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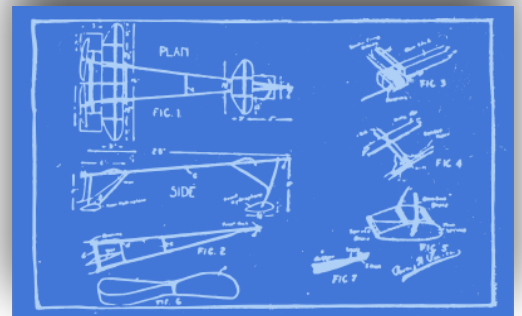
“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 (English Standard Version)

Thought for today...

Have you ever day dreamed about what your 'perfect' home would look like? Perhaps your kitchen would be unconventionally shaped, and be large enough to accommodate (you can fill in your list of must-have appliances here), and maybe your master bedroom would have a real fuel fireplace in it, which you'd be sure to light on those cold, wintery evenings?...

Perhaps your 'dream' home doesn't yet exist, so you'd need to build it, but before embarking on such a venture, you would need to draw up an architectural plan - a blueprint - detailing the structural requirements of the building. Following the specifications in the blueprint should ensure that the building is suitable for its intended use and purpose.

Blueprints are inevitably very detailed and specific, outlining clearly what needs to be done during construction. Noah can testify to this as God gave him the blueprint to build the Ark: “So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.” Genesis 6:14-16 (New International Version).



What if Noah had decided to use another type of wood, because it was easier to source or cheaper to acquire, or what if he chose to shave two cubits off the Ark's height, or felt that the design would be more aesthetically pleasing if the door was placed at the front instead of the side, and swung the opposite way on opening?

Ignoring the blueprint and changing the direction in which a door opens may not be catastrophic when designing a house, but unless other adjustments are made to compensate for this, it will likely have an impact on those who live in the finished home.

Contrary to what we may sometimes think, God does not require our assistance with His plan for our lives. Ephesians 5:16-17 reminds us to: **“Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”** (NLT).



The Master Builder and Planner says **“Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like Me. Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. I will call a swift bird of prey from the east**

- a leader from a distant land to come and do My bidding. I have said what I would do, and I will do it.” Isaiah 46:9-11 (NLT).

You may be wondering how to know what the Lord wants you to do? We can discover God's plan for us as we read The Bible and also when we pray, so why not ask Him now to reveal some of His plans for you?