

God's Book Shelf Pt. 2

Book of "Design" Ps. 139

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 7th

Revelation 20:12 reminds us that there are events done on earth that are so significant that God is keeping a journal of them! Last week we looked at two of these volumes:

- The Book Of Disappointments. (tears) Ps 56:8 *"Thou tellest (sāpar: inscribe) my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"*
- The Book of "Decisions" (Honor) Mal. 3:16,17 *"They that feared the Lord spake often one to another... and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD"*

This morning we'll take a glimpse of the Book of "Design" (Worth)

Ps 139:16 *"Thine eyes did see my substance, ('ōsem: Might, strength) yet being imperfect; (golem: undeveloped, embryonic) and in thy book all [my members] were written"*

1. God has (records) Desires & Designs for each of our lives!

Jer. 29:11 *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* *"Thoughts" (maḥashābâ) plans, intentions*
"Peace" (shalom) Welfare, safety, prosperity. "expected end" (tiqwâ) Hope, what I long for!

A. His plans are for our own good! Deut. 10:12-15 (Ro. 12:1,2) *"Present your bodies... wholly, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service... That ye might prove what is that good (agathos: beneficial), acceptable (euar'estos: fully agreeable) and perfect (telios: complete) will of God."*

See also Ps. 16:11 and 1 Cor. 2:9

2. Satan also has a desire and design. 2 Cor. 11:14; John 10:10

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy;"

A. He distracts us from God's desires by:

- 1) Casting Doubt on the benefit or meaning of God's word or will. *"Yea hath God said..." Ge. 3:1*
- 2) Diminishing the "Worth" of God's design. Ge. 3:5 *"the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, (judge) knowing (understanding, deciding) good and evil."*

3) Supplanting God's designs with our (his) own! Gen. 3:6-10

James 1:14-17 *"every man is tempted when he's drawn away*

a) From what? (God's Designs)

b) By What? *"of his own lust" ("the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life." 1Jn 2:15*

This is the actual meaning of "sin"! (*Hamartanō*) to miss the mark and so not share the prize!

3. We're "torn" between God's designs and Satan's.

Gal. 5:17 *"the flesh lusteth against the Spirit... these two are contrary one to another..."*

A. God uses the truth of His Word and Spirit to:

- 1) Tug on our hearts. Jn 16:13 *"guide you unto truth."*

- 2) Transform (prepare) us for His plans / Purposes. Ro. 8:28,29 *“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*
Ro. 12:2 *“be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”*

B. Satan uses the things of this world (1 Jn. 2:15) to:

- 1) Tug on our hearts. Eph. 4:27 *“neither give place to the devil”*
2) Transform us to His plans and purposes. 2 Cor. 4:4 *“the god of this world blinds the minds”.*
Ro. 12:2 *“Be not conformed to this world”* (see also 1 Jn 2:16,17)

By our choices, we'll ultimately serve either God's or Satan's purposes.

Joshua 24:15 *“Choose ye this day whom ye will serve”*

1 Kings 18:21 *“How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”*

No answer is the answer, **NO!** Matthew 12:30 *“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”*

Poem: “You belong either to the building or to the wrecking crew!”

Conclusion: Ps 139:16 *“Thine eyes did see my substance, (‘ōṣem: Might, strength) yet being imperfect; (golem: undeveloped, embryotic) and in thy book all [my members] were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”*

➤ **Imagine how this must apply to the 60 million American Babies aborted!**

*Jesus walked upon the earth, On the shores of Galilee. He'd say, Let the little children come to me.
I wonder if up in heaven, Do you suppose we'll see; Little children asking What was I supposed to be.
Was I to be a prophet, Used in the ministry, A doctor who would find a cure, For some terrible disease.
Even if I'd been born imperfect, Why couldn't my parents see,
That I'd have been made perfect; When you came back for me.
What was I supposed to be, What were my eyes supposed to see,
And why did I taste of death Before I even drew a breath,
Laid my head at my mother's breast, Oh Jesus, what was I supposed to be?
Ray Boltz*

➤ **The focus is on God's design for my “substance” (worth or might) even before it's fully developed! While this can be applied to aborted babies, the words “My Members” are italicized in the KJV to indicate they're not in the original!**

**When we're ignorant or indifferent to God's will,
we effectively “abort” God's purposes for our lives.**

No wonder David ends this marvelous chapter with: Vs 24,25 *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me (nāḥâ': Guide and Govern) in the way everlasting.”* (‘ôlām: see Ecc. 3:10)

**Someday in heaven we'll see this “book” of what we could have accomplished had we allowed God to *“direct our paths”*. Pr. 3:5-10
What a tragedy to ask too late: “What was I supposed to be?”**