

The Revolutionary Idea Of Destiny

Gordon Oh (28/1/2018)

The Bible is a compilation of history, teachings, songs, poems by different people across different times. Underlying these stories are certain ideas that tend to be taken for granted. One of these is the idea that each person has a purpose or a destiny. Through this, we can better understand the significance of certain events or genealogies to be recorded.

A. THE INDIVIDUALS IN THOSE EVENTS MATTER

→ *They are worth the time and effort to be documented for future generations to read.*

- The various genealogies in Chronicles, Numbers show how each individual is a **different** person; an extremely radical idea for the people living in that time. To record such minute details shows the importance of each individual in the whole list; a very uncommon phenomenon for peoples of that time.
- It shows how God's people were not part of a cosmic cycle of life but participated in writing their own story. Other communities in the same era perceived their own lives as part of a repeated sequence. Individual lives were only part of a bigger picture that had no value on its own. In essence, the prehistoric person viewed mortal life as a predictable part of cyclical nature.

B. WE HAVE A DESTINY TO FULFIL BUT OUR LIVES ARE NOT PREDETERMINED

→ *We have actions and consequences that follow those actions.*

- Gen 12:4 “Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him...”. Abram is the first human recorded to welcome the adventure of travel without a planned destination after God spoke to him. This was God’s invitation to a life of promise that was different and something unseen by prehistoric people.
- It was also against conventional wisdom of that time: if Sarai was barren, there was no escaping that fate. There is no point in your earthly striving.
- Abram’s journey was one of no return and one that went against the culture of that time. While others believed earthly actions were ultimately fruitless, Abram believed in an impossible promise given by God.
- His subsequent stories showcase how he was not a mere puppet, but his life was determined by his own intentional choices. Our destiny is planned out by God but ultimately made up of our own decisions.

What does it mean for us today?

C. THE IDEA OF DESTINY AND ADVENTURE IS A GOD GIVEN ONE AND IT AFFECTS HOW WE VIEW OUR LIVES.

- Everyone’s life is unique with a value and everyone’s journey is different.
- How we live out our lives matters → We have a role to play in how history turns out.
- God is interested in the small details, even in the “insignificant” things like genealogy
- There is a hopeful belief in progress; belief that tomorrow can be better than today.

Comm(UNITY)

The Value Of Unity In Community

Adrienna Tan (28/1/2018)

(n) a unified body of individuals

A. GOD'S INTENTION FOR COMMUNITY

- Genesis 2:18 – And after the Lord had formed each living creature (birds, animals), still no suitable companion was found.
- From eternity past, before Genesis 1:1, there was God – and perfect unity within the Trinity. The trinity was a family – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Though they are one, they are distinct and separate in roles and the way they express/reveal themselves to us. The reason for creation was so that the Trinity would have a family (Gen 1:27).

B. HIS DESIRE FOR UNITY

- Ephesians 4:1-3 – The moment there is disunity, the Spirit's heart is grieved.
- John 17:21-24 – Jesus, Himself, prayed for unity. He has desires, and this is the only time Jesus explicitly asks the Father to give Him what He desires.

We can't even begin to fathom the perfection of love and unity within the Trinity, but He is calling us to that very same standard.

In the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, when sin entered this world, it cost God His family. Man and God were separated from that complete oneness and dwelling together in the garden in perfect communion. In His death on the cross, Jesus purchased and redeemed the family that God desired from the foundations of the earth. But in that, He was promised a church (a bride) of every nation, tribe, tongue and people – the redeemed of the Lord.

In giving up His life, Jesus restored to His Father His beloved family that was lost. And the Father's gift to the Son is the promise of a pure and spotless bride that is worthy of Him.

C. THE FRUIT OF A UNITED COMMUNITY IS THE DRAWING OF ALL MAN

- John 17:21 – There is strength, encouragement and help in unity.
- Matthew 24:14 – The tool that He has given us is our exemplary love for one another. Therefore it is the love we have for one another that will draw all man and win souls.