

The Epistle to the Ephesians

1

What the Bible is NOT

A single book - it is a library - not pub in one volume until 9th century
footnotes, chapter/verse numbers or superscriptions
ipsimma verba inspiration, or dictated Quran style: inspired/inspiration

What the Bible IS

a collection of 72 documents, written over a period of about 900 years
8th century BC prophets writings and Psalms - to about 125 AD
three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek
written on scrolls, about 33 feet long, which gave rise to chapters
note the similar sizes; torah, gospels, Pauline canon
It is a profoundly Catholic book - all our doctrine is here, based on it
It was the CC which collected and canonized it: at Nicea
were it not for medieval monasteries it would not exist today
It is written to us, to every person here TODAY- not past but present

2. Ephesians - who write it when and where

- a. Trad: Paul wrote to Ephesus while in prison in Rome, c. 62 AD
but no proper names, no internal reference, and “I heard of
your faith” - very odd for a man who founded it. AND - oldest manuscripts to not
have “Ephesus in title - and only two do have it.
- b. Deutero Pauline: a man versed in Paul issued it as a summary of Paul’s
thought. (which by the way is why Sarah and I chose it) Pro- we have other
deuteropauline works - Pastorals,
- c. A circular letter, meant to be circ around Asia Minor
We have others: Galatians (a province not a city), Revelation
This is why no internal or super script reference
Why title: Ephesus was capital of Province, larger
church, repository BUT - its not written to Ephesus but to you and I
WE have met Ephesus in Acts, and the famous Temple of Diana
There was a considerable library there
A few words on the Received Text.
Eph 1:14 “this” vs. “who”

3. God’s Plan for your life!

Chapter one of the epistle is a list, a catalogue of the blessings God has already given you, that is your inheritance by being a Christian

1:3 the blessing of God imagine: dear old aunt biddie has gone to her reward....and while you will doubtless grieve for the old bat - the day will come when you sit in her lawyer's office for the reading of the Will and you will find out exactly what the old bag thought of you

Comment: Wills do tend to show what you really think - our choosing a guardian for our children.

This is your will and testament- let's read it to find out what God thinks of you, because here is what He left you

I v. 4 He chose you - not vice versa - you were elected by Him - before the honking world even began - He knew your name (He knows the sand, the stars etc)

v. 5 He destined you in love - God WANTS you in Heaven
not Calvinist predestination

v. 7 Redemption: he died on the Cross to forgive and bestow

Exodus 21: 30 redemption from death
Rituals for redemption of the firstborn
Redemption of Israel Isaiah 43

v. 9 Wisdom – (Sophia)you are going to be smarter than you can imagine
the eyes that can see God, the ability to think ahead

Matthew 7:24

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

v. 10 Plan for your life: boulyema: God as a plan but so does the evil one
"will, purpose, intention"

v. 13 - God gives the Holy Spirit to abide with us
and then....the greatest blessing of all (vv. 15-end)

note: . verse 18 the eyes of the heart enlightened

Note: the final blessing is cast as a prayer - Paul prays for you
we believe in the intercession of saints - here he is doing it.

key verse: 19 - the Greatness of His power in us who believe

It was not enough for God to forgive us, it was not enough for to redeem us,
it was not enough for God to let us off the hook - He wanted to share his power
with us - to make us the rulers

*this is why the angels fell - through jealousy

satan hates us because God love you more than him (more on this in in
ch. 2)