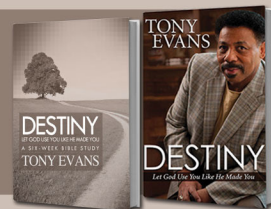


# DESTINY

## Sermon Outline



### MESSAGE FOUR

#### **SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** Isaiah 46:8-11 (NASB)

8 "Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; For I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

#### **MESSAGE GOAL:**

This sermon will help people understand how God orchestrates intersections to change their hearts and help them to faithfully live out their destinies.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Israelites languished in captivity. The fierce Babylonians had invaded Judah, sacked Jerusalem, and taken most of the inhabitants back to their own country. But as most of the Israelites fled their homes, with little hope of returning, the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, commanded his officials to find the best and brightest Israelite men to come serve in his royal court. These men, who worshiped Yahweh, would be forced to study the philosophy and religion of the Babylonians to worship their false gods.

But one of the bright young men taken to serve Nebuchadnezzar was Daniel. Daniel refused to eat the king's food and worship the king's idols and God blessed him (Daniel 1:8-9). Daniel gained the respect of the king and his officials for his wisdom, discernment, and resolute character (Daniel 1:18-20). And then one day, God orchestrated an intersection that would catapult Daniel to second in command over the whole kingdom.

In the second year of his reign, God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a nightmare that kept him awake at night. After the magicians and sorcerers couldn't interpret his dream, the king became so enraged that he planned to kill all the wise men in Babylon (Daniel 2:1-12). But Daniel stood up, trusted God, and volunteered to interpret the king's dream (Daniel

2:14-18). Daniel recognized the opportunity that God had given him to intersect the king's life and save thousands of lives. So Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, gave God the glory, saved all the wise men, and was made prime minister in Babylon (Daniel 2:46-49)—all because of the intersections God had set out in Daniel's life.

God ordained intersections so that Daniel's life would come into contact with King Nebuchadnezzar. God kept intersecting the king's life with His truth and sovereignty until finally Nebuchadnezzar repented and humbled himself before the Lord (Daniel 4:34-37). Daniel played a major role in the God-ordained intersections that led to the conversion of the pagan king who ruled over them. As Daniel simply walked in obedience to the Lord, He directed Daniel's path and used him to direct the course of an entire empire. Daniel fulfilled his destiny as his life followed the twists and turns of God's will. And so can we, if we keep our eyes open, looking for God-ordained intersections.

#### **SERMON POINTS:**

##### **1. GOD ORDAINS INTERSECTIONS TO LEAD YOU TO YOUR DESTINY.**

- Intersections are the points of connection that God orchestrates to lead you to your destiny.
- Intersections often come as you're doing the ordinary, routine tasks of everyday life.

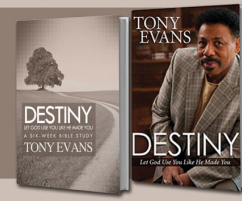
##### **2. THROUGH INTERSECTIONS, GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR HEART.**

- Through the normal intersections of life, God changes our hearts and gives us a burning passion to walk in a certain direction.
- Saul's trip to recover his father's donkeys led him to Samuel who anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. (1 Samuel 9)
  - Saul wanted to turn back when he couldn't find the donkeys
  - Saul's servant suggested they find Samuel, the "man of God," to help them find the donkeys
  - Meanwhile, God spoke to Samuel and told him to look for Saul, the man from the tribe of Benjamin was on a journey to find his father's

our society's problem  
is not solely our *government's* problem.  
it is **the church's** problem.  
it is *our* problem.

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- donkeys.
- God told Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.

### 3. WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER INTERSECTIONS, GOD DESIRES YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

- Moses faithfully herded sheep for 40 years until he noticed a burning bush that didn't burn up.
- When Moses got close, he heard God's voice calling him to redeem the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. (Exodus 3:1-10)
- When God intersected Moses's life, Moses discovered his destiny to save God's people.
- God knows where He's taking us and He walks with us every step of the way. All He asks is for our faithfulness. (Isaiah 46:8-11)

#### SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

**GOD-ORDAINED INTERSECTIONS:** As we travel to and from work each day, we drive through many intersections. When we get to an intersection and the light turns green, we have the option to go straight, turn right, or turn left. How do we decide which direction to go? It all depends on our ultimate destination. Very rarely do we hop in the car and head out if we don't know where we're going. But often Christians set out on their daily journeys without knowing where they're going—without knowing their destiny. But as we faithfully complete the daily assignments God has given us, and as we keep our hearts and minds focused on Him, He will lead us to and through the intersections that will take us to our destiny.

**Be Faithful Chasing Donkeys:** Before he became king, Saul's father sent him on a mission to find his missing donkeys. So Saul and his servant set out. When they couldn't find the donkeys, Saul wanted to turn around and go home. But his servant wanted to seek the guidance of the man of God, the prophet of God, who was nearby. So why would the servant want to involve a prophet of God in donkey chasing? Saul's servant understood that God is the God of the ordinary. During this time, God told the man of God, Samuel, that Saul, the future king of Israel, would be coming his way. God orchestrated this intersection while Saul was just chasing his father's donkeys. Many of us stumble across most of God's intersections while we're chasing donkeys, while we're faithfully going about the ordinary tasks of everyday life.

#### QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

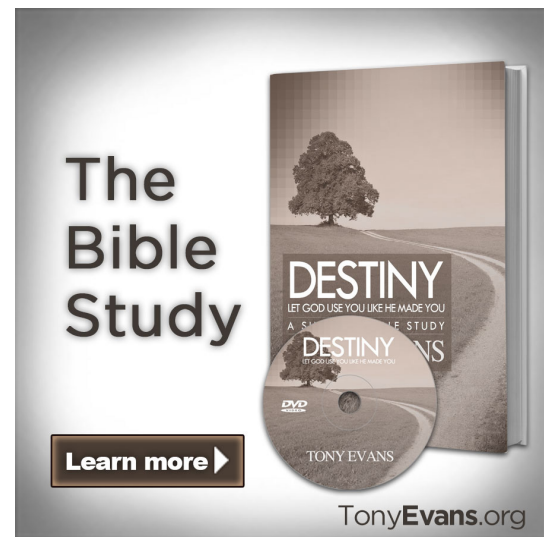
"The way God leads us to our destiny is by crafting intersections."

"Keep your eyes open for the intersections. They're all around you."

"God is a God of the ordinary, not merely the extraordinary."

"Most of God's intersections will come through your ordinary donkey-chasing."

"If you would just be faithful chasing donkeys...God knows how to hook you up and connect you, at the right place, at the right time, with the right person."



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**our mission field is not merely across the sea.  
it is across the street.**

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