



Theme for Month: Goals and Plans

A New Year on the horizon; time for a fresh start! Do you want to start the year understanding what you should be doing and where you should be going? Better still, do you want to learn where God is working in your life, or where He wants you to be during the New Year?

This month, let's explore the Bible to answer these questions about goal setting and planning under God's direction. We will cover these topics:

- *December 1-7: A Life Goal: Why am I here?*
- *December 8-14: His Goal or Mine: Why not mine?*
- *December 15-21: Smoothing Peaks and Troughs: Saving and spending?*
- *December 22-25: God's Perfect Plan: Available to me?*
- *December 26-31: Where is God: Where is my plan?*

Topic for Month: God's Perfect Plan: Available to me?

December 22-25

The Word



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven— A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to throw stones and a time to gather stone; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.

The *Quick Verse Life Application Bible's* summary of these verses stresses a major

outcome of applying **God's timing** in our lives: getting His peace. Here is its summary:

Timing is important. All the experiences listed in these verses are appropriate at certain times. The secret to peace with God is to discover, accept, and appreciate God's perfect timing. The danger is to doubt or resent God's timing. This can lead to despair, rebellion, or moving ahead without his advice.

The prophet Isaiah declared **God's perfect plan** for humanity in the birth of His only "begotten Son" as follows:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this – Isaiah 9:6-7

And again, in Isaiah 53 we read:

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and

afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth (**Isaiah 53:6-7**).

Indeed, timing is essential! We see **God's perfect timing** with Isaiah's prophecy fulfillment with the birth of the promised Messiah. The Scriptures say,

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (**Galatians 4:4-5, NKJV**).

Prophecies of Jesus' birth fill the Old Testament. Pray folks will hear the Spirit's call and open their eyes and ears to see, hear, and turn to Messiah. After Adam's sin, God promised Jesus would crush and defeat Satan; He did!

Memory Verse

Romans 10:9-10

if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved

Application



Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

As we celebrate Messiah Jesus' birthday this week, let's pause and examine who is getting the glory from our activities: us, businesses or God? Let's remember the victory we have in Christ through His birth, death, and resurrection. He was oppressed and afflicted for us, so you and I could get abundant life. Do you know this life?

Ask the Lord to show you how to celebrate His birthday: This Christmas, are you caught up in the politically correct commercial celebrations? Are you going around wishing folks "happy Holidays?" Or are you telling folks about the Good news of Jesus' birth?

Jesus, the only true and living God, came into the world according to God's plan to redeem mankind. Through His death and resurrection, we have eternal life. May our lights so shine this month and during the year that others will see Him in us and develop individual personal relationships with Him — what a birthday present this would be!

Our primary goal on earth is to obey Jesus. His Word tells us to make disciples of every nation, feed the poor, help to provide shelter to the homeless, give water to the thirsty, and to encourage others with kind words. Ask God to show you where you should give time, talents and money, not only this week but also throughout the year.

Considering this month's theme, *Goals and Plans*, this period's topic, *God's Perfect Plan: Available to me*, each day reflect on the verses to the right. These questions might help your reflection:

- ★ Who is talking to whom, about what, when, and in what context?
- ★ How do these verses apply to me today?
- ★ What can I start today?

Personal Reflections

December 22nd: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Zechariah 9:9

December 23rd: Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:25-26

December 24th: Isaiah 53; John 3:16-17

December 25th: Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 10:9-10

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