

THE BEST LAID PLANS
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No matter how well we plan, nothing seems to turn out exactly as intended. The difference between our intentions and results creates frustration. This is nothing new. The beginning lines of a Robert Burns poem were paraphrased as, "The best-laid plans of mice and men / Go oft awry." Apparently even mice struggle with disappointment. But then, they've never heard of God or His promises.

In the book of **Jeremiah**, we read. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." His plans for us are not evil, and they bring us to the end He expects. Since He is not willing that any should perish, then He plans to have you and I remain alive. In the book of **John**, He came to give us more abundant life. He is good at planning ahead for us, since He knows our end from our beginning. All He must do is convince us to trust Him to direct our steps.

Some horses actually race with blinders strapped on their heads. Since they only see what is straight ahead, they must trust their riders to keep them from any harm they do not see coming. Suppose they could not see at all? Could those same riders be trusted?

In Psalms 19:6, David brags about his director. "I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." When the night is dark and we can not see, trust the rider directing our steps, even if He must do so by pulling our reins. We can always spit out the bit and refuse to submit. We can become like mice again.

Three of them come to mind.