

GOD'S HIDDEN AGENDA

God's Hidden Agenda

Uncovering His Good Plan In An Evil World

Erwin W. Lutzer

Moody Church Media
Chicago

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from *The Holy Bible*, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Cover by Bryan Butler

GOD'S HIDDEN AGENDA

Copyright © 2025 by Erwin W. Lutzer

Published by Moody Church Media

Chicago, Illinois 60614

www.moodymedia.org

ISBN: 9798265104137

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Watch or listen to Pastor Lutzer's entire series
(originally titled *What Is God Up To?*)
preached at The Moody Church,
Chicago, Illinois in 1990.



moodymedia.org/hiddenagenda

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	9
When God Was Alone	11
Lucifer's Greatest Blunder	17
The Casualty Of Mankind	23
God At War	29
Dying A Winner.....	35
God's Finest Hour	41
Souls In Conflict	49
The Final Battle.....	57
Looking Back To Planet Earth	63
Endnotes	71

INTRODUCTION

What you think of God is probably the most important thing about you; for what we think of the Almighty determines what we think of ourselves.

In pagan religions, the nature of God or “the gods” is unknown and unknowable. In contrast, Christians believe the Bible is a revelation from God. Therefore, we have specific guidance in our quest for knowing the Almighty. The evidence that God has spoken through the Bible is overwhelming. Though there is much we do not understand, we can be grateful we understand as much as we do.

The purpose of this study is to prove, as far as possible, these questions: What is God up to in the world? What is He like? What is His purpose in the world? And what is His hidden agenda?

I hope you will read these pages carefully. Too often we do not take the time to think seriously about the eternal purposes of God.

From my heart to yours: May all of us be led to worship the Almighty as we contemplate His wisdom and majesty.

Erwin W. Lutzer

Pastor Emeritus

The Moody Church

CHAPTER ONE

WHEN GOD WAS ALONE

Let's begin by thinking about the time when God was alone. Before creation there were no other objects in the universe except the Almighty. Even then, of course, He possessed the same characteristics He has today. To summarize what we know of Him, let's contemplate His basic, unchangeable attributes.

THE ETERNALITY OF GOD

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God" (Psalm 90:1–2).

Of course we also are eternal creatures but eternal in only one direction. As creatures created in God's image, we have an existence that is unending. A bird coming to Earth every million years and taking one grain of sand or speck of dirt to another planet could, in more than a trillion years, make Earth vanish, and yet we would still be more alive than we ever have been. This one-directional aspect of eternity is within all of us for we shall live forever.

God not only has an eternal future but an eternal past. "From everlasting to everlasting, you are God" (v. 2). This is

to say that God did not have a beginning—He always was. To think about God’s past eternity is to bring us to the precipice of human thought and imagination.

Yet if God had not existed from all eternity, nothing would have ever come to be for there is a basic principle we all accept: From nothing, nothing can arise. The fact that something exists is proof that something has always existed.

This two-directional aspect of eternity belongs only to the Almighty. He had no beginning—He always was and always will be.

THE IMMENSITY OF GOD

Solomon asked, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!” (1 Kings 8:27).

How big is God? Obviously, He is at least as huge as the universe He created. He wouldn’t create something that was bigger than Himself. And how big is this universe? Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Because the sun is 93 million miles away, it takes 8 minutes for the light from the sun to reach Earth. But there is a star near Orion, Betelgeuse, that is 548 light years away from Earth. Think back to the time when Martin Luther pounded his *Ninety-five Theses* on the door of the Wittenberg church on October 31, 1517. The light that left Betelgeuse on that day has not yet reached Earth (as of the writing of this book in 2025) even though it’s traveling at the incredible speed of 186,000 miles a second! This star is so large it is estimated to have a slightly smaller that of Jupiter’s orbit around the sun, meaning if it was the sun of our solar system, it would engulf the planets of Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars within it. Obviously, this star is hundreds of

thousands of times greater than our own sun, and yet, it is only *one* star among thousands of trillions in the vast unmeasurable size of our universe!

It took twelve years for the spacecraft Voyager to get to the planet Triton even though the craft was traveling at 65,000 miles an hour (very slow in comparison to the speed of light). At that speed it will take several hundreds of years before the spacecraft reaches the closest star. And once in the stellar universe it could, theoretically, travel forever and never get to the end of space. And of course, God is greater than all of that—the universe is but a small reflection of His immensity.

Scientists have never created so much as a single molecule! And yet our God created thousands of trillions of stars all by His sovereign word. “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host” (Psalm 33:6).

THE INTELLIGENCE OF GOD

Psalm 147:5 reads, “His understanding is beyond measure.” God knows all things—including the precise location of every particle and atom in the universe. He never has to recalculate the speed of a falling star or recount the number of drops in the Pacific Ocean after a rainstorm. All things are known to Him.

When we say that God has wisdom, we do not mean that He learns something new. We read, “In wisdom have you made them all” (Psalm 104:24). This wisdom is not acquired—it’s a part of God’s nature. Our body has billions of cells and each, we are told, is as active as a city like Chicago or Tokyo. Yet God, who made all things, didn’t have to think through how we would be put together. He knew.

Has it ever dawned on you that nothing has ever dawned on God?

THE PERSONALITY OF GOD

God has intelligence, emotion, and will. God is not a giant computer indifferent to His creatures. Read the Bible and you will find He has deep emotion—anger, pleasure, love, and compassion. This means He is available for companionship, for the union of our soul with Him. To a woman who had a series of five failed marriages and now living with a sixth man but not married to him, Jesus said, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). God is a being who has self-consciousness and is personally aware of us moment by moment.

THE CONSISTENCY OF GOD

“For I the LORD do not change” (Malachi 3:6). God will always possess the attributes He has; He doesn’t develop new ones, nor does He change with time. God doesn’t mellow with age nor grow in His understanding of us or Himself.

Think this through: God did not choose the attributes He has. He didn’t say, “I will be loving, just, and compassionate.” It so happens that these characteristics belong to Him from all of eternity. If He had been wholly evil, a sadist who enjoyed creating human beings simply to watch them suffer, we would have had to live with that. Just because He is God doesn’t mean He *had* to be loving. We can be thankful that from all of eternity, He has had compassion and love as His attributes. But we must accept God as He is and not how we want Him to be.

This God, whom I have described all too inadequately, made many decisions. One of the most important was His decision to create the universe and all of its living beings. We don’t know how long He lived with Himself until He made the choice; but when He made it, He set in motion a chain of events

and purposes that would go on from that point to all of eternity.

Think of Earth as a stage: the starry heavens as the canopy; angels, demons, and mankind as the players.

When God decided to choose Earth, a speck in an infinite universe, He knew about all the suffering and evil that would eventually engulf this planet. Surely there must be some good reason, some hidden agenda the Almighty has in mind that would make all this suffering worthwhile.

No one asked us whether we wanted to be born, but we find ourselves here, participating in God's vast plan of the ages. Even those who are unsaved will contribute to the greater glory of God. There is nothing on Earth, not even a molecule, that does not participate in God's eternal purposes.

Perhaps we can now understand why man's greatest sin is to ignore God. His vastness, His intention for man is of such overriding importance that we insult Him when we seek lesser priorities.

But think of it: What could possibly be more important to us than God? No matter how much value we might attach to our private agendas, God is of more value still. How dare we think there could be any purpose to life other than the pursuit of God!

So how do we begin to honor God? Jesus said in John 5:22–23, “For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.” We honor God the Father to the same degree that we honor Christ. It is not possible for people to ignore Christ without ignoring God.

A man was on his way to a church service when asked by a skeptic, “Is your God great or small?” To which the man replied, “Both. He is so great that heaven cannot contain Him,

but He is so small that He can dwell within my heart.”

If we accomplish nothing else in life but the pursuit of knowing God, we will have accomplished much. If we do not know God intimately, we will have been a failure regardless of what other attainments we may temporarily achieve. “But the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action” (Daniel 11:32).

Let God into every room of your life so that you might know Him and love Him. Only He can give us a reason to live.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Lane Nelson and Burk Foster, *Death Watch: a death penalty anthology* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001), 178,
- 2 For the full text see: Horace, *Ars Poetica*, Poetry Foundation, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69381/ars-poetica>.
- 3 Isaac Watts, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?" Hymnal.net, <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/999>.
- 4 Elvina M. Hall, "Jesus Paid It All," Hymnary.org, https://hymnary.org/text/i_hear_the_savior_say_thy_strength_indee.
- 5 Blaise Pascal, *Human Happiness*, (London: Penguin, 2008), 39–40.
- 6 C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1958), 92–93.
- 7 William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, Act 5, scene 5, Folger Shakespeare Library, <https://www.folger.edu/explore/shakespeares-works/macbeth/read/5/5/>.
- 8 St. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, 1, 1.5.

