



# RCCG OCEANIA

Faith & Trust

## Destined by God's Unchanging Counsel

### At a Glance

#### BIG IDEA

Many plans can fill a human heart, but God's counsel stands forever. Scripture shows destiny is not driven by circumstances but by God's purpose and His promises. Like Abraham, like David, and like Joseph, faith holds on, waits, and keeps moving in devotion until what God has spoken comes to pass.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Psalms 33:11

Proverbs 19:21

Romans 4:17-22

Habakkuk 2:3

Genesis 37:18-24

2 Samuel 2:4

## Key Takeaways

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- God's counsel and purposes stand forever, even when human plans change (Psalms 33:11; Proverbs 19:21).
- Faith agrees with God's promise and does not surrender to visible obstacles (Romans 4:17-22).
- God's vision may seem delayed, but it will surely come; waiting is part of destiny (Habakkuk 2:3).
- Destiny is strengthened by daily devotion—choosing whom to serve and sustaining praise and love toward God (Joshua 24:15; Psalms 34:1; Psalms 18:1-2).
- Biblical examples show destiny can pass through opposition and hardship without being cancelled (Genesis 37:18-24; 2 Samuel 2:4).

## Introduction

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Scripture teaches that destiny is not driven by changing circumstances but anchored in God's unchanging counsel. Because God's purpose stands, believers are invited to respond in specific ways: trust God's promise, walk by faith rather than appearances, wait patiently for the appointed time of fulfillment, and live devotedly—choosing to serve ...

## Introduction (cont.)

God, sustaining praise, and relying on Him as refuge. The biblical accounts included here show that delays and opposition are real, yet they do not overturn what God has purposed.

## Scripture Reading

- **Psalms 33:11** — Declares that God's counsel stands forever and His purpose remains across generations.
- **Proverbs 19:21** — Contrasts many human plans with the certainty that what God determines will stand.
- **Romans 4:17-22** — Describes Abraham's faith in God's promise despite natural limitations, emphasizing trust in God's power and faithfulness.
- **Habakkuk 2:3** — Teaches that God's vision has an appointed time; even if it seems slow, it will surely come, calling for patient endurance.
- **Genesis 37:18-24** — Shows Joseph facing hostility and being cast into a pit, illustrating that opposition can be part of the pathway without ending God's purpose.

## Scripture Reading (cont.)

- **2 Samuel 2:4** — Records David being anointed over Judah, highlighting progression and timing as recognition unfolds step by step.
- **Joshua 24:15** — Calls for a clear choice to serve the Lord, aligning the household and life with God's purpose.
- **Psalms 34:1** — Models continual praise as a steady, daily response regardless of changing conditions.
- **Psalms 18:1-2** — Frames devotion as relationship: loving God and relying on Him as strength, deliverer, and refuge.

## Key Points

1. God's counsel defines destiny — Scripture places destiny first in God's counsel, not in human control. God's purpose stands, even when people make many plans that change over time. This does not deny that choices matter, but it anchors hope in something stronger than circumstances: what God has determined will stand. When outcomes feel uncertain, these passages re-center the heart on God's steady rule. A practical starting point is to bring plans under God's counsel—holding goals with humility and trusting that God's purpose is not fragile.
  - Name one area where personal plans feel dominant; surrender it in prayer to God's counsel and purpose.
  - When facing uncertainty, repeat what Scripture says about what "stands forever" before making decisions.
  - Write a short statement of trust: "God's purpose stands, even if my plan changes," and revisit it when anxious.
  - Evaluate upcoming choices by asking: "Does this align with God's counsel as revealed in Scripture?"

Scripture: Psalms 33:11 Proverbs 19:21

## Key Points (cont.)

2. Faith agrees with God's promise — Abraham's example shows that faith is more than optimism; it is agreement with God's promise. Abraham faced real limitations, yet he trusted the God who gives life and calls what is not as though it were. Biblical faith does not pretend obstacles are unreal; it refuses to let obstacles have the final word. It gives God the weight of ultimate authority and relies on God's power rather than visible conditions. This kind of faith strengthens perseverance: believers keep speaking and

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## Key Points (cont.)

2. Faith agrees with God's promise (cont.) — living in line with what God has spoken, trusting God to fulfill His promise.
  - Identify a specific promise-related truth from the passage and speak it in prayer, choosing agreement with God.
  - Practice separating "what is seen" from "what God has spoken" by writing both columns and committing to faith-filled obedience.
  - When discouraged, ask: "Am I measuring destiny by circumstance or by God's promise?"
  - Thank God for His power and faithfulness before seeing the outcome, as an act of faith.

Scripture: Romans 4:17-22

## Key Points (cont.)

3. Wait for the appointed time — Scripture teaches that God's vision has an appointed time. Delay is not the same as denial; waiting can be part of being destined by God's purpose. This passage calls for steady endurance: even if fulfillment seems slow, God's vision will surely come. The instruction is to resist despair and remain faithful while time unfolds. Waiting is active trust—continuing in obedience, prayer, and readiness, believing that God's timing is wise and sure.
  - Define what "waiting" looks like in daily life: prayer, obedience, and consistent character rather than passivity.
  - Replace rushed decisions with a simple practice: pause, seek God, and proceed only with peace and alignment to Scripture.
  - When progress feels slow, rehearse the phrase "it will surely come" and choose perseverance.
  - Ask what faithful next step can be taken today while the larger vision unfolds.

Scripture: Habakkuk 2:3

## Key Points (cont.)

4. **Live aligned:** choose, praise, and love God — Destiny is not only about future outcomes; it is also about present devotion. Scripture calls for a clear choice to serve the Lord—an intentional alignment of life under God's purpose. Devotion is sustained through practices that steady the heart: continual praise and active love for God. Praise keeps attention on God's character; love expresses reliance on God as strength and refuge. These habits do not earn destiny; they shape faithfulness while God's plan unfolds. Choosing to serve, continuing in praise, and clinging to God as refuge support endurance and integrity.
- Make a clear personal decision to serve the Lord; express it in a sentence and live consistently with it.
  - Build a rhythm of praise (spoken or written) that does not depend on circumstances.
  - When fear rises, turn to God as refuge through a short prayer of dependence and trust.
  - Review commitments and relationships, asking: "Do these help me serve God wholeheartedly?"

Scripture: Joshua 24:15

Psalms 34:1

Psalms 18:1-2

## Key Points (cont.)

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5. Destiny can pass through opposition — Scripture does not hide the reality of resistance. Joseph's experience shows intentional harm from others; the pit represents seasons where destiny appears threatened. David's recognition and anointing over Judah highlights progression: God's purpose can unfold in stages. The path may involve contested spaces and gradual developments rather than instant arrival. Together, these passages teach that hardship and opposition do not cancel God's purpose. God's counsel stands, and believers ...

## Key Points (cont.)

5. Destiny can pass through opposition (cont.) — can keep trusting, waiting, and living devotedly while God advances what He has spoken.
  - When facing opposition, refuse to interpret hardship as proof of abandonment; reaffirm trust in God's purpose.
  - Choose one faithful action you can take under pressure (integrity, prayer, patience) and do it consistently.
  - Guard speech: avoid hopeless conclusions and instead speak with faith in God's counsel and promise.
  - Seek strength in God as refuge when emotions surge; ask for endurance to wait and persevere.

Scripture: Genesis 37:18-24

2 Samuel 2:4

## Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

## Observation

- What do Psalms 33:11 and Proverbs 19:21 say about God's counsel compared to human plans?
- In Romans 4:17-22, what phrases describe Abraham's faith and what he focused on?
- What does Habakkuk 2:3 say about the vision, the appointed time, and the certainty of fulfillment?
- In Genesis 37:18-24, what forms of opposition does Joseph face in the text?
- In 2 Samuel 2:4, what step of progress is described for David, and who recognizes it?

## Interpretation

- How do these passages together define what it means to be destined by God's purpose rather than by circumstances?
- What is the difference between faith in God's promise and denial of real obstacles (Romans 4:17-22)?
- Why might God's vision involve waiting, and how does Habakkuk 2:3 shape expectations about timing?

## Interpretation (cont.)

- How do choosing to serve, continual praise, and loving God as refuge function as practices that sustain devotion?
- What do Joseph's pit and David's gradual recognition teach about opposition and progression in God's plan?

## Application

- Where are "many plans" competing with trust in God's counsel, and what would surrender look like this week?
- What is one promise-shaped statement of faith you can speak and act on when conditions look discouraging?
- What situation requires you to wait for the appointed time, and what faithful step can you take while waiting?
- Which devotion practice do you most need right now—serve, praise, or refuge—and how will you implement it daily?
- How will you respond to opposition without losing devotion: what boundaries, prayers, or actions will help you endure?

## Prayer Focus

- Help me surrender my plans to Your counsel and purpose.
- Strengthen my faith to agree with Your promise when circumstances resist.
- Teach me to wait with endurance for Your appointed time.
- Keep me devoted in serving, praising, and taking refuge in You.

## Next Step

Choose one area where you feel delayed or opposed, write a promise-shaped confession from Scripture, and practice speaking it daily while taking one obedient step of service and trust.

## Conclusion

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God's counsel stands forever, and His purpose is not overturned by shifting plans, delays, or opposition.

Believers are destined to live in alignment with God: agreeing with His promise by faith, enduring as they wait for the appointed time of His vision, and practicing devotion through serving God, sustaining praise, and relying on Him as refuge. Holding these truths together forms a steady path of trust and obedience as God's plan unfolds.