

PRELIMS. In this Psalm, David is facing **death!** Saul is hunting him and he feels “*My soul is in the midst of lions. I lie down amidst fiery beasts*”[4] But like all true believers, he can say “*in You my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of Your wings I take refuge*”[1b] While he was surrounded by death, he was able to **confide** in God!

This is not the case with **atheists**. Eg, Woody Allen the filmmaker, fears death. He is noted for his phrase ‘I don’t think of death – I just don’t want to be around when it happens’! He once disclosed in an interview, “It's hard for me to enjoy anything because I'm aware how **transient** things are. Yes, there are strategies of surviving ... There are times when you think, ‘life is sweet, it's nice,’ and thoughts of mortality are in abeyance. You know, watching the Marx Brothers or a Knicks game or listening to great jazz, you get a great feeling of ecstasy... **But then it passes**, and the dark **reality** of life starts to creep back in.”! Allen speaks for the **majority** of people!

Most people **never think** of death - even at **funerals!** Of course it is not a pleasant subject - but it is a very **important** subject! *While it is true, that when God created man, it was **life**, not death God had in mind, yet man by His folly chose death, God in His infinite love, overcame the problem of that choice of man.

Being unable to see any **purpose** in life, is the **reason** many people avoid thinking of death. **Albert Einstein** = “Our situation on this earth seems strange. Everyone of us appears here **involuntarily** and **uninvited** for a short stay, without knowing the **whys** and the **wherefore**’! Clever and wonderful though man was, Einstein did **not** know the **purpose** of life or explain man’s existence on earth!

So **different** from David and the Word of God! David can say, even when threatening ‘lions’ surround him, “*God who fulfills His purpose for me*”! Isn’t that lovely? What confused Woody Allen of course was **he** could not find a purpose for life – whereas David, like all of us, is unsure of many things, he knows **God had** a **purpose** for his life!

Lets look (1) God **has** a **purpose** for each one of us! (2) God will

fulfil that purpose! (3) Our **duty** in times of discouragement.

GOD HAS a PURPOSE FOR EACH ONE of US

God has created each and every one of us for His own **glory!** **None** of us are accidents! The poorest, weakest, least talented person in the whole world is no accident! You, as an **individual** have been **created** for God's glory! For God's **enjoyment!** *“Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, **for** You created **all** things, and by **Your will** they existed and were created”* [Rev 4:11] That is the conclusion, at the end of time, after history has run its course, and all that is to happen, has happened, those **24 elders** who surround the throne of God, make this statement in **worship!**

If you are a Xn, chosen in Christ, you have, **waiting** for you at the end of life, an **inheritance!** *“In Him we **have obtained** an inheritance, **having been predestined** according to the **purpose** of Him who works **all things** according to the counsel of His **will**”*[Eph 1:11]. Death is your **solicitor** calling you to come and receive your inheritance!

One day Paul was offered a big challenge – to speak to the world's greatest philosophers! Athens! Guess what he told them? He told them that the very air they breathed was chosen by God! The beginning of their life and the very end of their life, and the exact places where they lived, were all planned by God! *“God who made the world and **everything** in it...He...gives to **all** mankind **life and breath** and everything...having **allotted periods** and the **boundaries** of their dwelling places ...**For** in Him we **live and move** and have our **being**”* [Acts 17:24-28]! God brought everyone of us into existence and **placed** us **exactly** where He wanted us to be. God **continues** to give us **breath** day by day! The day you were **born** and the day you will **die**, the *“allotted period”*, is all in the **plan** of God!

Listen to the **world's greatest philosopher** (Solomon): *“Many are the **plans** in the mind of a man, but it is the **purpose** of the Lord that will stand”*[Pro 19:21] Have you ever wondered why **unusual** things happen? Do you ever wonder why very ill people **unexpectedly recover**? Have you ever wondered about **‘chance’** happenings? We meet people for a purpose! There are **‘hidden connections’** in life!

Not knowing the ‘whys and the wherefores’ is **no reason** to **deny** God - in fact it is a very good reason to believe in Him. Else everything is senseless/meaningless! You need a strong faith to believe in nothing!!

People today, generally speaking, do not believe in God - but they **do** believe in what they call **destiny!** Why is that? Just the **obvious** conviction that things were **meant** to happen the way it happened! It is the atheists way of describing God’s planned purpose for us!

Dr Luke believed God had a purpose for **David’s** life? *“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep”* [Acts 13:36] People **will** suggest the purpose of **your** life!

God had a purpose for **Paul’s** life, and Paul **discovered** it himself. Of course, we might not know what that purpose is - but *“And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle”* [1Tim 2:7 NIV]!

Sol was **so convinced** of God’s purpose for **all** people that he wrote a very **risky** thing!! He wrote something our Con Faith **warns us** not to talk too much about! It is the subject of God’s **sovereignty** and **evil!** Listen to Sol *“The Lord hath made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble”* [Pro 16:4]! Both **Moses** and Paul **confirmed** that by recording what God said about Pharaoh *“But for this purpose I have raised you up to show you My power”* [Ex9:16]

The Bible might not provide the answers to these very difficult questions, but it does **not ignore** the fact that there **are** such questions! The reason there are no answers is likely because **we would not understand** or even perhaps we would **pervert the answer** to a **false** use-age, a Peter said we twist the Scriptures to our own destruction!

GOD FULFILLS HIS PURPOSES

*“The Lord of hosts has sworn, “As I have planned, **so shall it be**, and as I have purposed, so shall it **stand**”* [Isa 14:24] Sol wrote again *“the **plans** of the Lord **stand firm** for ever, the purposes of his heart through all generations”* [Psa 33:11 NIV] **Time** does not ‘**erode**’ God’s purposes. Often for us, the passing of time, erodes the grand ideas and plans we had in youth! Our **enthusiasm** wanes! Our energies fade - but not so God! Trouble is we do **not know** the **future!**

But listen to God... *“I am God...declaring the **end** from the **beginning** and from **ancient times**, things not yet done, saying ‘My counsel shall stand and I **will** accomplish **all My purpose**...I have spoken and I will bring it to pass; I have **purposed** and **will** do it’”* [Isa 46:10,11] It is a pregnant phrase: *“When the **fulness of time** had come”*[Gal 4:4] What time? The time **purposed** by God for Jesus to come into the world.

The **Bible itself** has a very clear testimony about its own purpose *“so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth: It shall **not return** to me **empty**, but it shall **accomplish** that which I **purpose** and shall **succeed** in the thing for which I sent it”*[Isa 55:11]. **APP** Just think of that! Every Scripture you have heard or read had a purpose for **you!** Paul=*“it will be a savour of life unto life or of death unto death”*[2C2]

Some times we make plans saying ‘This is the best thing to do’ but as Hebrews *“God had **planned** something **better** for us”*[Heb11:40 NIV]

God **uses us** to fulfil His own plans and purposes! NLT=*“For God has put a plan into **their** minds, a plan that will carry out **His purposes**. They will agree to give their authority to the scarlet beast, and so the words of God will be **fulfilled**”*[Rev 17:17 NLT]

OUR DUTY

(1) Ask God to help you recognise His purpose and to **co-operate** with it! *“I **cry out** to God Most High, to God, who **fulfils** His **purpose** for me”* [Psa 57:2] God has a purpose for you! You are no accident.

(2) **Re-establish** your **confidence** in God’s steadfast love/mercy/promises and **praise** Him. **Read vv1,3,7,11** and do **not lose heart** or **throw away** your confidence!! [Heb 10:35]

(3) **Remind** God, you are the *“work of His hands”*! In [Psa 138:8] David prays the **same** words but **adds** *“do **not forsake** the work of Your hands”*! You are work of God’s hands! Pray that God won’t forsake His own work! He created you for some good purpose – and **unless we ruin ourselves**, God will never forsake His own work!