

Study Sheet: Only One God: The Plan of Redemption

The Biblical Truth of Divine Unity and Human Redemption



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God's eternal plan of redemption was established before the creation of the world, demonstrating His foreknowledge and divine unity in salvation.

Key Scripture References

1. God's Eternal Choice and Predestination

Ephesians 1:4-6

- God "chose" us in Christ "before" the foundation of the world
- Predestinated us unto adoption as children through Jesus Christ
- Made us accepted in the beloved

- Redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins

This passage raises profound questions about **divine election**. How can someone be "chosen" before they exist? This demonstrates **God's ability to operate outside of time**, where His divine thoughts and plans are as real as accomplished facts. The choosing happened in **God's eternal mind, not in chronological time**. This predestination reflects **God's loving purpose to redeem humanity even before sin entered the world**.

2. God's Eternal Perspective

Romans 4:17

- God "calleth those things which be not as though they were"

This verse is foundational to understanding **God's relationship to time and reality**. From God's perspective, **what He has purposed in His mind already exists with certainty**. This explains how **redemption could be planned and accomplished in God's mind before sin occurred**. **God's divine will transcends temporal limitations**.

Isaiah 45:9-10

- "I am God, and there is none else; there is none like me"
- "Declaring the end from the beginning"

This passage emphasizes **God's absolute uniqueness and temporal transcendence**. **God sees all of history simultaneously** - past, present, and future are equally present to His divine consciousness. This isn't mere prophecy but demonstrates that **God exists outside the stream of time**.

3. The Lamb Slain from Foundation of World

Revelation 13:8

- "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"

This provides crucial evidence that **Christ's sacrifice was not a divine afterthought but integral to God's original plan**. The past tense "slain" indicates that **from God's eternal perspective, Christ's sacrifice was already accomplished before the world began**. **God's love and provision for redemption preceded the need for that redemption**.

4. God's Foreknowledge Example

Jeremiah 1:5

- "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee"
- "Before thou camest forth... I sanctified thee"

- "I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations"

The use of **past tense verbs to describe Jeremiah's calling before his conception** illustrates how God's eternal perspective works. **In God's mind and plan, Jeremiah's prophetic calling was as real and certain as if it had already occurred.** This provides a model for understanding how **Christ could be the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."**

5. The Word Made Flesh

John 1:1

- "In the beginning was the Word"
- "The Word was with God"
- "The Word was God"

"Word" (logos) means "divine thought" or "utterance," not a separate sentient being. This divine thought represented **God's plan of redemption that would eventually become flesh.** The Word being "with God" suggests **the plan existed in God's mind,** while "the Word was God" indicates that **this plan was God's own purpose.** This supports **the unity of God rather than multiple persons.**

Core Theological Concepts

Divine Foreknowledge and Eternal Perspective

God exists outside the temporal framework that governs human experience. While humans experience time sequentially, **God experiences all of time simultaneously.** This eternal perspective explains how **God could choose individuals for salvation before they existed** - His eternal vision encompassed all of human history.

When God conceives of something in His mind, **it has a reality that transcends human imagination.** Human thoughts are ephemeral, but **God's thoughts carry the power of creation and certainty of fulfillment.** **Whatever is spoken in the mind of God is "reality," even before it becomes part of "our" reality.**

God's Eternal Plan of Redemption

The most remarkable aspect of God's redemptive plan is that **it was fully formed before sin entered the world.** This wasn't reactive planning but **proactive love.** **God didn't scramble to find a solution after Adam and Eve sinned; He had already prepared the remedy before the problem existed.**

God's "control" doesn't mean He causes all events, but that **all events occur within His foreknowledge and permission**. God knew Adam would sin, but He didn't cause Adam to sin. This **preserves both divine sovereignty and human responsibility** while explaining how God could plan redemption before sin occurred.

The Nature of "The Word" (Logos)

The interpretation of "logos" as "divine thought" rather than a separate person is **crucial to understanding divine unity**. The Word represents God's redemptive plan and purpose, not a second divine being. When this divine thought became flesh, it wasn't a separate person incarnating but **God Himself manifesting in human form**.

"In the beginning" refers to the beginning of creation and God's relationship with humanity, not to God's eternal existence. God has no beginning, but His redemptive plan for humanity began when He first conceived of creating beings who would need redemption.

The Sonship of Christ

The statement "no sin, no son" emphasizes that Christ's sonship is directly tied to His redemptive mission. The Son exists because of the need for redemption, not as an eternal relationship within the Godhead. This supports the view that **the Son is God manifest in flesh for the specific purpose of salvation**.

Christ is "Son by flesh, God by spirit" - His sonship relates to His human nature (born of Mary), while His deity relates to His divine nature (God manifest in flesh). Rather than God sending His Son, this presents **God coming Himself, veiled in flesh**.

Discussion Questions

1. How does God's ability to "call those things which be not as though they were" help us understand predestination?
 2. What does it mean that God's plan of redemption was "already prepared" before man was created?
 3. How does the example of Jeremiah illustrate God's eternal perspective on time and planning?
 4. What is the significance of understanding "logos" as "divine thought" rather than a separate person?
 5. How does the statement "no sin, no son" relate to the purpose of Christ's incarnation?
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Key Takeaways

God's Sovereignty in Salvation

God's complete control over redemptive history demonstrates His absolute sovereignty. Nothing can thwart His purposes or compromise His plans. **Believers can rest in the certainty that their salvation is secure, not because of their performance but because of God's eternal determination.**

The Unity of God in Redemption

One God accomplished redemption, not multiple persons within a Trinity. God Himself came in flesh to save humanity. This understanding deepens worship by recognizing that **the God we worship is the same God who personally came to save us.**

Redemption's Eternal Foundation

Our salvation rests on God's eternal plan, not on temporal circumstances or human decisions. It was established before we existed and before sin entered the world. This provides stability during times of doubt - **our salvation doesn't depend on our feelings or performance but on God's unchanging purpose.**

Time and Eternity in Divine Purpose

God's eternal perspective transcends human understanding of time. What is future to us is already accomplished in God's mind. This helps believers trust God's timing and purposes even when circumstances seem contrary to His promises.

Practical Applications

1. Trust in God's Sovereignty During Uncertainty

When facing difficult circumstances, remember that **God's eternal plan encompasses all of history. Nothing catches Him by surprise, and His purposes will be accomplished.**

Daily Practice: When anxiety arises about future events, remind yourself that **God has already seen and planned for every circumstance you'll face.**

2. Appreciate the Personal Nature of God's Love

The pre-planning of redemption reveals that God's love for you existed before you were born. He didn't love you because of what you would do, but because of who He is.

Daily Practice: Begin each day remembering that **God's love for you is not based on your performance but on His eternal purpose.**

3. Confidence in Salvation's Security

Since your salvation is based on God's eternal plan rather than your temporal decisions, it carries absolute security. You can't accidentally lose what God eternally purposed to give you.

Daily Practice: When doubts about your salvation arise, return to the truth that **your salvation was planned before you existed and is as certain as God's eternal nature.**

4. Worship God's Unity

Recognizing that one God accomplished redemption can simplify and intensify your worship. You don't need to understand complex relationships within the Godhead; you can simply worship the one God who loved you enough to come personally to save you.

Daily Practice: In prayer and worship, focus on **the one God who planned your salvation, came to earth to accomplish it, and continues to work in your life.**

Memory Verses

Ephesians 1:4 - "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world"

Meditation: God's choice of you preceded your existence. Before you were born, before you sinned, before you believed, **God had already determined to save you.**

Romans 4:17 - God "callesh those things which be not as though they were"

Meditation: God's words carry creative power. When He speaks of future events, **they are as certain as present realities.** This explains how **God could plan redemption before sin occurred.**

Revelation 13:8 - "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"

Meditation: Christ's sacrifice was not an emergency response to human sin but the fulfillment of God's eternal plan. The cross was always God's method of redemption.

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"

Meditation: The Word represents God's redemptive plan that became flesh in Jesus Christ. This reveals both the eternal nature of God's redemptive purpose and the divine identity of the one who accomplished it.

Conclusion: The Wonder of Divine Love

The central message of this study is the incredible depth of God's love for humanity. Before we existed, before we sinned, before we even needed salvation, God had already planned to redeem us. This wasn't divine improvisation but eternal purpose rooted in unchanging love.

The unity of God in this plan is equally remarkable. It wasn't that God sent someone else to pay for our sins; God came Himself. The same God who created us is the God who redeemed us. The same God who planned our salvation is the God who accomplished it.

This understanding should transform our relationship with God, moving us from fear to confidence, from uncertainty to assurance, from obligation to gratitude. We serve a God whose love preceded our existence and whose purposes will outlast our earthly lives.

As we reflect on these truths, we join the apostle Paul in amazement: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).

This study sheet provides comprehensive analysis and practical applications for deep personal study, group discussion, or teaching preparation.