

Gods Perfect Planning - Part 2

by Erlo Stegen

God has a perfect plan for our lives, and it is essential to be obedient to His plans and make room for Jesus in our hearts.

Duration: 1:01:59

Scripture: Exodus 25:9, Matthew 2:13-14, Matthew 6:33, Luke 2:6, John 1:11-12

Topics: "God's Timing"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker encourages the audience to do some research and Bible study to understand why Joseph and Mary did not return to Bethlehem after Jesus' birth. The speaker emphasizes the importance of having a New Testament and compares its value to that of a bottle of coke. The sermon then focuses on the biblical passage from Luke 2:6, highlighting the significance of Jesus being born in God's perfect timing. The speaker also emphasizes the importance of making room for Jesus in our lives and receiving him as the Son of God.

Transcript

Now, let's continue with the text from Luke 2 verse 6. And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. We'll read thus far.

I'm going to try and be reasonably brief. After all, some of our brethren are leaving and need to catch a plane. And we'll ask them to send our greetings to the brethren overseas.

There are some points which I'd like to touch upon which we've read in this chapter. The first being, it says, as they were there, while they were there. And it came about while they were there.

That is of great importance, has a lot to explain. As I was preparing the sermon this morning, I thought, well, I wish I could dwell just on this point. It happened while they were there.

In Bethlehem. Mary was living in the wrong place with regards to the birth of the Messiah. She's been always in the wrong place concerning the Messiah's birth.

And it was just in the nick of time. She was at the right place. She had been in Nazareth at the time of the Savior's birth.

It would have been corrupting to the Bible, to the promises of the Word. The Bible would have been failed for the first time the Bible would have spoken a lie. The Bible had declared that he would be born in Bethlehem.

But where was she living? She and Joseph in Nazareth. And you know the circumstances around the reason why they were in Nazareth about that time of his birth? We mentioned last night how the wise men came with this wonderful news that the Messiah had been born. They arrived in Jerusalem with the news.

And the Bible says that everybody was troubled. Herod too, but he hid his feeling troubled and concerned with a deceitfulness, a cunningness. Pretended to be happy.

And so Herod in his craftiness hid from them his true intentions when he said, tell me when you discover where he is born, I want to go and worship him too. But they were warned in a dream by God to take another way to go home because this Herod sought his life. And the Lord also spoke in a dream to Joseph and said to him, now get up, take the child and the mother and go to Africa.

They're in Egypt where the child's life will be preserved. I'd said these days just a few days ago that may the Lord be gracious to Africa. It was Africa which gave a refuge to the Christ child.

And the world is indebted to Africa today because it was Africa that protected Jesus. If Africa had not given refuge to Jesus, we wouldn't have our savior. Do you hear Africans? Give Jesus refuge even today.

Yes, you in this time that we live, because though Herod is dead, his demons have not died. And even when it came to the time of Jesus passion and death, it was an African who helped Jesus carry the cross. And that is why it is Africa that gave him refuge.

You too need to give him refuge. Otherwise, Africa will discard you. And the Lord also spoke in a dream to Joseph and said to him, now get up, take the child and the mother and go to Africa.

They're in Egypt where the child's life will be preserved. If Africa had not given refuge to Jesus, we wouldn't have our savior. And the world is indebted to Africa today because it was Africa that protected Jesus.

And the Lord also spoke in a dream to Joseph and said to him, now get up, take the child and the mother and go to Africa. They're in Egypt where the child's life will be preserved. If Africa had not given refuge to Jesus, we wouldn't have our savior.

Now text says, it came about while they were there, God worked in his sovereign power. And at the last moment, God organized things and arranged that it would come about as the prophecies had said and the Holy Spirit had indicated. God in heaven had arranged and strategized that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

God in heaven had arranged and strategized that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. From of old, God had arranged from before the creation of this world, from eternities beyond, God had arranged that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, conceived of a virgin. But Mary was a Nazareth.

Joseph, this godly man, this dignified, God-fearing man, didn't, after having that dream, say, it's just indigestion, I've had too many potatoes at the meal or whatever. No, he saw God in it. He woke Mary up and they took the child instantly to go to Egypt.

haven't got a New Testament it's a sin it's a crime if a bottle of coke costs more and you don't even have a New Testament now speaking of soft drinks we handed out and I gave to our neighbors people could come freely and get a quality here at the shop and we gave it firstly in just a

little containers then bigger and bigger till people were coming almost with drum size where they there was so much available but none came to say thank you and so I feel like rather next Christmas taking it to the lorry and handing it out in some in another place although there was one who said well we come on behalf of others to say thank you and I feel bit I felt better after that and from Egypt they they went and lived in Nazareth so it had almost happened that the Messiah was born in the wrong place so you go and do some Bible study at home and discover why they went back to Nazareth why were they there was Joseph perhaps fearful maybe was it to fulfill some prophecies you go and seek the answer yourself it's good that you grow up and eat for yourself he had an exact heavenly

blueprint like an architectural plan a blueprint where everything is already measured and decided before the building even starts while Moses was still on the mountain God revealed his exact plan for the exactly and precisely the color the type of wood all that I revealed to you on the mount Moses do it perfectly and indeed Moses was faithful in that and God also has an exact blueprint for his church so you ministers and preachers don't take light-heartedly what God has decided should be what his church is like regarding the men the women the children and all that he wants in his church don't play around lest you find yourself and your congregation in hell God had a blueprint for the Messiah for Mary for Joseph now just think what commotion what would it have been like if things wouldn't

have gone according to the blueprint if Jesus would have been born in Nazareth if you don't live accordingly the Bible won't be a book of life you will be the liar and deceiving the wrong one and I don't say and imply by that that Mary was mistaken or had purposefully been in Nazareth maybe it wasn't of no intention of her own they didn't have the money and the means to buy a house in Bethlehem they didn't have the money to leave that place and go to that place I don't say that she did it purposefully and Joseph as well I don't say that she did it purposefully and Joseph as well we Christians walk around like blindfolded people that's why we've got to stay close to God that he can shunt us around and lead us to the place he wants us we've got to be obedient maybe they were aware of Jesus

needing to be born in Bethlehem but maybe not thus we all can be blindfolded but we need to be close Galatians is that that was the reason why they needed a godless Augustus to teach them to lead them they they had to have a dictator to get them to the place where he wants them because they weren't there where God wanted them and that's why he used Augustus to force them there it's good to be wholly surrendered to God so that whatever the circumstances whatever may come you are fully surrendered to him and God worked through this ruthless dictator this brutal man so that they would come about this law that they would have to go the 70 mile distance to events to perfectly fulfill his plans Augustus in other words means the greatest the highest supreme authority God the God he was the God

but God had preordained that they would be there in Bethlehem and I'm not surprised that there shouldn't be any room for them after all Mary wasn't exactly mobile she couldn't rush to get to places in her state of pregnancy but but all that Augustus and the census all that pertains to Augustus and the census is amazing Psalm 118 from verse 22 the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone this this is the Lord's doing it is marvelous in our eyes this matter of the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem is marvelous in our eyes continuing to the next verse this is the day which the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it we too should rejoice and be extremely glad that the Savior has been born for us in

you.

The teacher afterwards said it was a mistake that he said that, but let's learn the lesson. We need to have that attitude. And you too, that's the attitude, the heart attitude that God blesses, making room for Jesus.

Jesus came to his own and his own received him not, but as the verse continues, those who did receive him, he gave them the power to become the sons of God. Are you part of them? Let's pray. Lord, may your word deeply penetrate us and completely change us so that we would live according to your heavenly plan.

And Lord, may your grace, the grace of you, Lord, who though you were rich and though you had everything, you left it and forsook it all to come and be poor for us. Amen.

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