

NOON BIBLE STUDY: EPHESIANS 1

EPHESIANS 1:1-2 - INTRO, GREETING. FROM PAUL TO SAINTS (AND FAITHFUL IN CHRIST JESUS) WHO ARE AT EPHESUS

V. 1 - SAINTS - GREEK: *hagios*: SACRED, HOLY

THE THINGS SPOKEN OF IN THIS LETTER ARE TRUE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BELIEVED THE GOSPEL AND TURNED TO JESUS CHRIST. THESE THINGS DO NOT APPLY TO THE GENERAL POPULATION. IN CASES LIKE THIS, THE BIBLE IS MAKING THAT ASSUMPTION OF ITS READERS.

EPHESIANS 1:3-14 - SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

WHAT DID GOD DO & FOR WHAT PURPOSE/END?

BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST (V.3)

CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (THAT WE WOULD BE HOLY & BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM) (V.4)

IN LOVE PREDESTINED US TO THE ADOPTION AS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO KIND INTENTION OF HIS WILL (TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE), WHICH HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN THE BELOVED. (V. 5-6)

IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR TRESPASSES, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE WHICH HE LAVISHED ON US. (V.7-8)

IN ALL WISDOM AND INSIGHT HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL, ACCORDING TO HIS KIND INTENTION WHICH HE PURPOSED IN HIM (WITH A VIEW TO AN ADMINISTRATION SUITABLE TO THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES, THAT IS, THE SUMMING UP OF ALL THINGS IN CHRIST, THINGS IN THE HEAVENS AND THINGS ON THE EARTH.) (V. 8B-10A)

IN HIM ALSO WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE, HAVING BEEN PREDESTINED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE WHO WORKS ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL, (TO THE END THAT WE WHO WERE THE FIRST TO HOPE IN CHRIST WOULD BE TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.) (V. 10B-12)

IN HIM, YOU ALSO, AFTER LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL OF YOUR SALVATION-HAVING ALSO BELIEVED, YOU WERE SEALED IN HIM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE, WHO IS GIVEN AS A PLEDGE OF OUR INHERITANCE, (WITH A VIEW TO THE REDEMPTION OF GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.) (V. 13-14)

3X "TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY" (V. 6, 12 & 14). THE RESPONSE OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THESE THINGS SHOULD BE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY!

V. 13-14 - SPIRIT REFERRED TO AS "PLEDGE" - DOWN PAYMENT. (A PART PAYMENT IN ADVANCE FOR SECURITY). FIRST INSTALLMENT.

V. 15-16 - PAUL HEARS OF THE EPHESIANS' FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS AND THEIR LOVE FOR ALL THE SAINTS (HOLY ONES), AND HE CAN'T STOP THANKING GOD FOR THEM WHEN HE PRAYS.

EPHESIANS 1:15-23 - PRAYER #1

BREAKING DOWN THE PRAYER - PAUL PRAYS:

17 THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY, MAY GIVE TO YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM & OF REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM.

SUMMARY: THAT GOD (WHO IS THE "FATHER OF GLORY" AND THE GOD OF JESUS CHRIST) WOULD GIVE YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

Q - WHAT IS BEING PRAYED FOR HERE?

18 I PRAY THAT THE EYES OF YOUR HEART MAY BE ENLIGHTENED, SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS,

SUMMARY: THAT THEY "EYES OF OUR HEART" MAY BE ENLIGHTENED (ILLUMINATED, LIGHT BROUGHT TO) SO THAT WE WILL KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING.

AND - THAT THEY "EYES OF OUR HEART" MAY BE ENLIGHTENED (ILLUMINATED, LIGHT BROUGHT TO) SO THAT WE WOULD KNOW WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS (HOW RICH AND GLORIOUS IT IS THAT GOD RECEIVES THE BLESSING OF HIS PEOPLE)

- ESV STUDY BIBLE (V. 18B) - THE "INHERITANCE" HERE IS NOT THE CHRISTIAN'S INHERITANCE BUT HIS(GOD'S). THIS INDICATES HOW PRECIOUS HIS PEOPLE ARE TO GOD. THEY ARE, SO TO SPEAK, WHAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO ENJOYING FOREVER.

Q - WHAT IS BEING PRAYED FOR HERE?

19 AND WHAT IS THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE...

SUMMARY: THAT GOD WOULD ENLIGHTEN US TO KNOW/UNDERSTAND THE INCREDIBLE GREATNESS OF HIS POWER FOR THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE.

...THESE ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORKING OF THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT 20 WHICH HE BROUGHT ABOUT IN CHRIST, WHEN HE RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD AND SEATED HIM AT HIS RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES, 21 FAR ABOVE ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY AND POWER AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, NOT ONLY IN THIS AGE BUT ALSO IN THE ONE TO COME. 22 AND HE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET, AND GAVE HIM AS HEAD OVER ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH, 23 WHICH IS HIS BODY, THE FULLNESS OF HIM WHO FILLS ALL IN ALL.

DETAILS: THIS POWER (THAT IS AT WORK IN THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE) IS THE SAME POWER WHICH GOD USED TO RAISE CHRIST FROM THE DEAD, SEAT HIM AT RIGHT HAND OF POWER AND EXALT HIM OVER ALL OTHER AUTHORITIES.

Q - WHAT IS BEING PRAYED FOR HERE

FULL PRAYER SUMMARIZED - NET NOTE EPH 1:18: PRAYER PARAPHRASED IT READS AS FOLLOWS: "SINCE YOU ARE ENLIGHTENED BY GOD'S SPIRIT, I PRAY THAT YOU MAY COMPREHEND THE HOPE TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED YOU, THE SPIRITUAL RICHES THAT AWAIT THE SAINTS IN GLORY, AND THE SPIRITUAL POWER THAT IS AVAILABLE TO THE SAINTS NOW." THUS, THE PRAYER FOCUSES ON ALL THREE TEMPORAL ASPECTS OF OUR SALVATION AS THESE ARE EMBEDDED IN THE GENITIVES - THE PAST (CALLING), THE FUTURE (INHERITANCE), AND THE PRESENT (POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE).

SCRIPTURE PRAYER - PRAYERS THAT WE CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD WILL ANSWER.

CONSIDER: PRAYING THIS PRAYER THIS WEEK!