

Our Master Architect

Psalm 139:16

Introduction

Good morning, everyone. It is a blessing to be with you today. As we look outside at the spring season beginning to bloom here in northern Japan, we see life starting to wake up. Trees are preparing their buds, and the ground is softening after a long winter. When we look at nature, we see a design. Nothing in nature happens by accident; there is a rhythm and a structure to it all. Today, I want to talk to you about a similar structure in your own life. I have titled today's message, "Our Master Architect."

When a grand building is constructed—perhaps one of the beautiful structures in Sapporo or a sturdy house here in our neighborhood—it doesn't just appear out of nowhere. Long before the first nail is driven or the first bucket of concrete is poured, there is an architect. That architect sits at a desk with a large piece of paper and draws a blueprint. Every window, every door, and every support beam is planned out. The architect knows exactly what the building will look like before the ground is even broken.

The Bible tells us that God is the Master Architect of your life. You are not a random collection of cells. You are not a mistake of history. You are a deliberate, carefully planned masterpiece. Today, we will look at how God wrote your story before you were even born, how He chose you before the world began, and how we can rest because He is the one doing the "heavy lifting" in our lives.

1. His Life Blueprint

The Bible suggests that God has what we might call a "pre-history" with every single one of us. This means that your relationship with God didn't start the day you first walked into a church or the day you first said a prayer. It started much earlier. One of the most beautiful passages in all of Scripture describes this perfectly. Let's look at Psalm 139:16:

"Your eyes saw my body even before it was formed. You planned how many days I would live. You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them." (NIRV)

This is a stunning description of God's pre-birth work. The writer, King David, describes God "seeing" us before we were ever formed inside our mamas' tummies. Think about that for a moment. In an architect's office, there is a blueprint for a house. In God's office, there is a "book" with your name on it. In that book, He didn't just write your name; He wrote your "days."

It seems that a lot of people these days around the world feel stressed about their future. They wonder, "Can I hold on to my job? Will I be okay? What will happen tomorrow?" But Psalm 139 tells us that God has already looked at "tomorrow." He has already seen the number of our days. He knows the joys we will experience and the challenges we will face. He saw the adult you are now way back when you were still a tiny baby. He saw your life here in Sapporo while you were still in the womb.

This means your life has a specific purpose. If an architect puts a window in a certain spot, it is because he wants light to enter there. If God put you in this specific town, in this specific church, at this specific time, it is because it is part of His blueprint. You are here by design.

Application #1: This week, when you feel anxious about the future, remember the "Book of Days." Take a deep breath and say to yourself, "God has already seen my tomorrow." You don't have to figure everything out on your own because the Master Architect has already drawn the plans. Trust that He knows the way through the snow and the storms of life.

2. He Chose Us Before Time

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul takes this idea even further. He doesn't just go back to the womb; he goes back to before the beginning of time itself. Let's look at Ephesians 1:4:

"God chose us to belong to Christ before the world was created. He chose us to be holy and without blame in his eyes. He loved us." (NirV)

The text claims that God "chose us in him before the creation of the world." This is a deep mystery, but it is also a beautiful comfort. It tells us that our lives are not a biological accident. You are not just the result of two people meeting and having a child. You are not a random event of history. From this perspective, you were a deliberate thought in the mind of God before the stars were even formed or the mountains of Hokkaido were raised up.

Think of a master gardener who decides which seeds to plant long before the spring arrives. He looks at the garden in his mind and says, "I want a rose here, and a lily there." God looked at the history of the world and said, "I want *you* to exist." He chose you to belong to Christ.

Why did He choose us? The verse ends with three simple words: "He loved us." In Japanese, we say "Kami wa ai desu" (God is love). His choice wasn't based on your skills, your wealth, or your health. It was based purely on His love. When we realize that we were chosen before the world was created, it takes away our need to "prove" ourselves. You don't have to work hard to get God to notice you. He noticed you before the sun ever shone!

In a small church like ours, sometimes we feel small. But in God's eyes, you are a priority that He has held in His heart since before time began. That gives us a dignity that the world cannot take away.

Application #2: This week, when you feel lonely or unimportant, repeat this truth to yourself: "I was a thought in God's mind before the world began." Let that settle into your soul. You are not an afterthought; you are a first thought. Treat yourself and others with respect, knowing that every person was created with that same divine intentionality.

3. Resting in His Ongoing Plans

If God was working in your life before you were born, and if He chose you before the world began, then that means He is the one doing the "heavy lifting." Often, we live as if everything depends on our own strength. We worry, we hustle, and we get exhausted trying

to make our lives work. But if God is the Master Architect, we are the building. The building doesn't have to worry about the blueprints; the architect does.

Proverbs 16:9 says it best:

"We make our own plans, but the LORD decides where we will go." (CEV)

This doesn't mean we shouldn't plan or be responsible. But it means that the ultimate result of our lives is in God's hands. You can "wait" or rest because the One who designed your life's path before you took your first breath is the same One who is leading you today.

I love what the prophet Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 64:4:

"For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!" (NLT)

Think about that phrase: God "works for those who wait for him." Usually, we think we have to work for God. We think we have to be busy for Him. But this verse says that while we are "waiting" or resting in faith, God is the one working behind the scenes. He is moving the hearts of people, He is opening doors, and He is arranging the details of our lives.

In northern Japan, we know what it means to wait. We wait for the snow to melt. We wait for the first cherry blossoms. We cannot force the spring to come; we have to trust the cycle that God created. In the same way, you can trust God's timing for your life. You don't have to push or grab for control. You can rest in the hands of the Master Architect.

Application #3: This week, find one area of your life where you have been trying to do all the "heavy lifting" by yourself. It might be a worry about your children, your health, or your finances. Intentionally give that worry back to God. Say, "Lord, I am waiting on You. I trust that You are working for me even when I cannot see it." Practice the "Sabbath of the Heart"—resting in His ongoing care.

Conclusion

As we close today, remember the image of the Master Architect. Before you were even a thought in your parents' minds, you were a masterpiece in God's heart. He drew the blueprint of your life in Psalm 139. He chose you in Ephesians 1. And He is working for you today as we see in Isaiah 64.

Your life is not a series of random accidents. Whether you are young or retired, whether you feel strong or weak, you are part of a divine plan. The Master Architect doesn't make mistakes. Every season of your life—including this one—is purposeful.

So, as you walk out into the cool air of northern Japan this afternoon, look up at the sky and the mountains. Remember that the God who built the universe is the same God who built *you*. You can trust Him with your past, your present, and your beautiful future.

Hymn of Response

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for being our Master Architect. Thank You that our lives are not accidents, but intentional plans of Your love. Lord, forgive us for the times we try to do all the work ourselves and forget to trust You. Help us to rest in the truth that You saw us before we were born and chose us before the world began. As we go through this week, give us peace in our hearts. May we be a light to our neighbors, showing them the beauty of Your design. We love You and we trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn of Commitment

Blessing