

Women & More

God's Royal 'Shall'

February 20, 2014

We have said it before: our God is a powerful, purposeful, planning God! Isaiah 14:24 says, “*The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, ‘Surely as I have thought, so it shall come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.’*” **Every thought and every purpose of God shall come to pass; shall stand!** Notice, too, that God’s thoughts equal God’s plans: Jeremiah 29:11a says “‘*For I know the **thoughts that I think toward you,**’ saith the LORD...*” in the KJV; and “‘*For I know the **plans I have for you,***’ declares the LORD...” in the NIV. Be assured, God’s thoughts are His plans!

God absolutely knows the purposes and the thoughts and plans he has for us and he has the power to bring them to pass and to see us through them for our good. The rest of Jeremiah 29:11 says “*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.*” Verses 12 and 13 summarize: “*Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*” God is speaking to the house of Israel through Jeremiah and is promising them deliverance from Babylon when seventy years are completed. But God is also promising us, today, to whom seventy years is a lifetime, that if we will call on him and come and pray to him, that he will listen to us—that we will find him if we seek him with all our heart.

When God utters his royal—fit for a Sovereign King—*shall*, it expresses his perfect will and a promise that he *shall* keep: It represents **his will for us** and **his will and testament to us** who are his heirs. As Covenant God, his last *Will and Testament* is the Bible, for all who come to God by faith in Christ Jesus and for his people Israel. His every promise can neither be broken nor shaken by our standing on it.

♥Frances Jane Crosby (March 24, 1820 to February 12, 1915), known as Fanny Crosby, as well as Frances van Alstyne—husband insisted that she retain her maiden name—was an American lyricist who wrote more than 9,000 hymns in her life, and was posthumously inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1975. Blinded in infancy by a doctor’s ineptness, she writes: “When I get to heaven the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior.”

Some of Crosby’s thousands of hymns include:

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior in 1868;

Near the Cross and Praise Him, Praise Him and Rescue the Perishing in 1869;

All the Way My Savior Leads Me and *I Am Thine, O Lord* and *Draw Me Nearer*, and *To God Be the Glory* in 1875;

*Tell Me the Story of Jesus in 1880,
Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It in 1882, and
Jesus is Tenderly Calling You Home in 1883.*

She was well known in her day, even by presidents, and she played her 1878 hymn *Safe in the Arms of Jesus* at President Grant's funeral in 1885. Her tombstone in Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut, reads: Aunt Fanny—and then follows the first two lines of her best known 1873 hymn: “Blessed assurance Jesus is mine, Oh what a foretaste of glory divine.” She was sure! To be assured is to be sure.

Satan would have us lend our ear and our souls to those who would say that we cannot be sure. But God's Word, his Holy Spirit and his many servants can encourage, strengthen and assure us when we cannot go on: As one has so shockingly put it, “When all ‘hell’ breaks loose, all heaven draws near.” Whatever we're facing, whatever we're going through, God is already there. He has walked the path of sorrow, suffering or shock before us and he has the resources for our strength and the readiness to ‘see-us-through’ already available for our ‘ask’. When we ask, he will provide, because he has promised.

♥In mid-August 2006 I received a call that my 24-year-old nephew had been hit while on his motorcycle—stopped at a stop sign at a construction site under a bridge. Wearing all of his protective gear, he had been struck and thrown in the air, landing on the offending car's hood and then the pavement. For seventeen days in a Cleveland, Ohio, hospital he fought for his life amid the fervent prayers of family and friends, and on Saturday morning September 2, he died.

We are never ready to let go of a loved one—it's like death wins! But God is so faithful to prepare those who'll listen: On the morning before his death, my brother-in-law had read Spurgeon's *Morning and Evening* where Psalm 73:24 assured, “You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory,” and he shared that he felt God assuring us to let go. After my precious nephew coded and before he could code again, his parents gave the doctors permission to pull his life-support—and that verse in Psalms is on his headstone.

Never fail to miss the encouraging, directive, assuring words of God, particularly during trial and suffering. God has a word for us—a whole Book of them—that will speak his will for us in that every hour. Philippians 2:13 assures: “...it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” God works to assure us, and then we are to be sure. We can be certain and positive because He is reliable and firm. **Today, are we just sitting on the premises, or are we standing on the promises—of God?**

In this life we will face challenges and difficulties that will shake our assurance, and we must know how to discover and claim God's purpose and plans for us in those struggles. We must endure: "They who know only how to enjoy, and not to endure, are ill-fitted to go down the stream of life through such a world as this," said Henry van Dyke. God's *shall*—**spelled out in his Word**—is **his will for us**, and **his will and testament to us** who are his heirs are thus included.

●FIRST and FOREMOST—God's will is **for us...that we should be saved!**

●SECOND—God's **will for us** is that every believer **know** His will and:

1. follow him and bring him glory (Romans 12:11);
2. witness for him and share our testimony of salvation (Acts 1:8);
3. pray to him and ask him for wisdom (James 1:5);
4. be thankful for everything in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18);
5. tell what great things God has done and is doing (Psalm 66:16);
6. love him and love others (Matthew 22:37-39);
7. exercise our spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1);
8. attend church regularly (Psalm 122:1);
9. minister reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19);
10. lay up treasures in heaven (Matt 6:19-21);
11. value God and his kingdom (Mark 8:36), and
12. trust and obey him (Proverbs 3:5-6).

And there are more, but 'how' we are to know that the things listed above are his will for us and what he promises if we do them defines God's Royal '*Shall*'.

●THIRD—God's *Will and Testament* (Old and New) to us is His Word: the Bible! And it is within the pages of that Holy Book that we will discover His promises—**His will to us**. The Bible is not a book written "to everyone in general, and no one in particular;" it is not addressed "to whom it may concern." That would mean that, like so many, we could decide if we needed it; we would feel free to determine if it was meant for us. The Bible, authored by the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Word, is addressed to you personally; it is written to me personally! Romans 8:28, 31-35 **assures**: "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose...³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he that condemns? **Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.** ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" Jesus is interceding for us—wow!*

And for us who believe the end of the story is revealed:

John 17:14a, 15, 17 “*I have given them your word...¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*”

Revelation 7:17 “*For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*”

Some will choose not to read the Bible; not to know its author; not to receive its comfort, and not to heed its warning. That will not change His Royal ‘Shall’—what God has said he will do—the purposes, thoughts and plans that he has. They will remain! What will be true for that one who rejects is clearly, yet sadly, outlined in detail in that Very Word. Revelation 17:17 “*For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.*” Even those who reject God’s Word and His will—will be involved in fulfilling it.

FYI: The *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* states: “The cities in Revelation are communities of which there are only two: the city of God, the New Jerusalem; and the city of Satan which is Babylon the Great.” Every day that passes into eternity, every hour that advances, and every moment that ticks by brings us closer to that time when “*the words of God shall be fulfilled.*” We are either moving in time toward the city of God because we are saved, or moving toward the city of Satan which will be destroyed.

There is no remaining prophetic event that needs to take place before the Lord Jesus Christ comes for His Church. The *Rapture*—the biblical doctrine of Christ coming in the air to catch away all believers—is imminent! It may be fifty years from now, or fifty minutes. We must be ready. As women of God, we must know that we know that we know we are saved—that because our sins are covered by Jesus’ blood he is absolutely committed to guiding us home. Our wills need to submit completely to God’s perfect will and follow Him through these times, because many things will be troubling and even frightening.

The signs are many: the ever escalating Middle East conflict; world economies failing; rampant sin and unleashed evil; extreme climate changes; catastrophic events and natural disasters; increased godlessness; sorcery, witchcraft, and mounting animosity toward Israel and Christians. We are ripe for the Antichrist to appear on the world scene. G. Campbell Morgan was an English preacher who ministered during the time of the sinking of the Titanic, World War I, and World War II, and on March 3, 1916, preached his famous sermon “The Fixed Heart in the Day of Frightfulness.” That was one hundred-plus years ago—woe!

We need to have “fixed hearts”—to have full assurance that God will do everything that he has purposed and planned. Hebrews 10:22-25 “...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

1 John 4:3 tells us that the spirit of antichrist is already here: “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.” And when Antichrist himself rises up from the masses—beginning behind the scenes—and though he gains worldwide religious, political and economic control, be assured his days are metered and numbered, because God has the full and final victory! Charles Spurgeon, “He goes not amiss who goes in the company of God.” And God’s Royal ‘Shall’ in Psalm 46:10 is: “***Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.***”

The disciple Matthew borrows from the Old Testament account of God’s destruction of the world by flood, to warn us today. Matthew 24:36-39 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, ***up to the day Noah entered the ark*** (rapture/rescue); ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

“The day is coming,” says Henry van Dyke,

“when all shadows shall depart and light be everywhere.

The day is coming when all rebellion shall cease and peace be everywhere.

The day is coming when all sorrow shall vanish and joy be everywhere.

The day is coming when all discord shall be silent, and angels leaning from the battlements of heaven shall hear but one word encircling earth with music:

‘All nations shall call him ***BLESSED.***’”

And referring to Christ’s second coming to earth to defeat Israel’s enemies and set up His Kingdom on earth, Revelation 11:15 states: “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven saying ‘The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he ***shall*** reign forever and ever.’”

Hallelujah!