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Study of Ephesians

Life lived in the Spirit

Chapter 1: No Longer Strangers!



- What is the purpose of the Bible?



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 - The story of the salvation history of God with His people.



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- What is the purpose of Ephesians?



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- What is the purpose of the Bible?
 - The story of the salvation history of God with His people.
- What is the purpose of Ephesians?
 - Paul through the Holy Spirit, within the context of his many letters to the church, wrote 3 manuals or guides to help the church prepare for its mission.
 - ❖ 1 & 2 Timothy are the Administrative Guides for the church, they set forth the criteria for pastors and deacons.
 - ❖ Romans is the Theological Guide for the church, setting forth the basic theological foundation that every Christian Church must embrace.
 - ❖ Ephesians is the Spiritual Guide for the church, that **teaches us how to walk in the Spirit.**



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- Why would Paul write a spiritual guide?
 - What Paul's readers needed, was NOT to **know** the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but instead how to **access** the gifts of the Spirit.

Putting Ephesians in Context:

- To put Ephesians, and the totality of the Scriptures themselves, in context, you must begin at the beginning.



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- Genesis 1:1-2 ***“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”***
- Genesis 3:1-24 ***Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths...***
- Genesis 3:13-14 ***“...The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”***



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- Ultimately, the Bible is going to deal with the problem of evil.
 - Why didn't God stamp out evil in the Garden of Eden?
 - At the heart of this question is the concept of genuine love.
 - Genuine love cannot exist unless free will exists. In other words, you cannot order someone to love you, and it still be genuine love.
 - We must be given the option to say “no” to God’s gift of salvation poured out in love, if our love for God is to be genuine.



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- One more thing before we get started. I will be serving up steak in this study. That may be too much for some of you. That's okay. It was too much for me when I first started studying the Holy Spirit. You see, I grew up in a congregation that acknowledged the Trinity, but didn't know what to do with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I only knew of Him, I did not **KNOW** the Spirit.
- That all changed for me about 20 years ago. When it did however, I had to go to places that were strange for me. I sat at the feet of Jack Hayford for 3 or 4 years.
- But he would present things that I just couldn't see, so my first reaction, was "Oh, that can't be." But instead of walking away, I dove deeper. I was either going to disprove what was said, **OR**, embrace it. As you might expect, I embraced it and the Holy Spirit not only became real, He became the Counselor Jesus said He would.
- So let that frame this study. If it's too much, don't just walk away—dive in!



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Eph 1:1-2 “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Paul wants you to know:

1. **Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.** In other words, he was not designated an apostle by human authority. Paul is an apostle by designation of Jesus, Himself. He wants you to know that. But Paul also wants you to know:

2. **That this letter is intended for the faithful in Ephesus.** It is not for those who are of the circumcision party, who demanded that people first become Jews, and then Christians.



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- Ephesians as a spiritual guide: Paul is going to make clear this is a spiritual guide from the very beginning of the letter by giving thanks and praise for the spiritual gifts/blessings we take for granted today.
 - Very few Christians understand what an extraordinary gift it is for us to be alive in the post-Pentecost era.
 - Jesus said in Matthew 13:16-17, **“But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”**



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Eph 1:4-6 “...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

- I want you to see is the phrase, “in Him.”
 - Paul reminds us that everything we have is a result of being in relationship with Jesus.
 - It is not enough to know OF Jesus, you must KNOW Jesus. Why? Because Jesus said in John 15:5, “...*for apart from Me, you can do nothing.*”



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- To fully grasp the importance of these spiritual endowments, we must unfold some things before we move on.
 1. We are in the midst of a spiritual war and it is constantly raging.
 - Have you ever heard the phrase, “Red sky at night, sailor’s delight; red sky in morning, sailor take warning,”? Jesus said that in Matthew 16:2-3 about His return.
 - we are in a **red sky morning!**



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- The demonic deception that is enveloping people of faith today is frightening, and here I am talking about the people of faith who are perpetuating division with everybody different than they are; divisions between believers, building wall with unbelievers through their hateful rhetoric, and by latching on to the ridiculous Qanon conspiracy theory that announced that a godless man was the messiah.
 - Jesus said in Matthew 24 many false christs will come, do not be deceived. John would pick up on this teaching in 2 John 1:7, “***For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves...!***”



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2. How did the demonic host come about and why are these demonic figures roaming the heavenlies and, the earthly realm?

- There was a rebellion in Heaven led by Satan, who was the most stunning of the angelic beings. He was the worship leader in heaven.
- Satan rebelled in an attempt to steal God's glory and was cast out Heaven.
 - It is important for you to understand here however, without hesitation, that the angelic beings are created beings. **THEY ARE NOT IN ANYWAY EQUIVALENT TO GOD.**



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Where do I get the notion of a rebellion in Heaven?

Ezekiel 28:11-19 *“You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever.”*



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3. How did human beings get involved in this?

- Father God created human beings to demonstrate that if a weaker being would trust in God, they could overcome a stronger being.
- Both the angels and human beings are created. The angels, however, were created as eternal beings.
- Do not for a moment think that you are stronger physically than an angel. We are much weaker physically, but we are nonetheless, greater spiritually.
- 1 John 4:4, ***“This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***
 - The ones in the world are demonic beings, fallen angels if you will. But for those who exercise their spiritual gifts, they are greater than the powerful beings called angels.



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Eph 1:4 “...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

- Paul is grounding this letter in the early foundations of the world. From the beginning of the rebellion, God’s plan was to defeat the evil one by empowering weaker creatures, i.e., human beings.
 - How is God doing this? By empowering them through the Son, Who is called the “Beloved,” in verse 6. (Before we move on, take note; this is another name for Jesus: the Beloved.)
- It is also telling us, for this empowerment plan to come about, God had to come in the form of humanity. Why, because He said He was going to crush Satan through the seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15.



There is something I want you to understand as far as your Bible reading is concerned, and it so important. Paul speaking through the Holy Spirit put the doctrine of Creation first in the instruction portion of this spiritual guide called Ephesians: **The doctrine of Creation is essential.**

I'm telling you, if you are struggling with God as Creator, you have got to settle that issue now. If God is not the Creator of all things, then the Scriptures fall apart. God's authority, God's majesty, God's power—all hang on His role in Creation, and this is literally true from Genesis to Revelation.

In fact, the Scriptures start with the blocking of humanity from the Tree of Life, and they end in Revelation with human beings being given access to THIS SAME TREE OF LIFE.

Hebrews 11:3 says, ***“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*”**



Eph 1:4 “...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

1. Jesus was there at Creation.

- If we were chosen in Jesus from the foundation of the earth, then Jesus was there at Creation, and this means, the Triune God has always existed.
- John 1: *in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word, was God.*

2. We were part of the plan from the beginning of Creation.



Eph 1:5-6: “In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

- God had a specific purpose when He included us, and that purpose was to restore the praise of God.
- **“predestined”**: What Paul means by predestination, is the implementation of the pre-determined plan of salvation. In other words, it is not that some people are chosen, and others are not. It is referring instead, to the pre-determined plan of salvation, that would open eternity with the Father to every human being on earth, not just the Jews.
 - How does this plan work? For the Jewish people, they are chosen by God, but for those of who are Gentiles, it had to happen another way. This other way was ADOPTION. Paul uses this word here in the Spiritual Guide of Ephesians, but explains it in the Theological Guide of Romans.
 - Know therefore, when you enter into relationship with Jesus, you become a full member of the family of God with the ALL the rights and blessings thereof. This is really good news loved ones!!



- For this plan to unfold, a human being had to defeat Satan: God had a purpose and a plan.
 - That is, God knew the first Adam would miss the mark, so the second Adam had to come.
 - The second Adam, according to the church's theological guide of Romans, says, Jesus is the second Adam.
 - Why did God have to come as a human being? Because it was God's purposed plan from the beginning to restore the rightful place of praise to the Trinity (vv5-6).
- The Scriptures say he even boasted himself against God.



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Isaiah 14:12 *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the Ground...”*

- Daystar or Morning Star in some versions: this is Satan. Again, just as we saw in Ezekiel, Satan is cast down to the earth. Why? Because he wanted the worship God was getting.

Is14:13 *“You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly...”*

- In the Scriptures, the word often translated “star” means “messenger of God,” i.e., angels. The devil wanted the worship of his fellow angels.
- In fact, it says he had the audacity to sit on God’s throne to get it!

Is 14:14 *“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”*

- I will make myself like God. Satan used that deception in the Garden of Eden.



Okay, HOLD ON JOHN...isn't this talking about Babylon? Yes. But Not in the way you are thinking.

- In Revelation 18:21 we learn that Babylon is the personification of satan. In other words, it is Babylon, i.e. satan, who is destroyed.
- When satan is destroyed in Isaiah 14:16, 17, & 18, we will look on him and ask ourselves, “how did such a pathetic creature wield such power?”
- Finally, in Isaiah 14:19, 20, & 21 we see that the death of Satan and his minions will NOT be like the death of others, i.e., their death is permanent. Rev 20:1-2 & 7-10 says they receive what is called the “second death” as they are thrown into the Lake of Fires.



All this happens because Satan wanted God's glory, he wanted the worship God receives. What is the other biblical event that comes to your minds when I say he wanted God's Worship?



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Here we find why God had to come as a human being:

➤ The Heavenly hosts watching this unfold, had to see that a weaker creature could defeat them by trusting in God. This is why God said what He said at the very beginning of Scripture in Genesis 3:15



EPH 1:7-8: “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us...”

- Two text in your reading assignment help to open this Ephesian’s passage:
- **2 Peter 1:3-4 “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”**
- Ephesians 1:7 says we have redemption through His blood, i.e., the blood of Jesus imparts to us grace. What is more, this grace is not stingy, it is lavished upon us; grace upon grace. Consequently, Peter says we have escaped our fate brought about by our sin and have become partakers of God’s Divine Nature because of the lavishness of God’s grace.



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Peter 1:3-4 & Colossians 1:19-20.

➤ **Colossians 1:19-20: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

- ❖ It is the Body and Blood of Jesus that is making this possible for us.
- ❖ All of these texts were inspired by the teaching of Jesus in John 6:53, where He said unless we eat of His body and drink of His blood, we have no life in us, or again, as Peter said in the 2 Peter text we become partakers of the Divine Nature.



The only way to become empowered by an indwelling Holy Spirit is to have our sins covered by the **blood of Jesus**.



Ephesians 1:9: “...*in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will,...*”

- The word that should pop out, is the word, “*mystery.*”
 - Daniel 2 speaks of the mystery of forgiveness to be poured out; Paul talks about this “mystery of grace and redemption,” in Romans, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, and the many times we are going to hear this word in the Letter to the Ephesians.
 - What Paul wants to make clear, especially here in Ephesians, is that the “mystery,” is “mystery,” no more.
 - The mystery of redemption poured out is none other than this Jesus, Who is fully God AND simultaneously fully human.
- Paul also wants you to know this is a purposed plan, and not only purposed from Bethlehem, but purposed from all eternity.



Eph 1:9-10: “...in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”

- When Satan rebelled in Heaven and took a 1/3 of the angels with him, and the lot of them were cast down to earth, there was a severe break in unity, something God cannot tolerate.
- So, slam this into your mind and say it everyday this coming week: God is not only a God of order, but also a God of Unity. Therefore, whenever you experience chaos or a break of unity, start praying fervently because this means Satan’s minions are in your territory.
- Know that chaos and a break of unity are a sign of satanic activity.
- What is more, you DO NOT have to FEAR –you are now fully equipped to address this attack.
- This is truly good news! The break that ruled much of the Hebrew Scriptures, is now united in Christ Jesus. ALLELUIA!



Colossians 1:16-20 is a powerful affirmation of the bring together of Heaven and earth as it was before the rebellion:

Col 1:16 *“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”*

- In other words, the angels are created beings just like you and me!



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Col 1:18 *“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”*

- Again, Jesus is fully human and fully God, and therefore, because HE is both, it is possible to reconcile the things in Heaven with the things on earth.



Eph 1:11a “*In him we have obtained an inheritance...*”

- The word to note here is “*inheritance.*” Again, you are strangers no more. You are daughters and sons of the King; you are royalty.



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DON'T LET SATAN LIE TO YOU!!!



Eph 1:11 *“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...”*

- Paul says PLEASE get this in your head (especially about “predestined”) this all happened because of a predetermined plan, it was purposeful, and not only purposeful, but done precisely through God’s Will.

Eph 1:11b-12 *“...according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”*



Eph 1:11b-12 “...according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

- All this is being done so that the rightful praise to the Father can be restored.
- Therefore, when we join in the praise of the cherubim and seraphim around the Throne of God, we are restoring rightful praise that belongs **ONLY** to Father God.
- Remember, **GOD SHARES HIS GLORY WITH NO ONE!** So, all this happened so that the first believers, Paul and the other Apostles, could become the first to restore the glory to God. **THEN...**



Eph 1:13-14 “*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*”

- Just as Jesus prayed in John 17, Paul through the Holy Spirit says, “In Him, YOU ALSO...,” i.e., those of us who have believed through the Word of Truth spoken by the Apostles, are going to go forth **SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!**
- When this sealing work of the Holy Spirit happens, we begin to experience the first Fruits of Heaven. Suddenly, we can pray with authority, we cast aside demonic activity in our territory, we can begin to understand the Word of Truth, i.e., the Scriptures as never before!!
- **ALL OF THIS—WHY—the final words of verse 14: “...to the praise of His Glory!”**



Summarizing who you are and what you have become, as revealed in Ephesians 1

- V4: **In Him**, we were chosen before the foundation of the world. In other words, this was a purposeful plan by the Father to include us as part of the strategy to address the rebellion and restore Heaven.



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- V 7: **In Him**, we are redeemed through His Blood. It is the Blood of Jesus that restores us and reverses the curse of the Garden. Our restoration had to happen, because Father God cannot reside in the presence of sin. We are saved Loved Ones.



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- V 11: **In Him**, as a part of His predetermined plan, we Gentiles are no longer strangers to God, but instead have become fully endowed family members with an inheritance.
- V 13: **In Him**, we are sealed in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is no longer a mantle laid on, but instead, a gift that resides in us. What is more, this gift becomes the guarantor of the full inheritance that awaits us in Heaven.



All of this comes to us to make whole
Heaven and the earth, and to restore the
glory of God!



My Prayer for you based on Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, because of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, I remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you in all fullness the Spiritual gifts of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, so that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you; that you may know what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints; that you may know what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.

You dear ones are blessed beyond anything you could imagine according to the working of God's great might that he worked in Christ, Jesus His Son when He raised Him from the dead and seated Jesus at the right hand of the Father in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and far above all authority and power and dominion, and far above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. Father God has put all things under the feet of Jesus and gave Him as the head over all things, to the church, which is His body.



My Prayer for you based on Ephesians 1:15-23

Know this then, Dear Ones, you are the body of Christ and therefore, the fullness of Christ who fills all in all. Go then, IN THE NAME OF JESUS! You are sealed in the Holy Spirit. BE FILLED then in the Name of Jesus, with the Holy Spirit and the fullness of the Spirit's Fruit that you may REPEL the forces of the enemy...and RESTORE the Glory that is due ONLY to the Father.

Go then LOVED ONES IN THE NAME OF JESUS! YOU ARE THE CHURCH, and NOTHING SHALL PREVAIL AGAINST YOU!! Now be blessed in the Name of Jesus, Amen.