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EPHESIANS 1



2 Main Divisions of Ephesians

1. Chs. 1-3—doctrine—what God wants you to know

- Paul prays for God to give them “the Spirit of wisdom & revelation” “in the full knowledge of Him” so that they will “know . . . the hope of His calling,” “the [riches] of his glorious inheritance,” & “the immeasurable greatness of his power” (1:17-19).

2 Main Divisions of Ephesians

2. Chs. 4-6—duties—how God wants you to walk
 - Walk worthy of the calling you have received (4:1).
 - Walk in love (5:2).
 - Walk as children of light (5:8).
 - Walk carefully and wisely (5:15).

- Paul wrote the book of Ephesians from prison in Rome in approximately 61 AD.
- He had already been in prison in Caesarea for 2 years.
- He had been under house arrest in Rome for 1 to 2 years at this point (Acts 28:16, 30).
- He was chained to a Roman guard with a 3-foot chain 24 hours a day.
- He had 4 guards per day; they served 6-hour shifts.

- Paul also wrote Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon during this same period.
- Together with Ephesians, these four letters are known as the prison epistles.
- Paul saw himself as “the prisoner of Christ Jesus” (not of Rome) (3:1).
- He called himself “an ambassador in chains” (6:20).
- He was still “an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God” (1:1).

Temple of Artemis (Diana)



The Ephesians

- Ephesus was home to one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world: the temple of Diana (Artemis).
- Worship of this pagan idol was an integral part of Ephesian life.
- In Acts 19, the silversmiths who made images of Diana rioted when they thought Paul's gospel message was threatening their livelihood.

The Ephesians

- Paul spent 2 years living & teaching in Ephesus during his 3rd missionary journey (Acts 19:10).
- All the Jews and Greeks of Asia heard the gospel preached by Paul from his base in Ephesus.
- The magicians of Ephesus burned their magic books worth 50,000 drachmas (1 drachma = 1 day's wages) as a result of Paul's preaching there (Acts 19:19).
- The Ephesian believers were saints (holy ones)—as are we—because of the work of Christ.

Ephesians 1 Overview

- 1:1-2—Greetings
- 1:3-14—Paul's hymn blessing God Who blesses us
- 1:15-23—Paul's prayer for the Ephesians

Paul, an Apostle (1:1)

- An apostle is someone sent with a mission.
- The word applies narrowly to the 12 original disciples of Jesus (Acts 1:21-22).
- It also applies to men sent as missionaries like Paul & Barnabas (Acts 14:14).
- Paul called himself “an apostle to the Gentiles” (Romans 11:13; cf. Acts 9:15).

Ephesians 1:3-14—A Hymn

- Shows us the content & purpose of a spiritual hymn
- The subject is God the Father (1:3).
- The purpose is to bless Him for what He has done.
- Bless = to say good things about Him

Ephesians 1:3-14—A Hymn

- Has 3 stanzas, each ending with a refrain
- 1:6—to praise the glorious grace of God the Father
- 1:12—to praise the glory of God the Son
- 1:13—to praise the glory of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:3-14—A Hymn

- Has a time progression
- 1:4—Before the foundation of the world
- 1:7—The crucifixion of Jesus
- 1:13—The believer's conversion experience

Ephesians 1:3

- God “has blessed us with
- (1) every spiritual blessing
- (2) in the heavenly places
- (3) in Christ”
- Those are the leading ideas developed throughout the rest of the hymn.

What is a spiritual blessing? (1:3)

- It is not something immaterial.
- The New Testament refers to spiritual songs, spiritual gifts, the law as spiritual, spiritual people, a spiritual body (Eph. 5:19; Rom. 1:11; 1 Cor. 12:1; Rom. 7:14; 1 Cor. 2:15; 1 Cor. 15:44).
- The term *spiritual* refers to something that has been put in a right relationship to God through the work of His Holy Spirit.

In Heavenly Places (1:3)

- 1:20—The heavenly places are a location. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father in the heavenlies.
- Though we've never been there, it's so certain that it's as if we're already there.
- God “raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (2:6).

Deuteronomy 29:29

- “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

- Foreknowledge—God’s intimate personal relationship in advance (cf. *prognosis*)—God never foreknows unbelievers!
- Predestination—God’s predetermined limits (based on word for *horizon*)
- Election—God’s choice to save someone

- We must approach the topic of election with reverence and humility. Romans 3:11 says, “Who are you, you foolish person, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, ‘Why did you make me like this,’ will it?” The Bible teaches us that “no one seeks God” (Rom. 3:11).
- Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:44).

- Jesus said, “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).
- All of us are headed to a Christless eternity, but God makes salvation available to “whosoever believes” in Jesus (John 3:16).

- If you are concerned about whether or not God has chosen you, the Bible says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).
- The fact that you feel this concern is evidence that God is working in your heart.

- The Bible teaches the doctrine of election, but it also teaches that we are to give the gospel to everyone and trust the Holy Spirit to work in people's hearts to convict them of sin, of righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
- Paul said, "I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen [elect], so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10).

WHOSEVER WILL, LET HIM COME



**CHOSEN IN CHRIST BEFORE THE
FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**

