You Have a Destiny



Billy Joe Daugherty

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I have not lost sight of my plan for you, the Lord says, and it is your welfare I have in mind, not your undoing: for you, too, I have a destiny and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 Knox

Chapter 1

God's Got Your Number!

David the psalmist wrote Psalm 139 in which he speaks of God's intimate care, concern and love for you and me. He speaks not only of our creation, but of God's blueprint for each of our lives.

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether...

For You formed my inward parts;

You covered me in my mother's womb.

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.

Verses 1-4,13-18

You are not an accident. God has a divine plan for your life. We call it *destiny*—a call you will fulfill and a path you will walk in, ordered and guided by the Lord Himself.

God spoke to Jeremiah, **"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"** (Jeremiah 1:5).

God placed a call upon your life before you were ever born.

He speaks of His plans for you in Jeremiah 29:11-14 NIV:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to

prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

"I will be found by you," declares the Lord....

You are more valuable than you have realized, for you were purchased, not with silver, gold and metals, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

When you are born again, you become a member of the Body of Christ. Your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit. Christ imparts His strength and wisdom into you.

God doesn't make any junk! Everything that He makes is valuable. In fact, after six days of creation, Scripture says, **"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good"** (Genesis 1:31).

Chapter 2

You are God's "Masterpiece

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

God looks upon His creation—you and me— as His "Masterpiece"!

Your spirit—the inner man, the heart, the hidden man on the inside, the eternal you—has been made in the image and likeness of God. The Spirit of Jesus goes into the heart of every person who is born into the Kingdom of God —regardless of race, nationality, or age. That's what it means to be created in Christ Jesus. His life, nature, ability, love, faith, joy and peace—all of His attributes— are deposited within us at the new birth.

Although the devil has done everything he can to degrade and bring the human race to a level of "nothingness," this is the day to rise up and declare, "I am created in Christ Jesus." To be *in Him* means your spirit has been made like His. He put His Spirit and His nature inside of you.

We have been given the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. We have been given a measure of faith. God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts. We are His specially designed craftsmanship!

We have become partakers of God's divine nature through His **"exceedingly great and precious promises"** (2 Peter 1 :4).

God's thoughts of you and me are numerous:

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would

be more in number than the sand....

Psalm 139:17,18

God created you just the way He wanted you to be for the purpose of walking in the good works He has already prepared for you. He knew what would be needed in the earth in this hour so He could use you. He designed you with all of the talents and abilities you would need.

When you understand your destiny, you are freed from competition and comparison with others. You realize, "I have a special assignment from God. He has equipped me with everything I need to do it."

What an exciting thing to walk out a plan that God has already prepared ahead of time and to realize, "I am right where God wants me to be."

And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion?

Esther 4:14b AMP

Chapter 3

Reshaped for "Good Works"

You are a useful tool in God's hands. Some people are made like hammers —blunt and straightforward. They don't hold back any punches! They have the ability to smash things in the Spirit.

Others have a different approach. They are like pliers, and they want to get a handle on things. They want to yank things out of people and put them in their place!

Then, others are like a yardstick. They want to measure and evaluate the lives of others.

The good news is, *God has a place for all of His tools.* Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, **"He [God] has made everything beautiful in its time."**

You may feel like you're on the potter's wheel right now. God is shaping you, remaking you and preparing you to step into the destiny He has planned for you.

God spoke to Jeremiah:

"Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words."

Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

And the vessel that he made of clay was marred In the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

"O house of Israel [put your name in this verse], can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand.... "

Jeremiah 18:2-6

God is reshaping you for the "good works" He has ordained for you to do. The things happening in your life are preparing you for the future. God sees the end from the beginning. He knows all about you.

When I was sixteen years old, I worked during the summer for a family, the Geans, clearing about eighty acres behind their home for a housing development. Beautiful, tall pine trees, some thirty-, forty- and fifty-feet tall, bushes and

shrubs, filled the area, and at the bottom of the area was a lake surrounded by a swamp.

As a fifth grader, I had camped in the area near the lake with their son John and some other friends. All I remembered about the area was that it was mosquito infested.

The easiest thing to do to clear this area would have been to bring in a bulldozer, go around the big trees and get all the underbrush. But because of the beautiful dogwood trees which the owners wanted to save, we had to clear it by hand with machetes, axes and sharp hoes.

I can still remember the first day when I cut down several dogwood trees! Mrs. Gean was not real happy with me! She quickly described the dogwood tree to me so I wouldn't touch another one! To this day, with my eyes closed, I can tell you what a dogwood leaf looks like!

One day while clearing this area and cutting several of the bushes, I put my leg over the bush to hold it back behind me so I could cut it off level to the ground with a hoe. As I put my leg over the bush and looked behind me, there was a snake coiled up inside that bush! I got out of there and fast!

In my mind, all we were doing was cutting down bushes, but in the landowner's mind, we were making beautiful lake lots that would sell for $60,000 and $70,000 apiece. Today my brother Jack lives in a home on one of these lake lots.

Maybe you feel like a swampy, snake infested bog with a lot of junk in your life, and you don't see the destiny God has for you. He is going to clean you up. He will kill the snakes, get all the junk out of your life and make something beautiful out of you. You may feel like you are in the woods, but a day is coming when you will be a cultivated garden, fruitful and productive.

God will complete His work in you. Paul said, **"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"** (Philippians 1:6).

This verse in *The Amplified Translation* reads:

And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.

There is an old saying, "Please be patient. God isn't finished with me yet." He is working on the inside of us **"to will and to do for His good pleasure"** (Philippians 2:13).

Jesus said, **"For many are called, but few are chosen"** (Matthew 22:14). What does this mean?

God has a destiny for every human being on the face of the earth. Only a few, however, accept the calling God has for them. When you say, "Yes, Lord, I accept Your plan for my life; I will do what You want me to do; I will go where You want me to go; I will be whatever You want me to be," then your life will take on significance.

The Author of your destiny, Jesus Christ, is to be center stage, around which your entire life evolves.

Chapter 4

Redemption From Mistakes and Messes

Jesus shed His blood for you so you could have a destiny with God. God wouldn't pay that kind of price for you, then withhold His destiny from you. He wants you to know your destiny more than you want to know it. Before you ever thought about it, God was thinking about you and what He wanted to do with your life.

Regardless of what your past has been, you are significant to God. Maybe your childhood was rough and you have had some horrible experiences in life. You may have been abandoned and rejected. You are questioning, "How could God ever use me?" He delights in making "somebodies" out of "nothings"!

Although Kathryn Kuhlman was a divorced woman, she had a supernatural ministry. God used her mightily in healing and deliverance miracles as she operated in the word of knowledge.

Most people remember Kathryn Kuhlman's last thirty years of ministry, but they know little or nothing about what she went through prior to that time. When Jamie Buckingham wrote her life story, *Daughter of Destiny,* she told him, "Tell it all." Why did she want to tell it all? I believe Kathryn wanted people to be encouraged to know that God can redeem them from past mistakes and that He delights in restoring people's lives and fulfilling their destinies!

If God could use someone who went through what Kathryn Kuhlman did, He can turn your mess around!

You may be wondering, "Can you mess up so bad that your destiny is destroyed?" Once there is repentance and a total turning away from sin, God can rework and remake your life to bring you full circle so you can still complete His plans.

Moses

Moses blew it. He had the vision and destiny to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt from the slavery and bondage in which they were ensnared. But instead of doing it God's way, he tried it his way and killed an Egyptian in the process. When

Pharaoh found out about it, Moses headed to the back side of the desert where he remained for forty years.

After forty years, God spoke to Moses that He still wanted to use him. Moses thought it was all over, but God was saying, "I am recruiting and you are

still in My plan." The last forty years of Moses' life were his best years.

He was the greatest prophet of the Old Testament, the one who authored the first five books of the Bible. Although he had failed miserably, he didn't give up on God's destiny for his life—and God didn't give up on him!

Joseph

As a young teenager, Joseph had a vision that he would be a world leader and his brothers would bow down to him. Because of his brothers' anger at him, they sold him as a slave. Later, he was thrown into prison because of a slanderous lie by Potiphar's wife.

While in prison, he interpreted the dreams of the butler and the baker. When Pharaoh had a dream no one else could interpret, the butler remembered Joseph.

In one day Joseph went from prison to prime minister where he sat in the place he had seen in a vision some thirteen years earlier.

Though it may take time for your vision to come to pass, God is preparing you to step into the destiny He has for you!

Pam and Dale Cuckler

Pam Cuckler grew up with a mother who was a prostitute, an alcoholic and a drug addict. As a young child, she was left in many places alone.

On one occasion, her mother took six-year-old Pam to the bus station, called the grandmother who lived more than a five-hour drive away, and said, "She will be at the bus station waiting for you." Because that happened on numerous occasions, Pam's grandmother took her in and raised her.

This is only the tip of the iceberg of what happened in Pam's life, but I share it with you because many people feel that their lives are insignificant as a result of what has happened in their past. Regardless of what has happened, God can redeem your life and help you fulfill the destiny to which He has called you.

Pam said, "It is because of God's grace, mercy and love for me that I am where I am today. I made a choice to accept His love and who His Word says I am *in Christ.* It is a choice that each of us must make."

Pam's husband Dale said, "Because of the many things that happened when Pam was growing up, I have looked at her and asked, 'How did you turn out like this?' Each time it comes back to the same statement, 'I had a choice to make.'

"I look back over my own life," Dale said. "I was raised by a loving but very poor family in Appalachia. When I was ten years old, our Christmas present was plastic to wrap our house to keep out the cold. When I was a teenager, I dealt with a tremendous amount of anger for all kinds of reasons. But I woke up

one morning when I was fourteen years old and thought, 'You know, I can wake up and think of Jesus or I can wake up mad.' I made my choice—I would think of Jesus!"

Dale said, "Scripture says, **'And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God'** (Romans 12:2). The Lord knows we need our minds renewed so we can make the right choices.

"In all that you do, do it as though it is unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:23) because you have no idea the lives you are touching," he said.

Chapter 5

My Redemption From the Laundry Pit

When I transferred to O.R.U. at mid-term of my sophomore year, my first job was in the P. E. laundry room.

The laundry room was an open area, like a twenty to thirty foot square box, with baskets filled with dirty clothes stacked from floor to ceiling, creating the walls of this area. We literally walked into the middle of everybody's stinking gym clothes! We called it the pit, because it was the pits!

However, this very pit served as a springboard to move me into the next step of God's divine destiny for my life.

In the laundry room, I worked with Don Shields, a businessman from Florida who had transferred to O.R.U. at the same time I did. His wife was a secretary in the Dean's office.

In the spring of my first semester at O.R.U., I applied for a Resident Advisor position that would pay for half of my schooling. I would be an overseer for thirty-two men on a dorm floor. I felt it was God's destiny for me at that time.

The only challenge was, I had only been on campus for three months when they received applications for the R. A. positions. Over sixty people applied for the twelve or fifteen positions that would be open in the fall.

When the list of the applicants accepted for the R. A. positions was posted, my name was not on the list. Yet, I felt so sure that was where God wanted me to be.

That summer I had a choice of working in the oil fields or serving as a youth director in a church. The Lord dealt with me to take the youth director position, even though I wouldn't make a lot of money. The Lord said, "I will take care of you if you will *put Me first.* I would have made three times more money in the oil fields, plus with the youth director position, I had to pay for my housing and food for the summer. God said, "If you will do it, I will work."

During the summer, I received a letter from

O.R.U. stating that I had won a scholarship that would cover half of my schooling. Two weeks later, I received another letter from the Dean's office.

Over the summer the Dean of Men had been given approval to add an Assistant Dean. When the Dean asked his secretary, Joyce Shields, "Do you know anyone who could be my assistant?" she said, "My husband." That was Don Shields, the man I had worked with in the P. E. laundry room.

One of Don's assignments was to take charge of all the Resident Advisors. In the middle of the summer, he received notice from one of the men who had been accepted for a R. A. position that he would not be returning to O.R.U. because he was joining the Navy. Don had a list of some fifty people to choose from to fill the vacant spot. Since he had only been at O.R.U. one semester, when he scanned the list, he only knew one applicant—me! I stepped into that phase of God's destiny for me right on time!

You may be working in a pit right now, and you are asking, "What am I doing here?" Your destiny is not lost. God has a definite plan for you, and He will fulfill it.

Chapter 6

A Supernatural Glimpse of Destiny

God will give you a glimpse of the destiny He has for your life as you seek Him.

I remember when I first took an interest in Sharon. She was the preacher's daughter, and we had been in the same youth group for a year. I never thought about dating her until I got saved. Then God opened my eyes!

When our youth group went to Six Flags, Sharon and I spent time together and we became closer friends.

As soon as I returned from this trip, I went with my family on another trip to Panama City, Florida, to see my brother who was in the Air Force. Driving through the woods of North Louisiana that night, as I looked out the window I had a vision of Sharon and me together ministering to a large crowd of people. Instantly, I knew we were going to be married. It was a picture of the destiny God had planned for us together.

Whether you have had a dream or a vision doesn't change the fact that God has a destiny for your life. Many things that I am walking in today weren't revealed to me in a dream or a vision. God just revealed them to me at the appropriate time.

The Holy Spirit spoke a word to us through Paul: **"From the first he destined us, in his goodwill towards us, to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ"** (Ephesians 1:5 TCNT).

God's destiny for you and me is out of this world. Obedience to each step that is revealed will take you to the next phase of your divine destiny!

Chapter 7

Understanding Your Destiny

Your ultimate destiny is to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ—to be like Him, to know Him and to walk with Him—so you can bear fruit for God's Kingdom.

Jesus said:

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.

John 15:16

"Bearing fruit" for God's Kingdom is to share His life with others so they, too, can become like Jesus.

When you understand destiny, you will realize that what you do will affect the destiny of other people. If you do what you are called to do, others will be transformed in their lives. Your obedience will bring salvation to many people.

Here are some of the key things that will happen when you begin to understand that God has called you to a divine destiny:

1. It will give you a greater love for God than you have ever had before when you realize He had you on His mind even before you were born.

He is thinking about you right now. You are valuable and precious to Him.

2. It will give you a gratitude for Jesus when you realize that He had you on His mind when He was hanging on the cross at Calvary.

Jesus' destiny involved leaving heaven, becoming a missionary in the earth and then giving His blood at Calvary. Why did He do it? Because He had *you* and *me* in mind!

Jesus knew if He didn't fulfill His destiny, we couldn't fulfill ours. We would all be destined for hell if Jesus hadn't intercepted us through Calvary.

3. It will give you joy wh en you realize your life is hooked up with Almighty God.

There is a sense of meaninglessness, gloom and depression for people who have no awareness that God has a destiny for their lives.

When you understand that your destiny goes beyond your earth suit—that when you die, your destiny doesn't end—a joy that the world cannot give will fill you.

There is peace in knowing that your future is in God's hands. There is a confidence that says, "I am walking with God, and He is committed to showing

me His will and helping me to fulfill it."

Romans 8:28-30 says:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Jesus has put His life, His glory and His presence inside of your life.

4. When you understand that God has a destiny for you, it will give you excitement for the adventure that He has planned for your life.

When you are excited about what God has for your life, you will have energy to complete His assignments. Many people go through the motions of life like a robot—going to work, making a living and doing their thing.

A Spirit-filled Christian ought to be the most proficient worker in his company, because he or she is working for the King!

In our society today, many people feel insignificant and worthless. Some people commit suicide when they feel they have no future. Then, there are people who haven't taken their lives, but they have checked out of life and they are just going through the motions of living.

Regardless of your age or what has gone wrong, God still has a plan for you. Your life counts for eternity.

In 1858 a Sunday school teacher, Edward Kimball, led a shoe clerk to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist.

In 1879 Moody awakened an evangelistic zeal in the heart of the pastor of a small church in New England, F. B. Meyer. Meyer led a student to Christ, J. Wilbur Chapman, when he preached on a college campus.

While Chapman was involved in Y.M.C.A. work, he employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to help in evangelistic meetings.

Later, Sunday held a series of services in Charlotte, North Carolina. A group of local men were so enthused about the meetings that they planned another crusade, this one to be led by Mordecai Ham.

During one of these meetings, someone invited a young man to come who gave his life to Christ. His name was Billy Graham. Millions have heard the Gospel through Billy Graham's ministry.

As you begin to walk out God's divine destiny, you may be just one pebble

in the middle of a lake, but one pebble can touch every shore! Your life, like that of Edward Kimball, has the potential to touch the far corners of the earth.

Only in eternity will you fully understand the impact of your obedience to God's call upon your life.

It's time for a total sell-out to Jesus and to the destiny that has been personally designed just for you if you haven't already done so. Simply say, **"Here am I! Send me"** (Isaiah 6:8).

PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father, I now believe that absolutely nothing that has ever happened to me in the past can keep me from the destiny You have ordained for my life.

I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son and that He was crucified, buried and resurrected, paying the price in full for my resurrection from sin, sickness, poverty and spiritual death.

I renounce every work of darkness and receive You now, Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior.

Thank You, Lord, for empowering me with Your Spirit so I can begin to pattern my life after Yours, walk worthy of the calling with which You have called me and pull others from the kingdom of darkness into Your Kingdom of light, in Jesus' name.

I am so thankful that today is the beginning of an adventurous new life in You, Lord Jesus! Thank You for Your mercy, grace and love.

Signature _____

Date _____

About the Author

Billy Joe Daugherty is the pastor of Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Present ministry outreaches include a daily radio and television ministry; monthly crusades in government-subsidized housing projects in the Tulsa area; and crusades held in other nations.

Victory Christian Center, established in 1981, operates Victory Christian School, Victory Bible Institute, and the World Missions Training Center. Other Victory Bible Institutes have been established in Russia, Mexico, Albania, Germany Scotland, Haiti, France and Czech Republic.

Billy Joe has authored several books including *Faith Power, Absolute Victory, This New Life, The Demonstration of the Gospel,* and most recently, *Led By the Spirit,* the testimony of God's divine direction for his life and ministry.

Billy Joe and his wife, Sharon, were married in 1973, and have four children: Sarah, Ruth, John and Paul.