

# Leading Us to Our Glorious Destiny!

*By Robert Curry*

Who knows where Las Animas is?

I grew up in Las Animas, CO, which in Spanish means

“The Soul” but the full name is “City of Lost Souls in Purgatory.” The Purgatory River flows south of town.



When I was in high school I remember pondering often about what to do after graduation in 1969—and often feeling like a lost soul.



Back then, the only famous person from Las Animas that I had ever heard of was Festus Haggen of Gunsmoke [Ken Curtis (born Curtis Wain Gates, July 2, 1916 – April 28, 1991)]. Our town’s slogan was “home of Festus Haggen and our Mayor’s name is Kitty.”

Fifty years later I’ve still never heard of anybody from Las Animas in the news except Robert Blackburn from my oldest sister’s class ahead of me who just retired as a Colorado Federal Judge.

The good news is that all the people I’ve ever known from Las Animas have lived lives of steady, quiet, solid contribution. Farmers. Radio DJ. Auto Parts Manager. I don’t know of any divorced. I don’t know of any in trouble with the law.

It reminds me of Ps. 37:3: “Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.” Steady Christian dailyness is good! It might

keep away so many big showy, splashy encounters!

So far I haven't achieved some great destiny to put Las Animas on the map either.

## **But I know this:**

Psa. 73:24 not only promises, "You guide me with your counsel, *leading me to a glorious destiny.*" But it's happening!

A local church funny billboard here in Canon City says "You need God's GPS: God's Plan of Salvation!"

Sadly, people have lots of wrong ideas about what God's Plan of Salvation is. Why? Because God reveals our ultimate destiny and how we can attain it through His Holy Days. I tell you the truth in love that you must keep these days to truly understand God's plan (Psa. 111:10). They are days of joy!

God reveals those Holy Days in Lev. 23 and then throughout the Bible. The next one is Pentecost on June 9. And it's all about God leading us to a glorious destiny! God started His Church on Pentecost in A.D. 31 and gave His Holy Spirit to power us to our destiny!

One of the names of Pentecost is the Feast of Harvest (Exo. 23:16). God established His annual Holy Days around the harvest seasons in the Middle East. His three festival seasons (Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and Feast of Tabernacles/Eighth Day) show us how the Master Timer is harvesting people for eternal life in His Kingdom.

We want to be a harvested grain that is whole mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually! We want to be an SMO = spiritually modified organism! Or a GMO, a God modified one!

Another name for Pentecost,

## **The Feast of Firstfruits**

is especially exciting for what it promises. Pentecost pictures the first part of

the spiritual harvest—the calling out of the Church—the called-out ones: the firstfruits (James 1:18, Rom. 8:23).

The first resurrection is the better one of the three coming by far.

The firstborn are promised a double portion (Deut. 21:17). What's that amount to? Among other blessings, we have the destiny of being part of the Bride of Christ! And we have the destiny of being in on the ground floor of the Kingdom of God with the best opportunities for service!

Wow, who has ever heard of a better destiny that is joy unspeakable and full of glory!

# What's Our Specific Glorious Destiny?

**I**nquiring minds want to know!

Abraham is Father of the faithful (Rom. 4:11). Sarah Mother of the faithful. No doubt they will serve in a servant leadership role directly under Christ when He returns to earth and sets up His millennial government in Jerusalem.

David said he'd be happy to be a doorkeeper (Psa. 84:10). But he's going to be over the 12 Tribes of Israel (Ezk. 34:23, 37:24). For the times he will face challenges from the stiff-necked Israelites, maybe he will be wishing he was just a doorkeeper. Where all you have to worry about is "Let 'em in, or don't let 'em in!"

Jesus promised the 12 Apostles that they would each be over a Tribe of Israel (Matt. 19:28). That's all the offices spelled out in the Bible, though you'd have to guess that Paul will be over the Gentiles.

The Bible mentions six roles of service: kings and priests (Rev. 5:10, judges (1 Cor. 6:2), teachers (Isa. 30:20), princes (Psa. 45:16) and mayors over two or five cities (Luke 19:17-19). Who will get Las Animas!

Parables show that we will be rewarded with service opportunities according to what we did in this life with our God-given talents/ability, time and effort.

## How Pentecost factors in

God's people will soon be keeping His Holy Day of Pentecost on June 9 (2019).

At Mt. Sinai in approximately 1447-1446 B.C. God gave Israel His glorious law of liberty. But the problem was: "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" (Deut. 5:29). Yes, a dynasty! But they didn't have the converted heart for it. Jesus said those called great in the Kingdom of God will be whoever "does and teaches" His

commandments (Matt. 5:19). We have to be learning His laws, keeping them, and becoming able to teach them—now but also in the Millennium.

On Pentecost A.D. 31, God started His Church and gave His Holy Spirit, enabling us to keep the spiritual intent of His laws.

I never thought of this before, but thanks to the Holy Spirit making it possible for the Church to fully express God’s commandments of love, we can become Gods in the God Family and Kingdom, and what is God: LOVE! A lovely tie-in!

## **Lesson from the recent Days of Unleavened Bread**



As I was cleaning our Ford Fiesta, with the specific purpose of getting out any leavened crumbs that accumulated in the past year from Ruffles, Oreos and the like, it struck me how this year the crumbs and grime were so crusted in the carpet and upholstery that I

couldn’t budge them loose even with my powerful dry vac crevice suction. I had to scrape on it with a big screwdriver with lots of pressure to separate it!

A wonderful object lesson about how tenacious our sins can be!

When finished each year, I remark “there, my sinless car!” One year one of my daughters remarked “only if you stay out of it!”

As we prepare for Pentecost, we need to keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is the greatest power in the universe. There is no need to wait for some other power to help us overcome.



## **Encore!**

For the annual Canon City Blossom Festival the first weekend of May, Mary and I went to listen to the Canon City High School Encore Choir. After three beautiful songs by the choir, what a

surprise that a female judge came up and took the baton from the Encore director. The Encore Choir is #1 in the state, and was it funny watching the agony and disdain of the director sidelined over by the piano. I could just imagine him thinking: “How dare she think she can improve on my Encore choir that the #1 director in the state has guided to its #1 rank!

Imagine the pressure on the judge to find something to help them improve. But she definitely helped them shape some of the phrases more effectively up and down to make them more powerful and emotional.

We need to accept correction because God corrects every son and daughter He loves (Heb. 12:4). But we should go farther and actually seek it.

With such humility, God will more easily “Lead me in the right path, O Lord ... make your way plain for me to follow” (Psa. 5:8).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take” (Prov. 3:5-6). He will lead us to

## **Our glorious destiny!**

We don't need to wait until June 9 to ask God daily for all nine of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). “If you then ... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13).

# God Guided Joseph & He's Guiding Us

I have always heard that God is guiding our lives in this world to have the training and experience and aptitudes and skills that He has in mind for us to use in His Kingdom of God.

The shepherd who will be serving over the 12 Tribes of Israel in the millennium began as a shepherd. The father of the faithful, when told by God to depart to a land He would show him, didn't know where he was going but he departed in faith. God made him a father by the miraculous birth of Isaac when he was age 100. And God has been calling his descendants to be faithful like he was! You, I hope!

## **So it makes me wonder what my destiny is!**

That's why the story of Joseph is my favorite in the Bible. God directed him from slavery to second in command of Egypt. Joseph had no idea what God was leading him to. He had no opportunity to analyze his abilities and make career choices.

It's not easy for a dreamer to figure out where there is a pharaoh in need! But we should follow our dreams anyway.

I have heard God called

## **Our Personnel Director**

In seeking a job at college, I was ushered in with another student before the Personnel Director. "Which one of you wants to be a custodian and which a landscaper?" he asked. I let the other guy choose. I wasn't trying to be like Abraham who let Lot choose. I just didn't know which I preferred. The other guy chose landscaping. I got window washing. Despite my best efforts, I could never get them spotless on the first squeegee pass. By summer I was transferred to the typing/proofreading/office side which has always been key to my career path. Thank you, God, the Master Timer!

Psa. 31:15 (New Living Translation) says, “My future is in your hands.” What a promise in Jer. 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you ... They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

## **When you think your life is the pits!**



Joseph stared up at the sky from a pit, wondering if his jealous brothers would return to kill him or simply leave him to rot. But God was leading Joseph toward a destiny beyond his imagination.

Prov. 16:9 assures, “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.” Joseph didn’t have opportunity to make any plans. But he always obeyed God wherever God took him.

He resisted the daily advances of Potiphar’s wife. When she “cast longing eyes” on him, he didn’t sucker for the bait. When she tempted “Lie with me,” he didn’t say “OK, you tell one and then I’ll tell one.” His godly response was “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:7-9).

Psa. 37:23 (NLT) says: “The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.”

Every step of the way, God was with Joseph, bringing him toward a destiny so masterfully designed.

Friday I visited with a prisoner who is a Church member and has served 33 years for a crime he didn’t commit. When I asked him if he felt “guided by God,” he said all he knows is that every day he commits himself to: “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me” (Matt. 16:24).

In two different prisons, everyone I have ever mentioned his name to has always said “Oh, he’s a good guy!” Other prisoners regularly ask him “What does the Bible say about” various issues.



But God hasn't given him favor like He did Joseph and made him head over all the prison functions! Not yet! In the Kingdom he may get a reward higher than even being second in command of Egypt. Who even knows who's second in command of Egypt today? First in command? Is anybody in command!

Things weren't always so peachy for Joseph either. Have you ever noticed Psa. 105:17-22?

And how crushing it must have been for Joseph when the butler forgot to say anything about him like Joseph asked, and Joseph had to endure two more years in the prison!

The door may not open today or even tomorrow. In the meantime, God wants us to serve diligently in the opportunities we already have, that He has already given us.

For some months now I've been praying God will lead me to the right working-at-home opportunity to use the talents and gifts He's given me to prepare for future service and make some extra money to be able to serve more now. So far nothing is working out, but Psa. 92:8 promises "still bear fruit in old age ..."

### **God's promises are sure:**

"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life" (Psa. 32:8 NLT).

The way God has directed my life, I believe I will likely serve in communications, maybe working on *The Jerusalem Post*. My main employment was as executive assistant so perhaps I'll be doing that. When I got to work in the Graphics Department for the National Association of Counties in Washington, D.C., I realized that rather than be sent out to a far-flung post, I want to be right at Jesus Christ's headquarters. Then you never really have to say goodbye to loved ones because everybody comes back sooner or later. Of course, God may have better ideas for me!

When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, he at last could see what God had been doing through him: "God sent me before you to preserve life ... So now it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Gen. 45:5, 8).

“He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers” (Rom. 2:7 NLT).

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever” (Psa. 16:11).

Yes! God is leading us “to a glorious destiny!” (Psa. 73:24).



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