

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



1. God's Eternal Plan for his People

Introduction

God has a glorious eternal purpose for the Church, and for you and I who are part of His Church. This is the theme of Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus. Paul speaks about this purpose as our hope or our inheritance.

Just as Joshua led the Children of Israel across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, which was their inheritance, so Jesus has made a way through His death and resurrection for us to enter into our inheritance, an inheritance that is eternal. The Apostle Paul begins his letter with a greeting and then goes on and introduces these spiritual blessings we have received from the Father.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:1-14

- † What are the spiritual blessings the Father gives us through the Lord Jesus Christ? There are at least seven!

- † Look at each of these blessings in depth:-
 - a. Why has God done this for us? What does it show us about Him? Look for the words 'in accordance' and 'according'.
 - b. What do these verses show us about God's purpose for our lives? Look for the phrases 'to be' and 'might be'.

- † The phrase 'in Him' or 'in Christ' is used more than 10 times in these verses. What does it mean and how can a person be sure they are 'in Christ'?

- † What do these verses teach us about God's eternal purpose for the Church?

- † Share a phrase or verse that has stood out to you during our study, and share with us why it is meaningful to you.

Conclusion

What a privilege to be 'in Christ'. We have been chosen, redeemed and forgiven. We have been made sons and daughters by a God who lavishes His grace upon us. Let's live holy and blameless lives that will bring praise and glory to Him. Amen!