

God's Work Through & In History
A Super-Natural God Pt 4
Ephesians 3
Bud Wrenn 9/9/07

Confronting the Fears About my Faith:

- **Lack of knowledge of my own identity in Christ.**
- **Fear of being seen as an outsider.**
- **Lack of confidence in my understanding of the 'why's'.**

Points About God's Plan

1) The world wasn't ready until after Christ's resurrection.

Ephes. 3:3 As I briefly mentioned earlier in this letter, God himself revealed his secret plan to me.

2) He intended for us to understand and embrace the Plan.

Ephes. 3:4 As you read what I have written, you will understand what I know about this plan regarding Christ.

3) Progressive revelation: A timely, deliberate and cumulative unfolding of God's Plan over time.

Ephes. 3:5 God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now he has revealed it by the Holy Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets.

4) The Plan's ultimate outcome: The Church

Ephes. 3:6 And this is the secret plan: The Gentiles have an equal share with the Jews Both groups have believed the Good News, and both are part of the same body and enjoy together the promise of blessings through Christ Jesus.

5) The Plan's twofold purpose:

a) The trumping of Satan and his opposition to God.

Ephes. 3:10-11 God's purpose was to show his wisdom in all its rich variety to all the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

b) Universal access to God and a salvific relationship with Him

Ephes. 3:12 Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come fearlessly into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome.

What this means to me:

i) The power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephes. 3:16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit.

ii) The presence of Jesus Christ.

Ephes. 3:17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.

iii) The preeminence and passion of God the Father.

Ephes. 3:18-19 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephes. 3:20-21 By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.