

# Ephesians Series

## Lesson #031

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER

**God's Own Possession**  
**Ephesians 1:11–12**

**1. Eph. 1:7–8: God lavished, or abounded, His grace to us. We have received more grace than all previous dispensations. See John 1:16–17.**

**Eph. 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness [*aphesis*] of sins, according to the riches of His grace”**

**Eph. 1:8, “which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,”**

**2. Part of this abundance of grace is expanded revelation from God. Part of this was previously unrevealed information called a *mystery*.**

**Eph. 1:9, “by making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,”**

- 3. The content of the mystery doctrine within this epistle is stated later in Eph. 3:5–6 as a new spiritual entity where Jew and Gentile are equal spiritually and united together in Christ.**
- Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,”**
- Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it [but] has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:**
- Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”**

#### **4. The importance of understanding dispensationalism.**

**Eph. 1:10, “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”**

**5. The Church Age believer is made a new possession of God's, "in Christ."**

**Eph. 1:11, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,”**

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**Eph. 1:3, 4, 6; Eph. 1:7, 1:10; 1:11; 1:13**

**ETERNAL  
REALITIES**

**TEMPORAL  
REALITIES**



ACTS 16:31

**IN CHRIST**

**Baptism by the  
Holy Spirit**

**FILLED BY  
THE  
HOLY SPIRIT**

“Walking by the  
Holy Spirit”

1 Jn. 1:9

**Eph. 1:11, “In Him also we have obtained  
an inheritance, being predestined  
according to the purpose of Him who  
works all things according to the counsel  
of His will,”**

**κληρώω *klēroō*,**

**1 plur aor pass indic**

**cast lots, determine by lot;**

**Cl. selecting property based on  
lots, as in Joshua**

**Eph. 1:12, “that we who first trusted in  
Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”**

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***We have obtained [received] an inheritance***

**Eph. 1:11, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,” ... NKJV**

**Eph 1:11, “in whom also we were made a heritage, having been foreordained according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will;” [ASV]**

**Eph. 1:11, “In Christ we too have been claimed as God’s own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will” [NET]**

**Eph 1:11, “Also, it was through union with him we were made his inheritance by His laying claim to us according to his purpose who works all these things according to the counsel of his will.” [OLS]**

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**Deut. 4:20, “But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.”**

**Deut. 7:6, “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”**

**Deut. 9:26, “Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: ‘O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.’ ”**

**Deut. 9:29, “ ‘Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.’ ”**

**Deut. 14:2, “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”**

**Deut. 32:9, “For the LORD’S portion [Septuagint (LXX) *meris*] is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.”**

***Meris* The word has legal connotations similar to נַחֲלָה, *nahalah*, “give as a possession” but with the more specific implication of what is granted. ~TWOT**

The Old Testament uses the Hebrew נַחֲלָה *nahalah* (222 times, 46 times in Num. and 50 times in Josh.);

1. inalienable, hereditary property

נַחֲלָה. *nahalah* Inheritance, heritage, possession. “... the idea of possession was conceived of as permanent and not entailing the idea of succession” ~TWOT

κληρονομία *klēronomia*, inheritance; property, possession

② possession, property ~BAGD

**Eph 1:11, “In addition, it was through union with Him we were made His possession by His laying claim to us according to His purpose who works all these things according to the counsel of His will.” ~RD**

**1. This reinforces the idea of corporate election. It is IN HIM that we are made a possession.**

**2. The idea of being made His possession fits nicely with being sealed by the Spirit in vs. 13.**

**3. This reinforces the teaching of eternal security. We are saved eternally because of our position *in Christ*, which cannot be lost.**

# Review

**προορίζω *proorizo* aor pass part masc plur  
nom to ordain beforehand; to appoint  
beforehand (Thayer)**

**1. In two key passages God's foreknowledge precedes His foreordination. Rom. 8:29–30; 1 Pet. 1:2**

**2. The idea of predetermining our eternal destiny is based on a mistranslation and misinterpretation by the Church Father Augustine who expresses the idea in deterministic fashion. This influenced Jerome in his translation of the Vulgate.**

**3. We also saw that the idea of “election” was based on the possession of Christ’s righteousness, Matt. 22:14.**

**Judg. 20:16, “Among all this people were seven hundred choice men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair’s breadth and not miss.”**

**“choice almonds”  
*sheqadim mobecharim***



**Isa. 41:8, “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend.**

**Isa. 41:9, “You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away:’ ”**

**Isa. 42:1, “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One [My Choice One] in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”**

**Matt. 22:14, “For many are called, but few are choice [not *chosen*].”**

**No one was chosen. They are “choice” because they are dressed in imputed righteousness.**

**Isa. 61:10, “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”**

**4. NIDNTT: cl & ot** The compound *prohorizō* (formed from *pro*, in front, before and *horizō*, to ordain, determine) is only used from the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C. onwards (Demosth., 31, 4), and means to preordain. It is not found in the Septuagint (LXX).

# Key Words

**προορίζω *proorizō*, aor act indic 3 sing to decide beforehand (instant detail summary in Accordance)**

**προορίζω *prohorizō*, decide upon beforehand, predestine. ~NIDNTT**

**ὀρίζω (*horizō*), determine, appoint; Heb. 4:7**

**ἀφορίζω (*aphorizō*), separate, set apart, appoint**

**“To prove that these statements of mine are true, that he even now declares that the land is mortgaged for a talent, but that he laid claim to two thousand drachmae more on the house, and took the pillars down after the suit was decided, I shall bring forward witnesses who know the facts.”**

**~Demosthenes 31.4**

**“he (sc. the mortgagee) had the house marked with stones (v. “ὄρος” 11) as well to the amount of 2000 drachmae,” D.31.4.**

**Romans 8:29: “Long ere this He knew our hearts, long ere this He claimed us (as a man claims property by setting his landmarks thereon) as those whom He should mould into the very likeness of His own Son, . . .”**

**~Arthur Way, Classics Scholar**

**Ephesians 1:11, (NBV): “In Him we too were made His heritage, as foreordained according to His purpose, who works out everything in agreement with the design of His own will, . . .”**

**Eph 1:11, “In addition, it was through union with Him we were made His possession by His laying claim to us according to His purpose who works all these things according to the counsel of His will.” ~RD**

**Eph. 1:11, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,”**

**βουλή Boule**

**fem sing acc  
counsel; council,  
the intelligent  
deliberation of  
God (Hoehner)**

**θέλημα *thelema***

**neut sing gen will,  
desire**

**Eph. 1:12, “that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”**

**προελπίζω *proelpizō*,**

**perf act part masc plur acc**

**hope in advance, hoped beforehand**