet.

Every administration.

Every revelation.

Everything moves toward this glorious conclusion.

God's purpose reaches its fullness.



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fills creation.

His glory is revealed.

His will is accomplished.

Looking Ahead

The prophets have declared it.

The apostles have proclaimed it.

The kingdom fills the earth.

The glory of the Lord covers creation.

Every enemy is subdued.

Only one question remains.

When God's eternal purpose reaches its glorious fulfillment...

What becomes of creation?

The final chapter answers that question.

When the Groaning Ends.

Chapter Ten

When the Groaning Ends



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When the Groaning Ends, God's Purpose of God Reaches Its Fulfillment

From the opening pages of Genesis until the closing vision of Revelation, one truth has echoed through every generation.

God finishes what He begins.

His purpose was established before the foundation of the world.

His promise never changed.

His kingdom never failed.

His Word never returned unto Him void.

Now we arrive at the moment toward which the whole testimony of Scripture has been moving.

The groaning ends.

The waiting ends.

The promise stands fulfilled.

No More Death

John writes:

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

— Revelation 21:4



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Notice the language.

No more death.

No more sorrow.

No more crying.

No more pain.

The former order has passed away.

The purpose of God reaches beyond forgiveness.

It reaches beyond healing.

It reaches beyond restoration.

It culminates in a creation where death itself is no more.

The last enemy has been overcome.

Behold, I Make All Things New

John continues.

“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”

— Revelation 21:5

The One seated upon the throne does not abandon His creation.

He makes all things new.



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The Creator completes what He purposed from the beginning.

Everything moves according to His eternal counsel.

Nothing falls outside His sovereign purpose.

The Scriptures end where they began—with God accomplishing His will.

The River of Life

John sees yet another glorious vision.

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

— Revelation 22:1

Life flows from the throne.

Everything that proceeds from God brings life.

The throne is no longer presented as a place of fear.

It is revealed as the source of life for creation.

The purpose of God has always been to fill His creation with His own life.

The Tree of Life

John continues.

“...the tree of life... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”



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— Revelation 22:2

The final vision of Scripture is not one of despair.

It is one of life.

Healing.

Wholeness.

Blessing.

The nations remain before the throne of God, and His life continues to flow from Him.

The story that began with the Tree of Life in Genesis reaches its glorious fulfillment in Revelation.

The thread has never been broken.

No More Curse

John declares:

“And there shall be no more curse...”

— Revelation 22:3

The curse is gone.

Death is gone.

Tears are gone.



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The former order has passed away.

Everything contrary to God's eternal purpose has been removed.

The victory of Christ is complete.

God All in All

Paul had already seen this glorious conclusion.

"...that God may be all in all."

— 1 Corinthians 15:28

This is the destination toward which every promise has pointed.

The purpose established before the foundation of the world reaches its completion.

The kingdom has accomplished its work.

Every enemy has been subdued.

The last enemy, death, is no more.

The whole creation, which once groaned in expectation, now stands in the fullness of the purpose of God.

The story is complete.

The End of the Groaning

Romans began with creation groaning.



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nds with creation at rest.

The longing has become fulfillment.

The expectation has become reality.

The promise has become manifestation.

The purpose has become complete.

The Scriptures tell one magnificent story.

From Genesis to Revelation, God has faithfully unfolded His eternal purpose.

The thread has never been broken.

The promise has never failed.

The kingdom has never ceased advancing.

The Lamb has never ceased reigning.

The purpose of God stands complete.

The whole creation no longer groans.

The whole creation beholds the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Final Exhortation

The vision set forth in these pages has followed one thread through the whole counsel of God.



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Before the foundation of the world, moving through the promises, the prophets, the ministry of Christ, the testimony of the apostles, and the Revelation of

Jesus Christ, every chapter has pointed toward one glorious purpose.

May every reader search the Scriptures with an open heart.

May Christ be increasingly revealed.

May the eternal purpose of God become clearer.

And may all glory, honor, dominion, and praise belong forever to the One who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

Conclusion

The Eternal Purpose Fulfilled

Every journey has a destination.

Every promise has a fulfillment.

Every seed has a harvest.

Every beginning has an appointed completion.

This book has followed one thread through the Scriptures—the eternal purpose of God.

That thread began before the foundation of the world, when the Father purposed all things in Christ. It continued through the creation of man, the promises made to



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the testimony of the prophets, the ministry of Jesus Christ, the writings of
and the visions of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Though the symbols changed, the purpose never changed.

The covenants changed.

The priesthood changed.

The administrations changed.

The prophets changed.

The apostles changed.

But the purpose of God remained constant from Genesis to Revelation.

The whole creation has never been without hope.

Its groaning has never been the cry of despair.

It has been the expectation of fulfillment.

The Scriptures reveal a God who always finishes what He begins.

He does not abandon His purpose.

He does not forsake His promises.

He does not leave His work unfinished.

What He declared before the foundation of the world, He faithfully unfolds through the ages until every purpose reaches its appointed fulfillment.

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any of the Bible is not the story of man's determination to reach God.

It is the story of God's unwavering determination to accomplish His eternal purpose in Christ.

Every prophet pointed toward it.

Every apostle proclaimed it.

Every promise anticipated it.

Every revelation illuminated it.

Every symbol bore witness to it.

The Scriptures speak with one voice because they reveal one Christ, one kingdom, and one eternal purpose.

As you close this book, my prayer is not simply that you remember its chapters.

My prayer is that you continue searching the Scriptures.

Follow the thread from Genesis to Revelation.

Let the Word interpret the Word.

Let every promise be reconciled within the whole counsel of God.

Let every symbol find its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The revelation of Christ is inexhaustible.

The wisdom of God is unsearchable.



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The riches of His grace are beyond measure.

May your heart continue to hunger for His Word.

May your eyes be opened to behold wondrous things from the Scriptures.

May the Holy Spirit continually reveal the glory of Christ.

And may your life bear witness to the eternal purpose of God until the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills the earth as the waters cover the sea.

“For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”

— Romans 11:36

Soli Deo Gloria.

To God alone be the glory.

Chapter 1

God’s Dream Before the Foundation of the World

Primary Scriptures

- Genesis 1:26–28
- Genesis 2:7–9
- John 17:24
- Ephesians 1:3–10
- 2 Timothy 1:9
- 1 Peter 1:18–20
- 1 John 13:8



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Chapter 2

The Promise That Never Changed

Primary Scriptures

- Genesis 12:1–3
 - Genesis 22:15–18
 - Genesis 26:1–5
 - Genesis 28:10–15
 - Psalm 72
 - Isaiah 2:1–5
 - Isaiah 11:1–10
 - Isaiah 60
 - Habakkuk 2:14
 - Galatians 3
 - Ephesians 3:1–11
-

Chapter 3

Pentecost—God’s Glorious Ministry of Preparation

Primary Scriptures

- Joel 2:28–32
- Acts 1:4–8
- Acts 2

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- Acts 15:13–18

- Romans 12:3–8
 - 1 Corinthians 12
 - 1 Corinthians 14
 - Ephesians 4:7–16
-

Chapter 4

The Groan of the Mature

Primary Scriptures

- Romans 8:18–25
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1–5
 - Philippians 3:7–21
 - 2 Timothy 4:6–8
 - Hebrews 11:39–40
-

Chapter 5

The Sign for Which the Whole Creation Groans

Primary Scriptures

- Romans 8:18–25
 - Romans 8:29–30
 - Romans 8:31–39
 - 1 John 3:1–3
-

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Chapter 6

The Transition from That Which Is in Part to Fullness

Primary Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 13:8–13
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20–28
 - 1 Corinthians 15:50–58
 - 2 Corinthians 3:17–18
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1–5
 - Philippians 3:20–21
-

Chapter 7

One Sign Revealed Through Many Witnesses

Primary Scriptures

- Genesis 1:26–28
- Psalm 8
- Psalm 110
- Daniel 2
- Daniel 7
- Isaiah 2
- Isaiah 11
- Isaiah 60



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h 17–21

- Hebrews 5–7

- Revelation 5
 - Revelation 12
 - Revelation 14
 - Revelation 19
-

Chapter 8

The Ministry of Fullness

Primary Scriptures

- Hebrews 7
 - Isaiah 2
 - Isaiah 60
 - Micah 4
 - Matthew 28:18–20
 - John 17
 - Romans 8:29
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17–21
 - Ephesians 1:9–10
 - Colossians 1:15–20
-

Chapter 9

The Kingdom Filling the Earth

Primary Scriptures



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- Psalm 72

- Isaiah 9:6–7
 - Isaiah 11
 - Isaiah 35
 - Isaiah 60
 - Daniel 2
 - Daniel 7
 - Habakkuk 2:14
 - Matthew 5:5
 - Matthew 13
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24–28
 - Ephesians 1:10
-

Chapter 10

When the Groaning Ends

Primary Scriptures

- Isaiah 65
 - Isaiah 66
 - Romans 8
 - 1 Corinthians 15
 - Revelation 21
 - Revelation 22
-

Conclusion

The Eternal Purpose Fulfilled



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Primary Scriptures

- Romans 11:33–36
- Ephesians 1:9–10
- Ephesians 3:8–11
- Colossians 1:15–20
- 1 Corinthians 15:24–28
- Revelation 22:1–5



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Sons of God Series

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2. [THE SONS OF GOD:](#) Sons vs. Manifest Sons
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