

A Young Man in God's Plan

*In every age and generation God has come to the young people
for the carrying out of His move.*

I. God's eternal purpose

Ephesians 3:11

According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Revelation 4:11

You are worthy, our Lord and God... for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

2 Timothy 1:9; 3:10

9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose...

10 But you have closely followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, endurance,

II. Man—the center of God's plan (Gen. 1:26; John 1:1, 14; Luke 23:47; Acts 7:56; Matt. 25:31)

Psalms 8:4-6

4 What is mortal man, that You remember him, and the son of man, that You visit him?

5 You have made Him a little lower than angels and have crowned Him with glory and honor.

6 For You have caused Him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under His feet:

III. God calling young people to turn the age

A. God calls young people to carry out His move because, generally speaking, young people are not set, settled, or occupied.

Matthew 4:18-22

18 And while He was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

19 And He said to them, Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And immediately leaving the nets, they followed Him.

21 And going on from there, He saw another two brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

22 And immediately leaving the boat and their father, they followed Him.

B. The revelation of the Scriptures

1. In the Old Testament: Adam, Moses, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel

Samuel—1 Samuel 2:18

And Samuel ministered before Jehovah, as a boy wearing a linen ephod.

David—1 Samuel 16:11

Then Samuel said to Jesse, Are these all the young men you have? And he said, There is still the youngest, but he is now tending the sheep.

Isaiah—Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us? And I said, Here am I; send me.

2. In the New Testament: the disciples, Paul, Timothy, you

The disciples—Luke 5:10-11

10 And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive.

11 And when they had brought the boats to the land, they left all and followed Him.

Paul—Acts 7:58b

And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man called Saul.

Timothy—1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

- C. The testimony of church history

1. The Haystack meeting in 1806: a group of five college students
2. Missionaries that the Lord used to evangelize the world: Robert Morrison (25), Hudson Taylor (21), Adoniram Judson (20), Charles T. Studd (25), Horace Pitkin (27), Francis Asbury (22)

- D. College campuses today are still the place where the Lord calls young people

Matthew 4:19

And He said to them, Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

IV. Keeping ourselves empty, open, fresh, new, living, and young with the Lord

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

Luke 18:17

Truly I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall by no means enter into it.

Matthew 22:32

...He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

V. Responding to God's call today

Psalms 110:3

Your people will offer themselves willingly in the day of Your warfare, in the splendor of their consecration. Your young men will be to You like the dew from the womb of the dawn.