

# Genesis Zero: Before the Beginning

---

Forestgate Presbyterian Church ~ October 9, 2011

Before the foundation of the world, there was a **divine plan**. (Titus 1:1-3)

Paul refers to this as a **mystery** that has been hidden for ages in God but has now been revealed. (Eph. 3:9)

God's plan of salvation includes these five parts: **foreknew**, **predestined**, **called**, **justified**, and **glorified**. (Rom 8:29-30)

The first two parts occurred in eternity past. This is called the **eternal decree**. (Eph 3:11; Heb 13:20; WCF ch. 3)

God has a **purpose** in calling us which is rooted in His **love**. (Eph 1:4; 1:5; 1:9; 1:11)

God's purpose is to manifest His **glory**. (Eph 1:12; 1:14)

We are created for **good works** that were prepared for us **beforehand**. (Eph 2:10)

Several ways in which Paul refers to the outworking of God's plan:

1. spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3)
2. adoption (Eph 1:5)
3. redemption (Eph 1:7)
4. forgiveness (Eph 1:7)
5. unification (Eph 1:10)
6. inheritance (Eph 1:11)
7. resurrection (Eph 2:5)
8. exaltation (Eph 2:6)
9. workmanship (Eph 2:10)
10. brought near (2:13)
11. peacemaker (2:14)
12. fellow citizens (2:19)
13. members of his household (2:19)
14. a holy temple (2:20-21)
15. a dwelling place for God (2:22)

What can we learn about angels from the book of Genesis?

- angels are heavenly creatures (probably created before the cosmos)
- angels are God's servants (various types and capacities)
- angels are not all good (Gen 3:1; *possibly* 6:2)
- angels move back and forth between heaven and earth (Gen 28:12)
- angels are numerous (Gen 32:1-2)
- angels are present but are usually unseen
- angels can be manifested in heavenly glory, or they may appear as man or animal (Gen 18:2)
- angels are intelligent, but have finite knowledge
- angels are powerful, but they are not omnipotent
- angels do not receive worship (except theophanies)
- angels are participants in the drama of God's redemption (for both good and evil)