

God's Ultimate Goal

What do goals do?

Goals explain actions. From the outside looking in, a person's actions can seem strange until you understand what their goal is.

I. What is God's Ultimate Goal?

A good way to find out someone's goal is to look at the end of their story.

Key Passage: Revelation 21: 1-8. The Three Parts of God's Goal:

- "I will be your God."
- "You will be My people."
- "I will dwell among you."

The Two Characteristics of God's Goal:

- A Reciprocal Relationship
 - Similar to a Marriage - Song of Solomon 6:3
 - Similar to a Father and Child - Revelation 21:7
- A Close Relationship
 - God's desire for a close relationship can be seen throughout human history ... past, present, and future.

God's ultimate goal is...

To have an intimate relationship with a group of people.

II. How Has God Been Working Toward That Goal?

In each stage of redemption history, through the OT and the NT, the key statements are repeated. God gradually develops His relationship with mankind, paving the way for us to fellowship with Him better.

Genesis 17:7-8 "to be God to you and to your offspring after you ... I will be their God"

Exodus 6:6-7 "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God."

Exodus 29:43-46 "I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them."

Leviticus 26:11-12 "I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people."

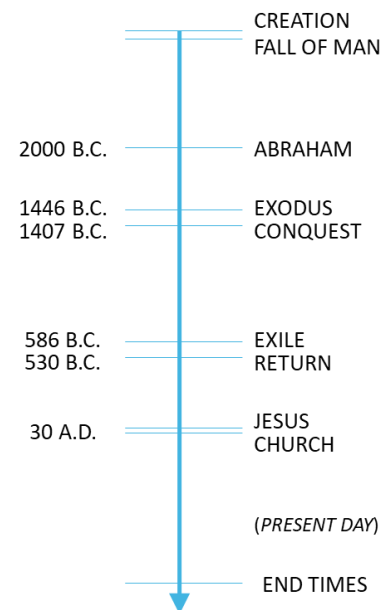
Ezekiel 36:24-28 "I will put My Spirit within you ... you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah ... I will be their God and they shall be my people."

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 "For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.'"

Zechariah 13:8-9 "I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Revelation 21:1-3 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.'"



Repetition of Key Phrases:

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| ▪ Genesis 17:7-8 | ▪ Psalm 118:28 | ▪ Ezekiel 14:11 |
| ▪ Exodus 6:6-7 | ▪ Psalm 140:6 | ▪ Ezekiel 34:24 |
| ▪ Exodus 15:2 | ▪ Psalm 143:10 | ▪ Ezekiel 36:27-28 |
| ▪ Exodus 29:45-46 | ▪ Isaiah 25:1 | ▪ Ezekiel 37:23 |
| ▪ Leviticus 11:45 | ▪ Isaiah 51:16 | ▪ Ezekiel 37:27 |
| ▪ Leviticus 22:33 | ▪ Isaiah 63:8 | ▪ Hosea 2:1 |
| ▪ Leviticus 25:38 | ▪ Jeremiah 7:23 | ▪ Hosea 2:23 |
| ▪ Leviticus 26:11-12 | ▪ Jeremiah 11:4 | ▪ Zechariah 2:11 |
| ▪ Leviticus 26:45 | ▪ Jeremiah 24:7 | ▪ Zechariah 8:8 |
| ▪ Numbers 15:41 | ▪ Jeremiah 30:22 | ▪ Zechariah 13:8-9 |
| ▪ Deuteronomy 29:13 | ▪ Jeremiah 31:1 | ▪ 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 |
| ▪ 1 Kings 6:13 | ▪ Jeremiah 31:31-34 | ▪ Hebrews 8:10 |
| ▪ Psalm 31:14 | ▪ Jeremiah 32:38 | ▪ Revelation 21:1-3 |
| ▪ Psalm 63:1 | ▪ Ezekiel 11:20 | ▪ Revelation 21:7 |
| ▪ Psalm 86:2 | | |

The Tragedy of the Old Testament

The tragedy of the Old Testament is...

God was faithful to His people, but His people were not faithful to Him.

See Isaiah 1:2-4, Jeremiah 2:11-13, and Matthew 23:37.

III. How Does Christ Fit into That Goal?

The work of Christ is the crucial element! His work reconciles us with

God so that we can enjoy an intimate relationship with Him.

See Romans 5:6-11, Colossians 1:15-23.



Application

What does this have to do with me?

If God's ultimate goal is to have an intimate relationship with us, our ultimate goal should be to have an intimate relationship with Him.

- By believing in His Son.
 - 2 Cor. 5:18-19 "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."
- By seeking Him through His word and prayer.
 - Psalm 27:8 "You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, Lord, do I seek.'"
- By living holy lives.
 - 2 Cor. 7:1 "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."