

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians – Chapter 1

Grace, Revelation, and Resurrection Power

Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:1-14)

"1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. 2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. 9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan.

Key Verse: *10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.*

11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. 12 God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. 13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. 14 The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Ephesians 1:1-14 (NLT)

Section 1 Blessings

Pre-Destination/We are chosen (1:4)

We have Adoption as God's children (1:5)

We experience God's Grace (1:6)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Messiah, "the God who has blessed us "with every blessing of the Spirit "in the heavens through the Messiah, "because he chose us in him "before the foundation of the cosmos "so that we would be holy and blameless before him
"in love having predestined us for adoption "through Jesus Messiah unto himself, "In accordance with the purpose of his will, "resulting in praise for the glory of his grace."

Other Observations

Trinitarian (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

God is doing the work here.

Paul is talking about the Jewish people at this point.

Results in praise for the glory of God's grace.

"¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another."

John 1:6 (NLT)

Section 2 Blessings

Redemption (1:7a)

Forgiveness of sins (1:7b)

Knowledge of God's secret purpose (1:9)

"That's the grace with **which** he **graced us** in the beloved one **"in whom** we have redemption through his blood, "the forgiveness of sins, "according to the richness of His grace, "that **grace which he made abundant for us** "with all wisdom and understanding, **"having made known to us** the open secret of his will "in accordance with his **purpose**" **"which** he pre-planned **in him**, **"for the purpose of arranging the fullness of the times "to head up all things together in Messiah,**

Other Observations

Jesus doing the work here. Redemption through his blood.

What is that purpose? verse 10. That all things come into the fullness of time and come together in Messiah.

Jesus becomes the head of the church

Section 3 Blessings

Hope of a future inheritance (1:11-12)

Presence of God's Spirit (1:13-14)

"things in the heavens and things on earth, "in him in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, "having been predestined in accordance with the plan "of the one who works all things "in accordance with the decision of his will "so that we would praise His glory." "We, who were the first ones to hope in the Messiah, "in whom also y'all, "having heard the word of truth, "the good news of y'all's salvation, "in whom also having believed "y'all were sealed by the promised Holy Spirit, "who is the first instalment of our inheritance "for the redemption of the possession "resulting in the praise of his glory."

Other Observations

Paul moves from we (Jewish believers) to we (Gentiles – All Nations).

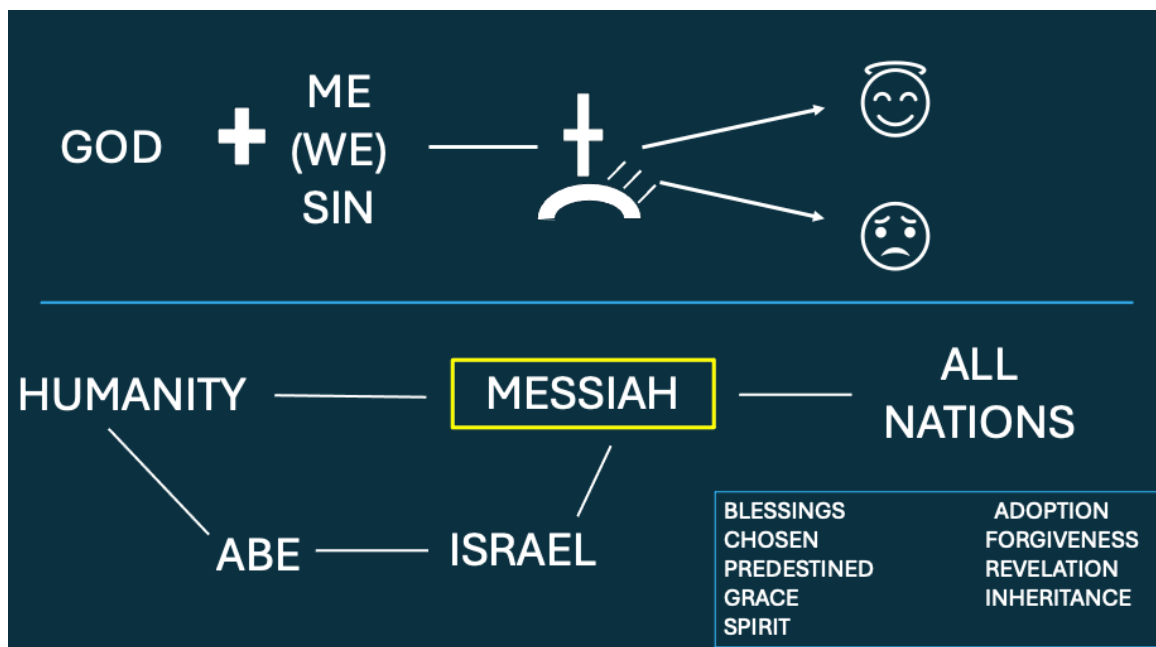
Everything and everyone comes together through faith in Christ.

Humanity \implies Israel \implies Messiah

Abraham

2 I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, But I will curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless all the nations."

Genesis 12:2-3 (GNT)



Prayers for Revelation and Resurrection Power (Ephesians 1:15-23)

“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. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way”.

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)

Paul hears about the new communities coming to the Lord demonstrated by their love that extends across boundary lines, no more Jew or Gentile.

Paul prays that the God of glory would give divine wisdom through the Spirit.

Paul prays that the eyes of their hearts would come to understand three things.

1. The future to which God is calling us to rule creation in the love and power of God.
2. The future inheritance that is the glory of the new creation ruled by God's holy people
3. God's life creating power being available to those with believing faithfulness.

Resurrection power lifted Jesus as the cosmic ruler which brings about God's Kingdom to the new creation.

Jesus now has authority over the rulers, authorities, powers and dominions

Jesus' is focused on one place in the present overlap of the ages (the ecclesia) the church, the chosen ones over which his authority is acknowledged and activated in their worship and lives lived by faith, filled up by the one who fills all things.

The same power that raised Christ from the dead is now accessible to us through the Spirit.

