



Celebratory Occasions

What is God's Overall Plan for Us?

one word: **RELATIONSHIP**

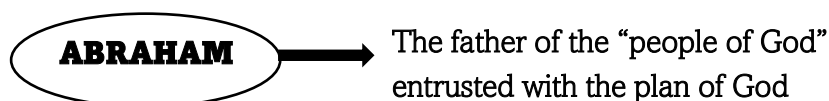
- We just talked about the “message” that God wants to communicate = SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (i.e. relationship with Jesus Christ)...let's look at God's plan so we can align ourselves with His plan.

NOTICE that SALVATION = “Reconciliation of Relationship!”

One of the practical reasons we want to align ourselves with God's plan (AKA: His will) is so that we have access to the resources God provides to accomplish what He desires. God does not give us a plan and then tell us to go off and make a way to “make it happen.” We often live our lives as if...

1. **God** gave us life...then,
2. **God** goes away to concern Himself with someone or something else.
3. **We** determine a path of our own and a plan to pursue it (**SO OFTEN WITH SO MANY WRONG TURNS**)
4. **God** then returns one day to check on us and see if we have conducted ourselves in a manner fitting for heaven.

BUT...that is neither the story of Scripture, nor the plan God has for the world (for redemption). Look at a few details:



1. When God told Abram (Abraham) to go to a place I will show you (**Genesis 12:1-3**), He disclosed **the plan** and chose a people who would carry out His divine assignment.

^{12:1} Now the LORD had said to Abram:

Communication is a critical part of relationship

“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.

² **I will make you a great nation;**

I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.

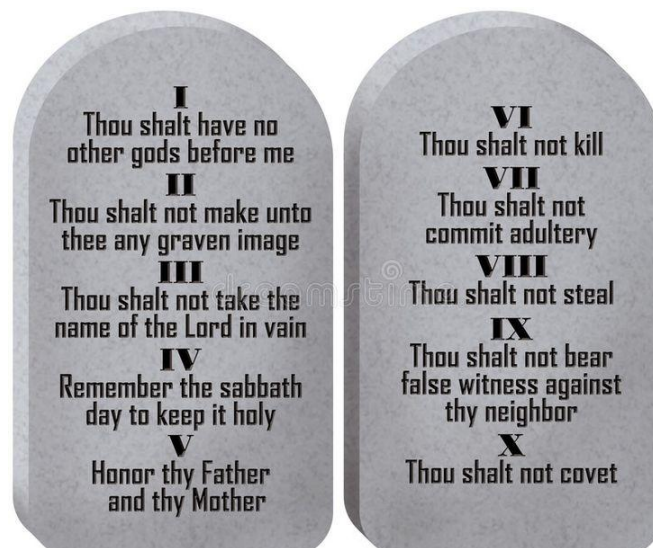
God chooses a people to whom He assigned the task of REDEMPTION! We as believers are part of that great nation (Galatians 3:7-9).

THE PLAN!

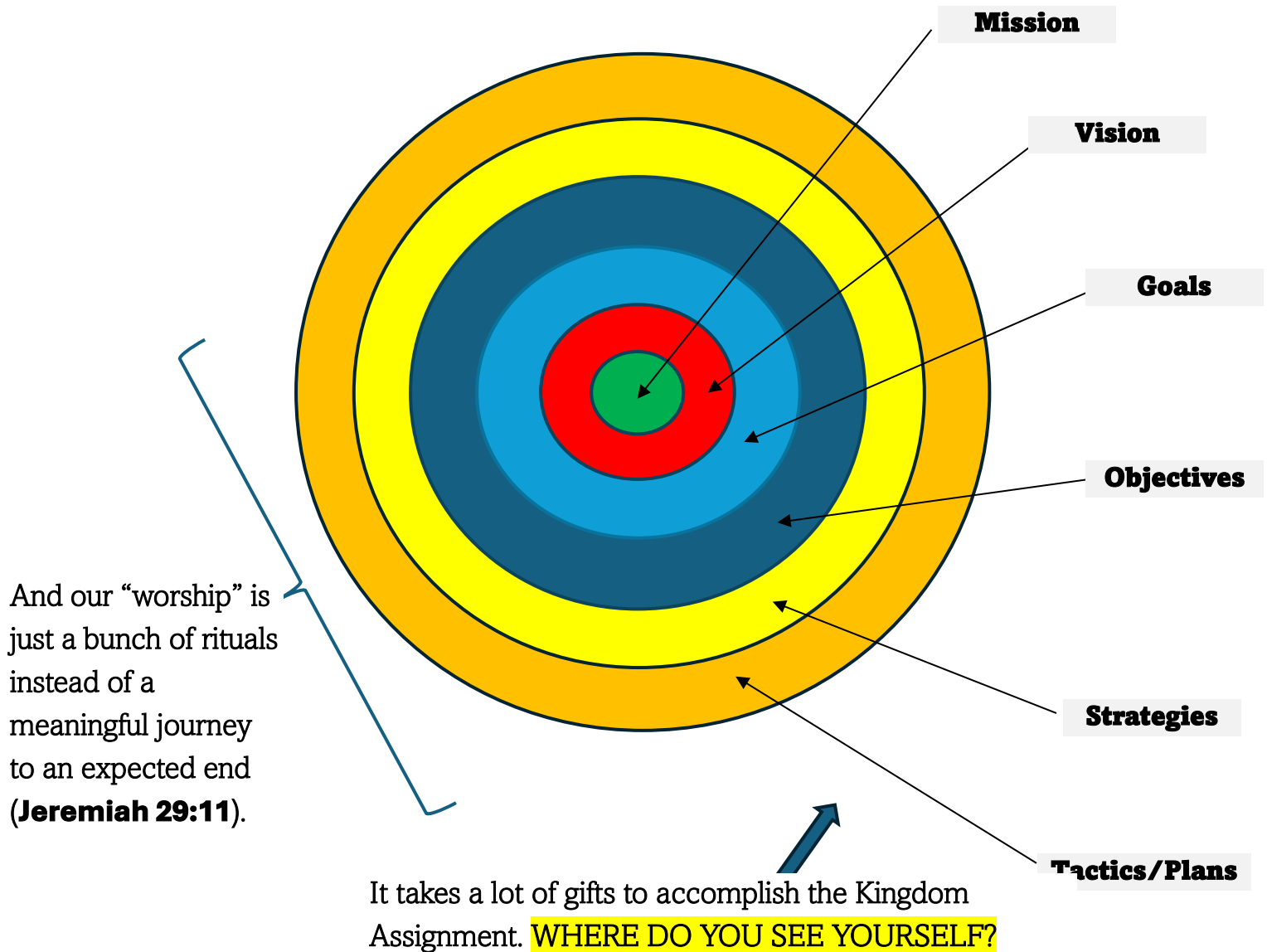
³ I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

2. Then God set them on a course towards the promised land and gave them an arrangement (or a system) by which they (God’s people) could exist in relationship with God (**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**). In order to get through the wilderness to the land He promised them, they had to go through the “wilderness.” The people of God would need to have a RELATIONSHIP with God who was more powerful than their enemies (WE CANNOT DO THE WORK OF GOD WITHOUT THE FAVOR OF GOD). “It’s not WHAT you know – it’s WHO you know!” They could not rely on their own skill or weapons because they were travelling in foreign territory and without weapons during their escape from Egypt.



3. Consider how the story of redemption is not new. God's **PLAN** never changed. They just needed to understand where God was headed. WITHOUT US KNOWING THE PLAN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PUT THE PAGES OF OUR LIVES INTO CONTEXT. WE CAN GET BORED AND DISCONNECTED WITH THE PROCESS WHEN WE DON'T HAVE UNDERSTANDING OF:



4. God sent One just like us (into our situation in life) to be the sacrifice for sins on our behalf so that we could be restored to **RELATIONSHIP** with Him. **Genesis 3:6-9** helps us understand that the practice of God before Adam sinned (notice I said Adam = how each of us got drawn into the sin conflict) was to walk in fellowship (I/O/W - **RELATIONSHIP**) with Adam and Eve.

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he

ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸ **And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

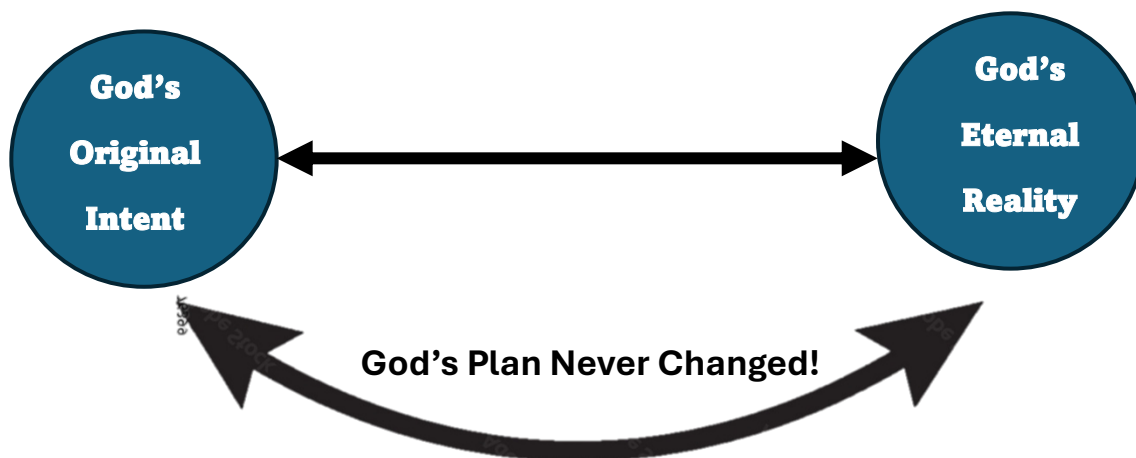
⁹ Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; **and I hid myself.**”

*The **RELATIONSHIP** (fellowship, trust, security, loyalty, respect, commitment, care, shared values (“related”), communication... **was broken**.*

KEEP IN MIND – Our relationships on earth tend to be mirrors of our relationship with our Father in heaven. What we do in our earthly relationships stems from what God expects of us I relationship with Him. We will discuss expectation in our next study.

5. Praise God that the end looks just like the beginning. God’s OVERALL PLAN is RESTORATION of the RELATIONSHIP.



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