



Melbourne
Inclusive Church
Come as you are.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians - Introduction

Paul's Revelation of Jesus Christ (Apocalypse)

"13 About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. 14 We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.' 15 " 'Who are you, lord?' I asked. "And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. 16 Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. Tell people that you have seen me, and tell them what I will show you in the future. 17 And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles 18 to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart... by faith in me.'"

Acts 26:13-18 (NLT)

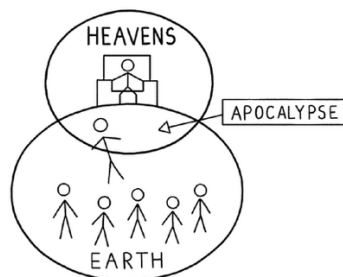
"13 You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. 14 I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors. 15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvellous grace. Then it pleased him 16 to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles."

Galatians 1:13-16 (NLT)

Apocalypse Defined

Greek word apokalypsis: reveal, disclose, bring to light, make fully known both literally and metaphorically.

Biblical meaning: When the bond between Heaven and Earth becomes visible or experienced by a person.



The Overlapping of Heaven and Earth. Illustration created by Tim Mackie for BibleProject Classroom: Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (2019).



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The Revelation for All People (Apocalypse)

Movement 1: Chapters 1-3

A	1:1-14 Victory song to the Father, Son, and Spirit
B	1:15-21 Prayer for an apocalypse of power
C	2:1-10 Rescued from death and the Ruler of the age 2:11-18 Rescued from hostility and alienation from God's family
D	2:19-22 The Messianic victory monument: the new temple
C'	3:1-13 The imprisoned apostle of the messianic apocalypse
B'	3:14-19 Prayer for power to grasp the Messiah's love
A'	3:20-21 Doxology song to the Father and to the Son
The Design of Ephesians 1-3. Created by Tim Mackie for BibleProject Classroom: Ephesians (2019).	

A. Praise

"3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

"20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)

B. Prayers

"15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."

Ephesians 1:15-16 (NLT)

"14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

Ephesians 3:14-18 (NLT)

C. New Exodus

Rescued from the slavery of sin which brings death.

No longer alienated from God's family, we become a new humanity which includes the Gentiles.

Paul's story of freedom from the slavery of blindness about what God is doing and him becoming God's messenger which has made him a "prisoner of the Messianic apocalypse."

D. Victory of the Messiah

The new temple made from a unified people with Jesus as the cornerstone-aka the church. We live in the now but not yet of how God's story plays out because Jesus will return one more time.

New Way to be Human

Movement 2: Chapters 4-6

A	4:1-16 Promoting the unity of the new humanity
	B 4:17-5:2 The old versus the new
	B' 5:3-14 The light versus the dark
	B'' 5:15-6:9 The foolish versus the wise, Spirit-influenced humanity
A'	6:10-20 The battle for the unity of the new humanity
<i>The Design of Ephesians 4-6. Created by Tim Mackie for BibleProject Classroom: Ephesians (2019).</i>	

A. New Humanity

"15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT)

“10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT)

B. Contrasts

Shift from old humanity to new from different angles. You are A now so don't act like Z

Light versus dark: Allow the light of Christ who lives in you to determine your movements. Consider what would please the Lord and make choices accordingly.

The foolish versus the wise, Spirit-influenced humanity: Pay attention to how we treat each other - We are after all one body.