

GOD KEEPS BOOKS IN HEAVEN

Psalm 139:1-18

July 18, 2021

2000 years ago – Christ took twelve very ordinary men and made them His disciples, and as they followed Jesus for three years, He gave them a new outlook on this world and a new purpose in life. During those 3 years Jesus turned their mundane lives upside-down, helping them to see the world as God, His heavenly Father sees it, taking them from worldly people concerned about their own interests to become Kingdom people caring out God’s will upon this earth. Their previous world view as ordinary working men was limited, and self-focussed, their goals and ambition were to make it through life day-by-day. They never realized they had a God given purpose to live victorious joy filled lives; instead, they saw their purpose on this earth as feeding their families, raising their children, being good citizens not causing harm to anyone, and gaining possessions to make their life more comfortable, and hopefully live to an old age. Their world view was extremely small, entirely self-focused and ordinary until Jesus came along! Their small world view was actually holding them back from what God wanted them to accomplish during their short time on this earth! When Jesus entered the picture, He interrupted their lives and changed everything, expanding their world view to such an extent that they turned the world upside-down, as they turned 180 degrees from being inward focused to outward focused, and Jesus wants to do the same for each one of us as well!

For the last 2000 years – Jesus keeps calling ordinary men/women out of the world to follow Him. God keeps trying to get our attention, but change is difficult and challenging, that is why God allows certain situations to come into our lives to get our attention, to help us start seeing this world as He sees it. We all have a world view that we hold on to tightly; however, there may be a much better way for us to view our world, but that always involves a Jesus interruption to get our attention and change our focus off ourselves and onto Him. God, with the help of the Holy Spirit, needs to get our attention. **Acts 9** tells us about a Pharisee named Saul, who was breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s early followers, going about arresting them for their faith, and how God intervened in his life on the road to Damascus to get his attention, setting him on the right path, the path God had pre-ordained for him from the beginning of time. Psalm 139 reminds us that God has a divine purpose for our lives, as God had a divine purpose for Saul’s life, but Saul was on the wrong path, and Saul couldn’t fulfill his divine purpose and calling

on his life on that wrong path, unless God intervened. Thankfully God intervened or we wouldn't have a large portion of the New Testament to guide our daily lives.

Do you believe that God has a divine purpose for your life? And then, do you believe that you are on the right path in fulfilling that divine purpose? As believers we live in both a physical and a spiritual realm, and there is a great deal of activity taking place in that spiritual realm that affects our daily lives. So, we live in both a physical and spiritual realm.

This morning I want to help us understand what is taking place in the spiritual realm in Heaven, because how we understand the activities taking place right now in the heavenly realm affects our Christian walk here on this earth. What we especially need to be aware of is that God keeps books in Heaven, and He also holds court in Heaven. This is especially important for us to understand in our prayer life because prayer is an activity that involves the spiritual courtroom of Heaven. There are petitions, accusations, arguments, and evidence presented in the courtroom of Heaven just as there are in the courts here on Earth. So, to understand the spiritual battle we face each day in accomplishing God's will here on this physical earth, we need to understand what is taking place in the spiritual realm in Heaven and around us!

The Bible tells us that God keeps numerous books (scrolls) in heaven, and **Psalm 139:16** tells us that God keeps a specific book in heaven with our name on it, *"Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."* From the beginning of time, long before we were born, God wrote down in a book the destiny and Kingdom purpose He had for each one of our lives. God saw our physical form long before we were conceived, seeing when and where we would be born and each specific day we would spend on this earth, *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb"* (Psalm 139:13). And because we were fearfully and wonderfully made, we are precious to God and have a reason for being here at this time and in this place.

And then after our birth, according to **Psalm 139:1-5** God saw our daily activities, the words we would speak our thoughts, our activities, knowing what we would accomplish during our lifetime, especially the Kingdom impact that He had destined for our lives that was written in our book kept in Heaven. *"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar, you discern my going out and my lying down;*

you are familiar with all of my ways, before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.” Every person ever born has a book written about them, and our battle each-and-every day is to get what is written within that book accomplished on this earth in the specific time God has given to each one of us. What we need to realize is that God has done His part and now it’s up to us to do our part, and it all depends on the daily choices we make. Some of us will fulfill a portion of His divine purpose for our lives and receive rewards once we get to heaven, and then unfortunately, others will not fulfill any of their God given purpose and suffer great loss.

Jesus also had a book written about His time here on this earth. **Hebrews 10:5-7**, *“When Christ came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’”* And then **John 1:14**, *“The WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”* Jesus came to this earth with a passion and a commitment to fulfill everything that had been written in His book in heaven. The Old Testament Scriptures needed to be fulfilled, which means everything the prophets said about Jesus would be fulfilled perfectly. So, at Jesus physical birth to Mary and Joseph, the countdown began, and everything that was written was fulfilled perfectly and completely to the letter, in the short 33+ years that Jesus was given on this earth. And Satan tried to stop Jesus every step of the way from fulfilling His purpose, right from the very beginning, starting with the killing of the infants by King Herod, to the temptations in the wilderness to get Jesus off track, right down to orchestrating Christ’s death on the cross. And to this day Satan continues to be relentless in preventing us from fulfilling our God given divine purpose, putting road blocks and detours in our path every day to get us off track and heading down the wrong road.

The day we were born – the process of living out our Kingdom purpose, as written down in our book in heaven, began. That is what Paul tells us in **Ephesians 2:10**, *“We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* This verse reminds me that I don’t belong to myself, I belong to God my Creator, and there is a God centered purpose to my existence, which I am called to live out, and my goal during my lifetime is to discern and determine that God-given purpose and then obediently fulfill it to the

best of my abilities with the help of the Holy Spirit. I believe that is why God through His Holy Spirit keeps poking us, prodding us, directing us, and bringing other believers into our lives to keep us on His path, because God wants all of us to fully our calling and purpose, and further His kingdom here on this earth, defeating the works of the devil!

In fact, we are also told that God has angels assigned to us to help us accomplish what is written in our book in heaven. That is what Jesus tells us in **Matthew 18:10**, *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”* The assignment of angels help us live out our God given destiny. Before we were born, God sat down and wrote our life thesis, why He created us and why He placed us in this exact time period in history and in this specific place we live, and then briefed the angels assigned to us so that they would work with us to bringing it all about. Because of free choice, we may rebel against that destiny, but these angels assigned to us are never going to stop trying until the day we die, because God’s desire is to bless His children while we live on this earth and then reward His children once they get to Heaven.

When I think about the millions of aborted babies over the last 50+ years; God had a book with their name in Heaven, they all had a divine purpose and destiny that was never fulfilled because of the choice someone made on their behalf to not have them live out their lives. Because of sin, God’s will for these children was never carried out, and all of mankind lost out. We are all affected by that lost destiny in some way. How that must grieve God’s heart for all of that potential that was lost!

Heaven is filled with books – not only books about individuals, but also books about churches, businesses, towns, cities, and nations. God actually has a book in heaven written about this church SCCC, filled with the Kingdom purposes He desires this church to fulfill here in the Sombra area. And it is our task to discern what God has written concerning SCCC and accomplish His will for this specific time He has given us. We may accomplish all of it; we may accomplish some of it; or we may accomplish none of it, depending on the choices we make! God also has a book written in heaven about your business or farm operation; the work of our hands has a divine calling as we are to fulfill God’s purposes in our daily work, or profession, or business ventures. And then, God has a book written in heaven about Canada’s role in carrying out His Kingdom work here in Canada and

throughout the world. Last Sunday, I spoke on how Canada was established as a Christian nation 154 years ago and how it has now drifted into an ungodly nation, and how this has happened under the watch of the Christian church. Believers need to speak up and prevent this kind of degradation from taking place under our watch. God's desire is that Canada would fulfill what is written in their book in Heaven and the church is responsible for that to take place!

The Bible indicates that Heaven is a highly active place – much more is happening there than what we often realize, especially as courts are being held. The book of Genesis, Job, Revelation, and various other places within the Bible clearly state that God is sitting on His throne in heaven holding court where decisions are being made pertaining to various activities taking place on this earth. For example, at one of these heavenly councils, they decided to create us, ***“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth’”*** (Genesis 1:26). When God said, ***“let us,”*** that tells us that there was a discussion held in the council of heaven among the council members concerning the creation of mankind, and the decision to allow us to have control (stewardship) over the entire creation. However, we also need to understand that Satan was present in that heavenly council as well and became aware of God's plans for His created beings and decided right there-and-then to come against God's plans in keeping us from fulfilling what God had written within His books. Satan comes against every person, comes against every church, every business, and every nation from fulfilling their Kingdom purpose. That is the spiritual battle we are fighting each day as believers, but we are victorious because Satan was defeated at the cross and lost all of his authority over us!

Once decisions are made in heaven's courts, then it's up to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit and the help of ministering angels to carry it out. God has left it up to us to decide if we will obey what heaven intends to happen or not. The choice is left up to us, we can fulfill what God wants done on this earth or we can hinder and obstruct His plans by our disobedience. That is why God's perfect will on this earth doesn't always take place. Individuals fail, churches fail, businesses fail, and countries fail and fall into evil as Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy God's plans and purposes. In **Daniel 10**, we are told that Daniel's prayer was hindered by Satan for 21 days and was only answered when God sent the archangel Michael to help defeat the demonic prince that controlled that region.

Jesus spoke about this struggle in the parable of the two sons, found in **Matthew 21:28-31**, *“There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted? ‘The first,’ they answered. Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.’”* In this parable, the rebellious first son ended up being the true obedient son, because even though he first rebelled, he later repented and went to work in the vineyard, while the second son looked like he would obey, but didn’t. The religious leaders in Jesus’ day were the second son who didn’t accept Christ as their Messiah and hindered God’s work and we can do likewise. This parable reminds me that the Lord is so merciful that even when we get it all wrong and rebel against Him at first, He grants us more opportunities to get it right, wanting us to fulfill our God-given purpose and destiny.

I can personally relate to this parable because I too was once rebellious in following God’s calling on my life, dragging my heels for years, and then finally repenting and doing His will. I was like that first son, saying *“I will not”* and then later going to do God’s will. God asks each one of us this question every day, *“Will you go and do my Kingdom work, out there in my fields that are ripe for harvest or not?”* Some will go and some won’t! It is only once we choose to obey, that the decisions made on this earth will start to line up and agree with the decisions being made in heaven, and the result is that powerful works of God will take place, and heaven will come down to this earth, as we pray in the Lord’s prayer, *“Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!”* God’s will for our lives can only take place when heaven and earth line up, but the problem is that Satan is always there to hinder us and prevent our lives from lining up with Heaven. It is our constant daily battle, and that is why we need to be equipped and ready for the battle by putting on the Armour of God each and every morning!

Unfortunately, not every Christian lives out what is decided in the council of Heaven and written within God’s books perfectly, so we need to depend on God’s grace, and mercy to give us hope. As believers, what we will be judged on one day, are not our sins, because our sins have been struck from our records. What we will be judged on is how closely we lived out our lives according to what was written in the books God keeps in heaven. As believers, we can’t lose our

salvation, we will get to live out eternity in heaven once we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, but we can miss out on our rewards that God had prepared for us in advance; therefore, to live out our lives not in agreement with what is written in God's books is to waste our time, and none of us wants to see that happen!

God has not called all of us to be pastors, or evangelists, or Bible teachers, but He has called each one of us to do something to further His kingdom purposes in our homes, in our churches, in our workplaces, in our neighbourhoods and communities in this short time He has given us on this earth. We are only called to be faithful in what God has called us to do, and when we do, God's kingdom will come down to this earth and His blessings will flow through us to others. And then once we get to heaven, we will hear those words, *“Well done good and faithful servant!”*

God keeps accurate records on every person He creates – our unique identification, such as our fingerprints, DNA, and even the irises of our eyes are recorded by God. **Psalm 139** reminds us that we are each a unique child of God, wonderfully made, one-of-a-kind, not another person is like us. And David the author of this Psalm praises God for that in **verses 14-16**, *“I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know them full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”* We are each deeply loved and have a kingdom purpose and destiny, and my book and your book is currently sitting on the shelf in God's library. And one day we will see what God had written within its pages and come to understand the life that God had pre-planned for us in this time and in the place where He has ordained us to live.

What we also need to be aware of, as Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 5:10**, is that one day we will be called to appear before our Creator to give an account on how we spent our time on this earth. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad!”* So, on that day when we stand before Christ when the books are opened, I pray that none of us will be shocked to learn that the majority of our time on this earth was spent on things that didn't count towards our eternal rewards. As well, there's another important book in heaven

called the “*The Lamb’s Book of Life,*” and I pray that each of your names would be found recorded in that book. Then hopefully, as we learn to keep in sight that heavenly goal before us, it will spur us on to passionately begin labouring for rewards that endure for eternity, and not just labour and strive for earthly rewards that will eventually rust or rot away or end up in the landfill once we leave this earth. As believers we need to build up our treasures in heaven, and not on this earth!

If you want to discover what’s written in your book in heaven – I believe all you need to do is to look within your heart. What are your interests, desires, ambitions, longings, passions, and joys in life? These are all clues of what is written within God’s book with your name in His library. And then a final warning, Satan doesn’t want you to discover your purpose and will do everything within his power to keep you from what God has written within your book. That is why so many of us are often frustrated, discouraged and stumble along in our walk of faith, not knowing our meaning and purpose, and end up living defeated lives when God wants us to live victorious joy filled lives. Satan comes against us because he knows how dangerous we are once we find out what’s written on the pages of our book in Heaven’s library, and step into our Kingdom purpose. Only when we are in step with our divine destiny will God’s kingdom come down and bless our families, our marriages, our churches, our workplaces, our businesses, our communities, and this nation of Canada. And that is why it’s so important for us to know what is taking place in the spiritual realm of heaven and the part God has for us to play here on this physical earth!

In closing, Paul’s charge to his student Timothy to fulfill all what God had planned for him before time began is my charge to you. **2 Timothy 1:8-10**, *“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to be a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*