

TEACHING & NEWS

Challenge Newsletter

From Barratt Ministries

Issue no. 82 September 2008

Only One Plan

"I want to show that God has only ever had one people and that he has only ever had one plan. According to scriptures, everything was planned by God **before** he ever spoke a creative word.

A complicated building needs not only a detailed plan for every aspect of the structure – from the foundations to the last coat of paint – but it also needs a quantity surveyor to calculate the materials needed and the costs involved. God, as the master architect of all creation has surely gone through this process and I believe that he made a detailed plan and the costs involved were calculated before he started his wonderful work. The following scriptures support my statements

*"According as he has chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."*

Ephesians 1:4

*"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world**."*

Revelation 13:8

Jesus did not shed his blood before creation, but it was in God's mind, and written in his plan, and in his mind it was already accomplished. By making these statements I am not adding my support to the doctrine of 'Predestination', for God's plan was also to give us a completely free will to obey or disobey him.

All created for God's pleasure. The problem is that if we do not understand God's plan, then we will never understand the fundamental questions people ask such as; why did God create the lake of fire if God is a God of love? It is not a stupid question, it is a very sensible one and most Christians do not have a satisfactory answer to this, nor to so many other questions.

Talking about God, Revelation 4:11 states; *"you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created."* If this is true, then **all things** were created for the pleasure of God and 'all things' must mean all created beings, including Satan, and the lake of fire. Satan

Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God

is not self created, he is a created being. God's plan did not fail at any time and it never will. Satan (his name means adversary) is not God's adversary as many Christians believe, but he is the enemy of God's people – he is the accuser of **the brethren**. (Revelation 12:10)



Maurice Barratt

God does not, and never will, have a problem with Satan. He does not have a problem with his own angels. God does not have a problem with the sinners of this world. God's only problem is with his own people; those he chooses and loves.

Satan must, therefore, be a part of God's plan and will fulfil all of God's will. The world and the Church have believed the myth that there is a battle of good against evil, God against Satan, light against darkness. This is actually occult teaching, and all occult inspired films from

the 'Exorcist' to 'Harry Potter' end with the triumph of good over evil. The Yin and the Yang, and even a chess board, are all examples of this kind of thinking – that is; two equal sides, black and white, fighting for supremacy and in doing so creating some kind of eternal balance.

The Battle is the Lord's

Satan does not mind if we think that good triumphs in the end, so long as we believe that there is a battle that has to be won. In the end all that cunning Satan has to do is make good – evil, and evil – good and we will all end up fighting against God. We are not as far away as we think from this very situation. So many of God's people are preparing the way for Antichrist. The sign of the last days, according to Jesus, was not a great revival, but a great apostasy and falling away from truth.

The whole battle is the Lord's and the outcome has already been determined by God. Nothing has been left to chance. Satan is a necessary evil – it is very difficult to play chess with all white pieces! For good to win, there must be an evil opposition, and **God has created both sides**. It is important that I mention this fact for the reader to consider.

The second part of Revelation 4:11 states; *"and for your pleasure they are and were created."* Therefore, everything was created **for God's pleasure**. This means that God will be pleased and satisfied with what is happening and what will happen. This does not mean, of course, that God will not suffer pain, grief or terrible hurt. What I am saying is that God counted the cost of this love – and therefore romance – before he

started to actually manifest it. Love without romance, pain, or cost is not love, therefore I can understand why Jesus told us to count the cost before we embark on discipleship.

What is God's Plan?

So many times we read in the scriptures that God mourned and grieved, but in the end he will be satisfied that his plan was perfect and has accomplished all that he intended it should accomplish. God will look at his new creation and he will consider it very good and it will bring him great and eternal pleasure.

What is God's plan for his creation? Why did he create the heavens and the earth and what is the culmination of his plan? A good place to start is at the end. This is not always the case of course, but the ending has not been left to chance and has already been written in God's plan – the bible.

If we understand what the finished building will look like, the process of building will not be such a mystery to us. The bible is not a history book, nor is it a book of morals, it is a book of God's dealings with his chosen people and his plan for them in the future.

Let us consider the end of God's plan and the process will become clearer as we progress through the bible. In the book of Revelation it is quite clear that there will be another creation – a new heaven and earth, but this creation will not have the tree of 'the knowledge of good and evil', only the tree of life. Those who choose to eat of the forbidden tree in this present life will spend eternity outside the family of God.

*"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, ...In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there **the***

tree of life..

from Revelation 22:1-2

The First Creation

In the first creation God made man so that he could have a relationship with him. This was to be different than the relationship that he had with the angels, Cherubim and Seraphim. God created man in his own image with a capacity to love and not just serve. I do not believe that the angels have the capacity to love. They were not made in the image of God and were created for an entirely different purpose than man. To think that angels should act as we do is an assumption, and I have invited people to bring me scriptures to show that angels love.

No one to this date has brought me even one scripture. Many have said that angels and the heavenly hosts worship God and this worship proves love!

All worship but all do not love.

Angels do indeed worship

God but people are wrong in their assumption, for worship does not prove love according to the bible.

*"But **in vain** they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

Matthew 15:9

"...this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, ..."

Isaiah 29:13

Love comes from the heart, not the mouth. It will put the matter beyond question if I state that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord and yet many of these will not love God.

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:10-11.

Every devil in hell, and on earth, and even Satan himself, will worship and confess that Jesus is Lord – and yet they will still hate him with all their being.

Worship means 'giving due benevolence' and this means 'to acknowledge that someone is

in authority over you and far above you in power and status'. It has nothing to do with the heart. Of course those who love will worship, but not all of those who worship do so out of love from the heart. God made man so that he could dwell, fellowship, tabernacle with him in a **love relationship**.

In the garden of Eden, God came down to earth to have fellowship with Adam. This was God's choice. He could have asked Adam to visit him once in a while, for Adam had not sinned and it would be possible for him to see God and live. Adam, I am sure, could have visited God in heaven, but God's plan was to fellowship with man, and he came down to the garden.

God made man
so he could
fellowship with
him.

After sin entered into the world through Adam, and consequently the whole of God's creation, God exiled himself and did not personally visit man until God said to Moses.

"Let them make me a tabernacle that I may dwell amongst them."

Exodus 25:8

God again came down and dwelt in a tent made with hands so that he could fellowship with his people.

The book of Revelation says about the new creation;

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them."

Revelation 21: 1-3

Notice, that the dwelling place of God will not be heaven, for it says *the dwelling place of God is with man*, and not the dwelling place of man is with God. He will dwell with us on the new earth with his family, and we will not live with God in heaven. The bride – the New Jerusalem – will come down out of heaven to the new earth. God's final plan will be accomplished when he dwells with the people he loves and has chosen. God's plan is one of love and the bible is the story of his romance to bring this final family of love together.

The End is a Happy Family

At the end of God's plan, Israel will be restored back to God after he has purified her. This is necessary because Israel will become God's wife, commit adultery and God will put her away. God's only son Jesus – who is from the union of God and Israel – will have been presented with the bride which his father has chosen for him, and the whole family of God will all live happily ever after. That is why we all love romance and family life. It is also the reason why Satan is trying to destroy family life and true love – because it prophesies God's plan. It also shows that we are made in God's image, when we have the same instincts. All creation screams out God's plan and heart – for all are made up of families. Birds and cattle, flowers and fish, all are in families. Mankind all over the world naturally live as families. It is God's order, God's heart and God's plan.

Even young people who do not believe in the institution of marriage, still

practice marriage in reality for they set up a home, have a family and are wanting a stable relationship. In our modern world even homosexual men are applying to adopt children. I do not criticise their desire for family life as it is a basic instinct from God.

Homosexuality may be against God's will and order, but family life is not – so strong is the pull that gravitates all of God's creation towards family life.

Everyone believes
in marriage.

The Greek mythology that says that gods came down to earth and mated with humans is only an alternative to the truth that God did come down to earth to produce flesh and blood through a woman's womb. God's son, one day, will produce many more spiritual sons to populate the new earth. God's plan is all about families, so choosing Israel as his wife is all part of this process. Dealing with sin to purify a bride for his son is only the means, and not the end. The finished building will be an eternal family.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"

Ephesians 3:14-15

God's work will last for six thousand years and the seventh thousand God will stop working and rest. He will then hand the kingdom to his son for one thousand years, and when the father is resting the son will be reigning. The son will then hand the kingdom back to the father and God will be all in all. God will create the new heaven and earth and he will not work again. The plan is complete and God will settle down with his family for eternity – not the absence of time, but endless time.

In the next issue I will continue to look at God's plan and how he set about to call a nation that would become his wife and produce his son.

This message is taken from the book,
'Israel the Church & the Kingdom of God'
by Maurice Barratt. £7-00 incl p+p
Ring **0161 224 2620** to order

Projects

Barratt Ministries supports missionary projects & work
amongst the poor in several countries of the world



The work on the orphanage is continuing to progress. We are now up to the roof level. Frank, Louise, and the children are waiting patiently to get into their new home. Next issue will feature photos of the orphanage.



Frank Musoke



We recently received an update from Pastor Jaikumar:

Dear and respected Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings in the highly exalted name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. All is well here by his grace and trust the same with you. The Lord has sustained us with his grace and wisdom to lead this organization together with your fervent prayers and support.

The Apostolic Bible college was started last year, and this year 15 enthusiastic and spiritual young people enrolled for a one year certificate course. Some have already dedicated their lives for the apostolic ministry.

Recently we dedicated a church building in the land purchased in the memory of late Robert Cavaness where the Bible college and children's school are situated. Though the church building is still unfinished because of lack of finances we dedicated it as there is an urgency of winning souls in that area.

A strong Hindu family has accepted the truth by the power of the Holy Ghost and removed all the idols from their house and threw them in the river in the presence of the people who were against them. Some of the family members are baptized in Jesus' name; praise the Lord. We conducted a street meeting in front of their house.

We start the Sunday service at 9:30a.m. which goes up to 2p.m. and again from 5p.m. to 8p.m. On 13th July we all felt great move of the Holy Ghost in the service and many young and old people dedicated themselves for the work of the Lord and decided to have more street meetings, house visitings and praying for the sick and win many souls for the Lord.

Surrounding village people are seeking admission of their children in our academic school. The number of children has greatly increased and now it is 310. There is no proper accommodation for them.

One AIDS patient who was on his death bed was healed by the power of the Lord. Now he is driving a school bus.

We have been conducting meetings in many villages and baptizing people in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you would like to help with any of our projects, cheques can be made payable to:

Barratt Ministries Uganda, Barratt Ministries Nigeria, or Project India.

Or just make a cheque to **Barratt Ministries** and specify the project you wish to help.

Address and bank details on back page.

Barratt Ministries
NIGERIA Dear brother,

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ our hope and strength. We trust you are all enjoying this season and we thank you for the strong response to our next trip to Kaduna and the Orphanage building roof funds. All these will go a long way in the hope these children of our martyred brethren will experience.



Surakat & Nike Nuradeen

We are happy to report to you that the water tank slabs and the aluminum roof fixing companies have been contacted about the jobs and they have assured us of their prompt services immediately payments are made. I will keep you informed of the updates of these jobs and travel plans.

As you had asked to know, when the roof has been fixed, the next job will be the Ceilings and the Window frames fixing (excluding window profiles and glasses that will be done much later after plastering of the walls).

And finally, we are very happy to realise that the orphanage project is advancing. It is a great priviledge we all have to serve the Lord, and His children in Kaduna.

God bless you my brother, and please give our love to all at BM headquarters; we love you all.
Surakat.



Recent photos of the orphanage. By the time you read this, the roof will have been completed. Praise God!



Experiences From Life

Disaster or Destiny

There once was a wealthy Lord who owned a very large piece of land. As this man looked out over the beautiful meadows watching the rabbits hopping through the luscious grass, bees and butterflies flitting amongst the buttercups and daisies, and admiring the birds and squirrels playing in vast trees, he had a vision ... A vision of a magnificent estate comprising a mansion which housed stables and garages, set in acres of cultivated gardens filled with orchards, exotic trees and plants, rock gardens, brooks and bridges. He began to sketch his vision and showed them to an architect and landscape gardener



by Joanna Barratt

who made blueprints to enable his vision to become a reality. Once the Lord had agreed their plans he contacted surveyors and builders who named their price and gave dates when they could commence the work he had commissioned them to do.

At last the day dawned when the work would begin. The Lord arrived on the scene late

in the day to find heavy machinery and equipment already installed and operative, and the ground swarming with men hard at work. In only a few hours they had completely devastated the former peace and tranquility of his land. All wild life had fled in terror as bulldozers had ripped through the fields digging up all the grass and flowers, and tearing out the trees. The place was a mess. These workmen seemed bent on destruction and did not care in the slightest for anything which he had once considered beautiful in its natural state.

Day after day the land became more ravaged. Instead of dew and rain filled grassland, the ground was a muddy bog, stripped of colour. Had the Lord made a costly mistake? Could anything good come out of this devastation? Of course! With time things changed. After the tearing down, came the building up. The work was intense and thorough, but after months of hard labour the work force produced the desired result and the Lord was well satisfied. The wild life returned to the area to

enjoy more pleasures than they had ever experienced before, as there were now streams and ponds to splash about in. The Lord was able to live in the mansion and enjoy his dream. Yes, it was well worth all his effort.

I find it heartbreaking to read the story of Joseph in the Bible. His crime was that he was the longed for son of his father's favourite wife. Although Jacob had other wives, Rachel was his true love. For 14 long years he had worked for her father, Laban, who was the most cunning, greedy man he had ever had the misfortune to know, to purchase the right to marry this woman. Yet, when she finally became his, it seemed as nothing for his love for her was so great. Rachel watched in agony as her older sister, who was also Jacob's wife, produced 6 sons for Jacob, whilst she was barren. After many years God finally blessed her and she gave Jacob Joseph. Jacob didn't hide his feelings for this long awaited son, he couldn't help loving this child because he came from his beloved Rachel.

You would think that the 10 grown up brothers would have doted on this little boy who was the son of their father's old age. But they were peevish, and hated the fact that their father showed him such favour. The Bible records that the problem the Pharisees had with Jesus was envy. They couldn't stand the fact that he was more popular than they were, so they delivered him up to be crucified. These brothers envied Joseph so much that they wanted to kill him, and would have done so whilst out on the hills tending their father's sheep if traders hadn't been passing by. They reasoned they wouldn't have gained anything

materially from his death so decided to sell him as a slave for 20 pieces of silver, and watched without an ounce of pity as he was dragged away screaming for mercy. They were completely deaf to their brothers cries.

I think you have to experience the rejection of your family first hand to ever appreciate the pain Joseph went through. There is nothing so crushing as this type of persecution.

Joseph was God fearing and blessed with a godly disposition. Everywhere he went, and whoever he worked for, he was singled out as a skilled, hard worker who got results. He earned the trust and respect of Potiphar, his first employer who was an Egyptian ruler, and was put in charge of all his estate. He was in a tremendous position of authority yet didn't get conceited and allow his climb up the ladder to go to his head. When Potiphar's wife tried to proposition him he made it very plain to her that she was the only thing he was not allowed to touch and he would not abuse the trust his employer had placed in him. Potiphar's wife, on the other hand, was furious when she experienced his rejection. Her ardent desire for him turned swiftly to anger, then to hatred - in fact she hated him so much that she declared he had raped her and his boss had him flung into prison.

Joseph must have been searching his soul day and night wondering what he had done to offend God. Why was it that no matter how hard he tried to honour God and serve those in authority over him, people always ended up both misinterpreting and misrepresenting him? And why was it people were so extreme in the way they dealt with him? They weren't content to just hurt or punish him, they wanted to completely annihilate him. Why? Joseph must have been so utterly lonely, away from family, away from friends, thrown into prison for something he hadn't done. How low can you go? How crushed can you be?

But God was still working in his life. This was all part of the process. God couldn't achieve his dream without putting Joseph through all this crushing, the pain was actually making Joseph the person God had intended him to become. Here was a man utterly alone, with no friends, yet even here the keeper of the prison recognised God's favour upon him and put him in charge of all the prisoners. He didn't concern himself with anything Joseph did because the Lord was with Joseph.

Joseph must have felt completely abandoned and forgotten. What a shock when he was bathed and clothed and brought before Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the then known world! God gave Joseph the interpretation of the dream which had troubled Pharaoh, and in the matter of a few minutes his station in life changed from prisoner to Prime Minister! This is one of the most amazing stories in the Bible. God elevated this Jew, this nobody, so highly that he was actually running the whole country for Pharaoh! Not only that, under his direction

he made the Pharaoh the most wealthy man on the planet, using the famine to buy land, live stock and people in exchange for grain.

But notice Joseph's attitude when faced with his brothers. He could have done so much damage to them. Next to the Pharaoh, Joseph was the most powerful man in the whole of Egypt, he could have completely destroyed his enemies. But God had done such a work in Joseph that he couldn't hold grudges. Although it had not yet been written, he could have quoted the scripture ... "All things work together for good, for those who love God, the called according to his purpose." He even said to his brothers, "You meant it for harm, but God meant it for good." Because Joseph had not fought or resisted against the pressure, God had been able to perfect him so that not only his family had been saved from certain death, but the whole of Egypt and many other nations round about.

The Bible is full of stories showing how people experienced devastating trials only to find themselves in glorious situations later on because they allowed God to smash them and mould them as he wanted to. We must always remember that God is the Master Potter and we are just lumps of clay which need to be shaped, fired, and glazed. Stay on the wheel and allow the Lord to stretch, pull and pummel. He knows what he is doing. Our problem is that we do not see the blue print, nor do we have the vision, of what our lives were destined to become. Only God knows that. But I am absolutely certain that, if we allow God to have his perfect way in our lives without complaint or resistance, God will not be the only one pleased with the result ... I'm sure that we also will be delighted with what we have become by God's grace.

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EVENTS DIARY

Maurice Barratt's Regular Teaching:

Mon	Eagley Bank, Shawforth, Rochdale, 8.00pm (Geoff Bates every other week)	☎ Gail Barrett	0161 224 2620
Mon	2 Springfield Way, York YO31 1HL.	☎ Maggie Redpath	0785 545 2617
Tue:	14 Perth Avenue, Higher Ince, Wigan WN2 2HJ, 8.00pm	☎ Geoff Hemersley	0194 223 0845
Wed:	3 Pavillion Court, Earlstown WA12 9GD, 8.00pm	☎ Steve Pilkington	0194 267 4519
Thu:	66 Hartwell Road, Stoke on Trent ST3 7BD, 7.45 pm	☎ Mark & Ilsa Jordan	0178 233 0309

Coming Events:

Sat 13th - Sun 14th September	M & J : At IMF. Unit 5-6 Mulberry Business Centre Quebec Way, Surrey Quays SE16 7LB	☎ Leonard Amechi	0794 701 4969
Sat 20th September	Barratt Ministries Joint Fellowship The Disbury, 825 Wimslow Road, Manchester M20 2SG	☎ Barratt Ministries	0161 224 2620
Thu 25th September	M : Teaching at the Methodist Church Main Street, Dorrington, Lincs	☎ John Parks	0152 683 0737
Sun 28th September	M : Teaching House On The Rock Int. Church 22 Tower Bridge Rd, London SE1 4TR	☎ Lola Oyebade	0207 231 6685
Fri 17th - Sun 19th October	Barratt Ministries Conference "Israel, the Church & the Kingdom Of God" Britannia Hotel, Palatine Rd, Northendon, End of M56, Manchester M22 4FH	☎ Barratt Ministries	0161 224 2620

second "Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God" conference

We held our first ever conference at the end of April and we were very encouraged with the attendance. People reported that they had been inspired and motivated, and testimonies were given of healings, restored marriages, and a better understanding of God's plan. The next conference will be held from Friday, 17th October to Sunday, 19th, at the Britannia Hotel, Manchester. Fore more information contact Barratt Ministries.

New Book!

Maurice's new book, "Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God - Volume 2" will be available to purchase from the 1st of October. Orders received before the October Conference can have a discount. £6 incl. p+p. (£7 after the conference.)



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