

1944 - FIT FOR PURPOSE - Psalm 138:1,8

INTRODUCTION. A popular term used today for something that is not working and cannot be put right, is, '**Not Fit for Purpose**'! I have heard this said about many things! In fact I have heard a dying man asking for his life to be ended because his life was '**not** fit for purpose'!!

Well, despite all that has **gone wrong** with mankind, and despite the **mess** we have made of ourselves and the world around us, the Psalmist here, King David, does **not** know anything of human beings not being 'fit for purpose'! On the **contrary**, the Holy Scriptures as a whole along with King David, teach that we, despite our frailty and sinfulness **we still have a purpose** in life! God, who created each one of us, **has** a purpose, even in our dying days for each one of us.

And that purpose will be achieved! *The Lord will fulfil His purpose for me* (8). Remember he is at that time walking *in the **midst of trouble*** (7)!! You get the idea that the **devil** is filling his mind with the idea that his life is meaningless and he is not worth very much - thus his final plea *Do not forsake the work of Your hands* (8). Yet, he knows very well his life is a life that has been **framed** and **carved** for a **special purpose** and that God never rejects His own handiwork!!

Sadly many famous people have not found their own lives to be full of purpose! **Albert Einstein** = "Our situation on this earth seems strange. Everyone of us appears here **unvoluntarily** and **uninvited** for a short stay, without knowing the whys and the wherefore"! Einstein did not know the purpose of life or of man's existence on earth! **Anna Ford** the newscaster = "Life is terrible short and a bit of a joke at our expense. You wonder what it's all about... I know that if I haven't discovered what I am good at and done it, when I lie on my deathbed, nothing will compensate for not being fulfilled"! *There are 1,000s more famous people, who have 'made it' who would say the same sort of thing! No wonder - when we are taught from the highest establishments that we are '**accidents**'! We were **not designed nor deliberately created** to be here! We are here by chance!

David disagrees entirely – *The Lord will fulfil His purpose for me!* Isn't that lovely? David, while he was unsure of many things, he knew **God had a purpose** for his life! Lets look **(1) God has a purpose for each one of us!** **(2) Our duty to pray** about God's Purposes for us!

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, the **most disabled** person in the whole world is no accident! You, as an **individual** have been **created** for God's glory! For God's **enjoyment!** *it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure* (Phil 2:13) + *You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created* (Rev 4:11) + *having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will* (Eph 1:11)

One day Paul was offered a big challenge – to speak to the world's greatest philosophers in Athens! Guess what he told them? Listen **God who made the world and everything in it...He Himself gives to all mankind **life and breath** and everything...having **determined** allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place... 'In him we **live and move** and have our **being**' (Acts 17:24-28) Ie, God brought everyone into existence and **placed** them **exactly** where He wanted them to be, and **continues** to give them **breath!** You/I live and **continue to live** because God wanted us to live.**

You may think what you like, but **God** has a **purpose** for **your life!** You may make all the plans in the world – but it is God's plan that will come to pass! Listen to the world's greatest philosopher (Sol): *Many are the **plans** in the mind of a man, but it is the **purpose of the Lord** that will stand* (Pro 19:21). **Qu?** How many of us had **plans** to be saved? But **God who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works** (or plans) **but because of His own purpose** (2Tim1:9).

God had a purpose for **David**? *For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep* (Acts 13:36) God had a purpose for **Jesus**: *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed* (Acts 2:23). God had a purpose for **Paul** for this **purpose** *I was appointed a herald and an apostle* (1Tim 2:7NIV)

Sol was **so convinced** of God's purpose for **all** people that he **dared** to write (something our Con Faith **warns us** about) - God's **sovereignty** and **evil** in the world *The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble* (Pro 16:4)! And **Moses substantiated** that by saying re Pharaoh *But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you My power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth* (Ex 9:16) So, no matter who you are, with all your **sin**, with all your **failures**, God has a purpose for you in this world, and an **overall good purpose!**

OUR DUTY to PRAY ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSES FOR US

David **prayed** *Do not forsake the work of Your hands!* David was **pleading a promise** that God has made to all His people - that unless **we ruin ourselves**, God will never abandon us! That in **effect**, was saying, 'Look, I am here, I **don't feel** I am fulfilling very much, but I **know** you have a purpose for my life. **Help** me to **see** it'. When King Saul was hunting David and he came into the cave where David was hiding, David said *I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfils His purpose for me* (Psa 57:2 written just after this incident). David must have been encouraged at that time, for despite being hunted by Saul, he knew he would indeed one day become king, for Saul himself had **conceded** this was **God's purpose!** *I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand* (1Sam 24:20) Now a lot of events had yet to take place before David could be King, but here was nevertheless great encouragement, so David had to exercise **faith** in the **promises** of God! But David also needed to **pray!** So you/I must **pray!**

Notice too that David says **FOR ME** (8c) the future was not just good for God's glory - but also **for David's good** - and for you and I who have faith in God's appointed and anointed King of Kings and Lord of Lords - the **Lord Jesus Christ!** David was but a **type** and **shadow** of God's **long term purpose** for the world the Coming and the **Reigning** of His Son Jesus Christ!

What else **convinced** David that God had a purpose for him? **(a) God's love endures forever!** *Your steadfast love, O Lord endures forever* (8b). David experienced God's great love, day in, day out! There was **no way** that love was going to stop! God just does not work like that! It was **steadfast** love and it was going to **endure forever** **APP Behind** all the 'agents' who are the messengers who bring peace, joy, blessing, into your life, there is a God who **sends them to you!**

(b) David had answers to prayer *On the day I called, You answered me* (3a)! David had many days when he was in trouble and his life was preserved (7)! He called on God a lot! And God answered! *Your right hand delivers me* (7c) God had a **reason** for David being delivered! So you!

(c) David was strengthened in times of **need** Verse 3b, *my strength of soul you increased* can be rendered *You made me bold and stout-hearted!!* When he faced a **lion**; a **bear**; **Goliath**; **Saul**, David called on the Lord and he received strength to face and defeat these enemies *You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies* (7b) That protection and deliverance means there is a **reason and purpose** for you being delivered and spared!

(d) David was but a poor type/shadow of the Only One who truly was **Fit for Purpose** - the **Lord Jesus Christ!** He was the **Perfect Man!** He was fit to fight **Satan**, **He was fit to endure, hunger, thirst, tiredness, loneliness, rejection, the Cross, the wrath of God** - for **unworthy sinners!** **Praise the Lord that Jesus Christ fulfilled the purpose of God to save sinners like you and me!**