**Destiny** – How do we as men test drive, buy into, and then experience our life’s purpose in the Lord?

(All Scriptures from NKJV)

**Destiny, what is God’s perspective?**

* 700 hundred year before the fact Prophetic announcement regarding who Jesus is and what He will do, clearly reveals that God is intent on a program of expansion

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

* Original purpose of Mankind on the earth

Genesis 1:28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them,"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

* The individual man why were you and I created?

Acts 17:24-28

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

* Promises from God to everyman

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Psalm 34:8-10

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

* An example of that promise fulfilled

Genesis 15:1

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

* Bringing the prophecy of Jesus full circle, here is the commission of Jesus for all of His followers

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

**The purposes of God have not changed, through the ages, He is focused on growing and expanding His Kingdom bringing as many lives as possible back into alignment with their created purpose.**

**The method of learning our individual purpose has been revealed to us (we are here to seek Him) and secured by God’s promises and example.**

**NUTS AND BOLT-**

**How do we as men test drive this calling from God, this destiny, in order to begin to fulfill our purpose during our time under the sun?**

**Having test drove, how do we as men buy into and incorporate God having a plan and purpose for us on an everyday level?**

**-------------------------------**

**Two views of Jesus-**

* First: that He is God unapproachable and most high, only He could do the things which He did and surely God has no expectation that I should order my life as Jesus (or other holy men) did. (This is the message of most man-made religions even at times the Christianity we encounter)
* Alternately and in agreement with the Scriptures: That Jesus, though He came as God in the flesh, lived the struggle of a destined man, He sought the Father regularly and did what the Father showed Him, though He is the only one to have done it perfectly yet Jesus is my example of how a man should live before God and with his fellow man, He calls me to present and represent His Kingdom during my moment under the sun by following His example

**Our Generation hangs in the balance as in each of our activities we either partner with Jesus in gathering His Kingdom or we actively scatter it to the wind.**

Luke 11:23

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

**BONUS PAGE- (this is what they did during their moment under the sun)**

**Example of the fruit of the efforts of the early Christians (~AD 50-AD 325) on their society as they partnered with the Lord’s Spirit during an incredible time of church growth. From Athanasius of Alexandria, it was a time which included intense Roman persecution in which thousands and maybe tens of thousands of Jesus’ followers received death rather than deny His name yet the church of God grew until by mid 350 AD even Rome became ‘Christian’.**

In general Athanasius reports that: (paraphrased)

* Because of the resurrection all the disciples of Christ despise death, preferring to die rather than renounce their faith, men, women, and even the Christian children train for that moment when they may have to stand firm for Christ with their life and consider death for His name’s sake as nothing
* The Savior is working mightily among men, every day invisibly persuading numbers of people all over the world, to accept His faith and be obedient to His teachings
* They cease from their activities: adulterers from their adultery, murderers from murdering, the unjust from avarice, the profane and godless become religious
* Idolatry is destroyed and the fraud of evil spirits is exposed, they take flight at the name of Jesus
* The heathen from every region have rejected the traditions of their fathers and their false worship of idols and are placing their hope in Christ and transferring their allegiance to Him
* Before our very eyes here in Egypt (Athanasius was from Alexandria in Egypt) they turn from their idolatry now when the Lord of all has come, by His death salvation has come to all men, He is the life of all, Who like a sheep gave up His own body to death, His life for ours and our salvation
* When did the people begin to abandon their idols? When did the oracles (demon possessed prophets of Greece) cease and lose their meaning? When did those the poets called gods and heroes begin to be counted as mere men? When did the deceit of demons fall under contempt? When did the practice and theory of magic begin to be trampled underfoot? Now all the world of men are forsaking their fear of idols and taking refuge with Christ and by worshipping Him as God they come to know the Father also.