In the midst of inscrutable suffering, Job declared to God, “You have hidden these things in Your heart; / I know that this is with You” (Job 10:13). Job was convinced that the purpose of his existence and the meaning of his inexplicable pain and tragic loss were hidden in God’s heart. Along with all of God’s people in the Old Testament, Job did not know the purpose of God in creating the universe, bringing him into being, and allowing dreadful things to happen to him. God’s will and purpose were a mystery known only to God, who had stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him (Zech. 12:1). This mystery was hidden in God’s heart throughout the ages, and it was revealed only in the New Testament time in Christ and to the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:3-5, 9). If, as believers in Christ, we would understand this revealed mystery and thereby know the meaning of the universe and the significance of our existence as human beings, we need to know what God has revealed regarding His will, His purpose, and His economy and gradually realize that the will of God, the eternal purpose of God, and the economy of God are all focused on Christ with the church—the Body of Christ, the corporate new man, and the bride of Christ consummating in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.

The Will of God

Perhaps the most important verse in the Scriptures regarding the will of God is Revelation 4:11: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.” God’s will is what God wants; we may even say that God’s will is God’s wish, what He, as a God of purpose, with a heart’s desire, longs to bring forth for His satisfaction. Therefore, He created all things because of His will and for His will so that He might gain what He desires. The context and content of the book of Revelation indicates that God’s will, the source of the universe and all positive things within it, includes the local churches as golden lampstands, the bride being prepared for the Bridegroom, the manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth, and the new heaven and the new earth with the New Jerusalem as the eternal wife of the redeeming God. However, the most important aspect of God’s will as unveiled in Revelation is that the resurrected, ascended, and enthroned Christ is the center of God’s administration. The fact that Revelation consummates with a vision of the New Jerusalem as the wife of the Lamb indicates that the will of God, because of which He created all things, will be fulfilled by the New Jerusalem, the Lord’s counterpart. God “works all things according to the counsel [the plan] of His will” (Eph. 1:11), considering in detail the way by which He will accomplish His will.

The Will of God Related to Christ

The will of God is intrinsically related to Christ (Heb. 10:7), and apart from Christ we