

A landscape photograph showing a valley filled with numerous purple flowers, likely lupines, growing on a rocky, light-colored slope. In the background, there are brown, arid mountains under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

“God Worketh
All Things After
the Counsel of
His Own Will.”

Ben Howard

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*This Testimony is a Witness
Of the
Last Trump of God Message
Ministered
By the
Wife of the Lamb*

GOD WORKETH ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN WILL

I want to read from Ephesians, Chapter One, to begin our message, and then we will see how God leads. We appreciate Him and His leadership. Today I want to take a thought and title it, *God Worketh All Things After the Counsel of His Own Will* (or His own plan). So everything is working out accordingly. There is nothing that is happening that is just happening, as far as any major prophecies or anything that would have an impact on the world or our individual situation. We see what is going on in the Middle East and here in this nation and in the different parts of the world, and all of it is going according to God's will and plan. So He did all these things after the counsel of His own will.

In the Old Testament, the prophets of God prophesied what would be; and we see much of what was prophesied has already come to pass while other prophecies are yet to be fulfilled, but they will come to pass exactly as they were spoken. You might think, "How could the prophets look back to certain things and then look ahead to certain things and get everything so right? How come they never missed it?" Well, God is eternal. He is back before the beginning as much as He is all the way through time, and that is before the beginning. See, before the beginning He knew all things. And He causes everything to work out accordingly. So He knows how everything is going to wind up and be fulfilled as He has already put it in His Word. And now in this end time, He is sharing all these things with the Wife of the Lamb and others as He sees fit.

Many people talk about the world conditions, and someone said the other day, "This world is going to get in a bad mess if the people do not turn back to Jesus Christ." Well, it is already in a bad mess; but the point is, it is going just as it is supposed

to. The times of the revival is over as far as the deliverance revivals that we have known in the times past, because of a time change. God has moved His working (as planned) into another working, and all things work together for good; so we are always contented and happy to see what is going on. We are not a people who are pulling our hair out at what is going on in the world today. The Bible says, "Men's hearts will fail them for looking at the things that are coming (and have come) upon the world," such as earthquakes, the seas roaring, violent storms, famine, droughts, pestilence, plagues, and all these natural calamities that are taking place, which will even become more prevalent in the days to come. And because of these things, the people get nervous and anxious but not the Wife of the Lamb. Whatever comes our way, then that is the way it is. So we praise God for that. Now let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your power, your goodness, and for your great, great plan and that you have shown us your plan. Paul once said, "It has been hid from the foundation of the world but now is made known to us." And we thank you for that, Lord. And, Lord, may we be appreciative to all that you are doing. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, anoint us to speak the Word we pray. Amen.

So here I stand at a place that I have been standing for over sixty-five years, not at this particular pulpit that long, but ministering the Word of God around the world. And each time I approach the ministering of the Word with dependence upon the Lord, because I have chosen this way, and the Lord knew I would. I do not write down things often, nor even lay everything out in my mind as to what I should say and what all scriptures I should read. But I have always waited upon the leading of our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Word, and I just depend on Him. See, I would rather risk having a failure depending on the Lord than having it written down and have that type of assurance. But there is assurance in our God that He

will make everything work right because He works all things after the counsel of His own will.

So I am reading today in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter One. And I will start at Verse 11, because here is where my thought originates from. It says, "*In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*" That one scripture is enough to preach on a good while, because in that scripture, there is 'predestination,' and 'we have obtained an inheritance,' and then we have the statement that 'God worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.' So whatever takes place in the will of God, God knew it. I am not talking about if you burn the beans or if your cake falls while baking it. But I am talking about God's work that He counseled within Himself before the foundation of the world.

I remember when my mother would bake a certain kind of cake, and at a certain point in the baking process, we would have to walk lightly, for if there were a lot of vibrations then that kind of cake could fall, for the center of it would just cave in. So we had to come through the house carefully. So I am not saying those things are after the counsel of God's own will. I am not talking about that, for those are things that are just common to man that we have in our daily life, and He gave us a natural mind so we could do these natural things. But I am talking about the spiritual things of God. And we brought that out real good in a message I preached recently, *How God Shares His Creative Power With His Creation*, where I showed how God shares the creative power of His Word with His people to bring about His work which is after His own will.

Many of the things that we do daily, we do because He gave us a mind, and we work with what He put on our mind, and He gave us certain freedoms to do that. So I am not saying we are led by the Spirit in doing our daily chores. But when it comes to prophecy of what is going to happen in Israel and what is going

to happen in the Middle East, then it is after the counsel of God's own will; as we can now see how all the pieces of the puzzle are being slid into place. And this is shown in our books, *The Great Shaking in the Land of Israel* and *God's Working Before and After Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39*. Also being put into place is what is going to happen in the United States of America and the image of the beast speaking. And some of the things go beyond what or how we thought it would be. But we know that God is working all things after the counsel of His own will. Yes, there is a place for America; it has to play its part, and God laid it in the written Word in Revelation, Chapter 13. And the revelation of it was brought out in our book, *The Interpreted Book of Revelation*, which was written in 1980. So God is working His plan accordingly. How do we know it is going to work that way? It is written; and it is the prophetic part of God's Word that He is fulfilling. But while we are seeing all of that, we are also seeing that there is a group that God kept hid in His mind, that He did not lay out in detail in His written Word. But hidden in God, with revelation we can see that when Paul came on the scene, he was a special minister to create a people to be the virgin who was neither Jew nor Gentile, which has now become part of the Wife of the Lamb.

So all the saints from Paul's day who received the message that God gave him are dressed in fine linen as they have come forth and are hearing this message of the last trump of God. And when I say 'come forth,' I mean when Christ Jesus came in the fullness of His Spirit hid in the form of the Mighty Angel in Revelation, Chapter 10, He brought them down to earth to hear this last trump of God message so that we would all be hearing the same Word. Yes, we are all hearing the same Word, which is this message of righteousness, which is the fine linen that is only given to the Wife of the Lamb.

So this last trump of God message is taking place and is being fulfilled as God's Word is prevailing. And these many

revelations that God is giving in this last day was hid in God but are now made known unto us, which shows us the manifold wisdom of God. In Paul's day, there were revelations made known unto him that were hid in God, and Paul was blowing the first sounding of the trumpet in that day, which espoused a virgin to the glorified Jesus Christ. But this last sounding of the trumpet, shown in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, has put the fine linen on the Wife of the Lamb, giving us the righteousness of Christ as we were baptized into this message of glorified flesh and bones. Notice, the Wife has one baptism, which is the baptism into this message of glorified flesh and bones. And now we are glorified, the same as those departed saints that Christ Jesus brought with Him when He came, and *together* we are caught up to meet the Lord Jesus Christ and be with Him forevermore.

Notice, in the Book of 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 4, it says that we are together with the departed saints that came down from heaven. And that includes every one; not a single one is left out. And it was all seen in God, planned in God. And this last trump of God message that I am preaching was planned in God before the world was. It has been a secret, but with each week, each month, each day, each hour, even in this moment of the twinkling of an eye there are more things coming out of the Word that has been hid but now are made known to the Lamb's Wife.

So we look at the picture here, and this is God's plan all the way through. This is not something that is slipping up on God — He knew it. And He is working all things after the counsel of His own will to have the plan to work out perfectly. If He just left it to us, we could not work it out. But He put something within us; He put a courage within us, a courage to preach this gospel of the last trump of God, which is not after man but is of God.

In Galatians 1:11-12, Paul said, "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I

neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." The gospel that Paul received was a work of God that came on the scene suddenly, and it took the religious world in that day by surprise. It took the Jewish people by surprise, for it came in at the backdoor, unexpected. But whether one was Jew or Gentile, when the predestinated heard it, they were drawn to it. That is why in Galatians, Chapter 2, Peter, James, and John told Paul and Barnabas to go and preach to the heathens. And they did wisely by telling them to go. And all of this was in the plan of God; He was working it as He had planned it before the world was, after the counsel of His own will. See, He counseled within Himself and laid it all out, and here it is, what He did back in eternity is coming to pass just exactly Word for Word, event after event.

When we read Paul's writing, we see the depth of revelation that God gave him. In 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 2, Paul received a revelation concerning the antichrist and how he would come on the scene. Paul says, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." Notice, the Word says it cannot do its evil work until He (Christ in the working of the Holy Ghost) be taken out of the way that is blocking it; because the Holy Ghost was working in the land, and there were revival services, and many people were being born again. And we enjoyed it; it was a work of God, planned before the world was. But suddenly something happened. And with our own eyes we saw how it began to happen. The people began to take Bible reading and prayer out of the schools, and they put other things in that were from Satan. And the schools began to teach the little ones things that should

not be known until they are more mature. And God knew that it would happen. So when they rejected the Word of God, it was then that Christ withdrew Himself as the Holy Ghost, and another spirit came in, for God sent them a strong delusion that they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 11, it tells us that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light, and he does things so much like Christ that it deceives everyone but the elected, and so they go right on with it thinking they are having a revival, when actually that day has passed away. That working of God is no more. Now He is dealing with the Wife of the Lamb, and the next great thing for us is the appearing among us of those that have gone on before us, for they have come back to this earth and are taking on glorified flesh and bones. And God had left that under cover until this time, for He has now given us a revelation that they are here. So now we are looking for them to be brought into visibility, and together we are caught up to His throne and shall be there until He comes back to earth and brings us back with Him after the tribulation period. (Revelation 19:11-16)

I tell you, these things are so good! God counseled within Himself to plan all of this, and look here, here it all is! And here we are today; the Word made glorified flesh and bones is being published and is going to all nations, and God is having His way. A great witness is taking place. There is a purity of the gospel. There is a people who are dedicated to God and are clothed in fine linen, clean and white, which includes those that Christ Jesus brought back with Him when He came in Revelation, Chapter 10. That is when He started this great thing of the marriage by bringing us the little book to eat up for the changing of our mortal bodies into glorification while the spirits of just men (those that are part of the Wife) are taking on their glorification also. This is showing forth the result of our taking

and eating up the little book right here in broad open daylight; and people do not see it because it is ordained thus. And that is the will of God. It is His pleasure, for He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. See, He does all things for His own good pleasure. Oh, it is a good pleasure to God to look down today and see the Wife of His Son. He pushed everything back and said, "Now it is time for the Wife to show forth all Her glory in the marriage of the Lamb."

Notice, the working of the Holy Ghost was withdrawn when the church world, religion and the world in general, rejected God's plan, rejected the Word, and even rejected the tree of knowledge (which is the written Word of God) and pushed it aside. Christ in the form of the Holy Ghost withdrew Himself from them, and that opened the door for another spirit to come in and make havoc of what was supposed to be the church. And they will shout and they will carry on as though they have the Spirit of God in their congregation. So you get a good idea of what spirit they are of. And God knew all about this before the world was.

That is why we stand boldly here today. That is why we are not discouraged. That is why we are going forward. And that is why at eighty-two years old, I am ready to go wherever the Lord calls me, anywhere on the face of the earth. Not 'one jot nor tittle shall in no wise pass away,' meaning everything is going to be fulfilled just as the Word says it will. He planned it, He ordained it, and He worked out everything after the counsel of His own will or His own plan. And we are living in that plan in this moment of the twinkling of an eye.

See, we are going by a plan. The Spirit is in us and it is by a plan. And in some cases, the way we were raised was not lost in God's planning for our life, for our whole life is in God's hands. For God allowed things in our lives to happen for the building of our souls. Yes, we are partakers of both the natural and the spiritual sides of life, which has all worked together for

our good. And now we have come into the full knowledge of God, and we have come into that time that He ordained for us. Paul preached the Word in his day and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed, for they were part of it from the beginning. And here in this end time, as many as were ordained to be a member of the Wife of the Lamb were baptized into this message of glorified flesh and bones.

When the earth goes into eternity, there will be natural people that take care of the earth. These are unglorified people who are the caretakers of the earth, and they will come into the city to the Wife of the Lamb, and they will receive the water of life, for the Bible says they will drink freely of the water of life. And they will leave the city rejoicing as they return to their homes. And the leaves of the tree of life, which is the Wife of the Lamb, is for the healing of the nations. Well, all they have to do is come up to where that water is flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb and on through the Lamb's Wife, for She is part of the Godhead also. So they get a good drink of that water of life (spiritually speaking), and then everything wrong will be washed away, and the people will go forth rejoicing in the Lord. And they can come anytime, whosoever will. In eternity it is whosoever will—whosoever is thirsty, whosoever wants a drink, just come on and be filled. And God planned all this after the counsel of His own will.

Now concerning the Wife of the Lamb, I will tell you, we are protected. There is a host of angels that are so great they cannot be numbered; the Word says an innumerable host of angels. In the Book of Hebrews, Chapters One and Two, it says they are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those that are heirs of salvation. And it was all in the counsel of God's own will before the world was.

See, the Almighty God has planned these things, and we are fulfilling that plan as the Wife of the Lamb. And we appreciate that plan! We are in a heavenly place, for the Wife of the Lamb

is clothed in fine linen, clean and white, which is God's perfect plan for us. And that is what it is in this moment of the twinkling of an eye, for here again we see the predestinated plan of God that is now coming to pass. Yes, we see the prophetic plan of God coming to pass just as God wrote it in the Bible. We see how it all works out, which is just like John wrote about in the Book of Revelation.

In 96 AD, John wrote about the seven church ages and what would happen as each age came into being. And we have seen that every one of the church ages has come to pass just exactly as John prophesied, for God worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, after the counsel of His own plan. Then after God took the seventh (and last) church age messenger home, which was Brother William Branham, Christ Jesus hiding Himself in the Mighty Angel began the process of giving the little book to us (who was the virgin), which has produced the marriage of the Lamb and made us the Wife. And it all took place by a proxy marriage. So all of that is behind us, and it is all recorded in the book, *The Chronicles of the Tenth Chapter of the Book of Revelation and the Eating of a Bitter Meal*, which goes into detail on that part of the working of God. So Revelation, Chapter 10, is fulfilled for the Wife of the Lamb.

Then in Revelation, Chapter 11, it goes into God's dealing with Israel and the building of the temple, which will be a literal temple, and the Jews will begin to offer the sacrifice again. When the antichrist sees the greatness of it and how much the world is putting their attention on that temple that is built, he will come and sit in the temple of God — (the little horn of Daniel 7:8, Daniel 12:11, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). And all these things were known before the world was. But praise God we see another part of God's plan that will take place; for by this time God will have raised up and anointed two men that are no doubt already there. He will anoint them with spirits like unto Moses and like unto Elijah. See, Moses turned the water to blood

and such, and this prophet will do the same things. The prophet like unto Elijah will prophesy that it will not rain for three and a half years there in that land, for Elijah in the Old Testament time was the one that said, “Do not let it rain until I call for it,” and it did not rain a drop for three and a half years. And so will it be in this day.

See, all these things were planned before the world was. That is why in the Old Testament certain things happened that would re-play itself out in the New Testament—like Melchizedek, which was a type of what would happen to Jesus Christ there in the Garden of Gethsemane where He overcame death and made a way for the glorification of our bodies and then He went on to the cross and paid for our sins, paying the sin debt. And He did exactly like Melchizedek did, because when Melchizedek’s time came to die, he knew a source. He looked to God, and he prayed and God heard him. And that is the same thing Jesus did. He cried out to God who was able to save Him, and God heard Him. He said, “No man takes my life.” They did not murder Jesus. They could not murder Him because He could call more than twelve legions of angels and destroy them all. No, He said, “I lay down my life, that I may take it up again. This is the commandment that I have received of my Father.” So there in the garden, He fully overcame death, just as Melchizedek did. This ended the Melchizedek type. So because of what He wrought in the garden, the Wife looks to Jesus Christ for our glorification while yet in this mortal body, without dying. And for His Wife and all the other saints of God, He went on to the cross and died; and in doing that, He redeemed all of God’s children and gave them eternal life. And even those who are not the Wife that go to the grave will receive glorification in their own order according to the plan of God.

Recently I preached the message, *How God created the Wife of the Lamb From the Same Word that He Created His Son From*, which became a chapter in our book, *In a Moment, in the Twinkling of An*

Eye Is the Real-Time Fruition of This 65 Year Ministry For the Wife of the Lamb. There I showed that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh and dwelled among men. And in this message I also showed that the Wife of the Son of God was created from the same Word that the Son was created from, which was with God, and now She is part of the Godhead. There is God, He is Spirit. He is the glory and the light; it cannot even get dark where God is at, for there is no darkness nor shadow of turning in Him. There is just great light, the glory of God. But here sits the man the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, 'the Word that was *with* God' in which the Wife of God's Son is created from also. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And then we were made from that same special part of the Word. God is the eternal Spirit and will always be; He never had a physical form until He became one with His Son Jesus Christ. And now Jesus Christ has become one with His Wife because She is now bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh. (Ephesians 5:30-32)

So we see God working all things after the counsel of His own will, or according to His own plan. It was planned out before the world was. And Jesus Christ could not do anything but the will of God because He was the Word made flesh. He could not have gone any other way because God had already seen what He would do. And that is the same for the Wife of the Lamb, for we could not have gone another way because God had already seen what we would do. So this is where the fire is at! This is where the fire is burning. This is where our physical translation is taking place. This is where the Word is setting people's hearts on fire! And we cannot help it. Why? Because it was after the counsel of God's own will.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love, goodness, and for the great things you are doing in this moment of the twinkling of an eye as

we are showing forth your plan in the message of the glorified flesh and bones that you counseled within yourself before the foundation of the world. O' precious Father, take this Word and use it for your glory. Surely it will accomplish that which you have ordained in our Lord Jesus Christ's wonderful name. Amen.

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