

Ephesians Series

Lesson #135

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Reviewing Our Blessings Ephesians 4:7



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.*’

Eph. 4:9, “(Now this expression, ‘*He ascended,*’ what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph. 4:10, “He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

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Order of Events

- 1. Ascension, Psa. 68:18; Eph. 4:7–8**
- 2. Seated at the right hand of God, “on My Father’s throne”, Rev. 3:21, Psa. 110:1**
- 3. Asks for the kingdom, Psa. 2:8**
- 4. Is granted the kingdom, Dan. 7:14**
- 5. Messiah returns to the earth and defeats the kings of the earth, Psa. 2:9; Rev. 19:19–21**
- 6. Messiah establishes His rule, Rev. 20**

What We Learned About the Importance of the Ascension

- 1. Christ's ascension put a human at the right hand of the Father.**
- 2. Christ's session demonstrates a significant shift in God's plan. The Son of Man is now waiting for the kingdom.**
- 3. Christ's session is related to the formation of a new entity: the new man, new body, new household, new building, new temple.**
- 4. The session ends when God (Father) tells the Son to ask for His kingdom. (Psa. 2:8)**
- 5. The Son is given the kingdom in Dan. 7 after it is taken away from the "little horn". (Dan. 7:11, 26–27)**
- 6. In the Church Age, Christ is preparing the cadre who will rule and reign with Him in the Kingdom.**

How Are We Prepared?

What is God's Plan for Preparing the Church, the Body of Christ, for our future role?

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” ~NKJV

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us individually grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” ~RD

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fem sing nom

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Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the administration of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

...

Eph. 3:8, “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us individually grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” ~RD

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“Grace” is sometimes Paul’s shorthand for grace gift (*charis* for *charisma*).

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the administration of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

...

Eph. 3:7, “of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Eph. 3:8, “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”

Contextually we see the following without the parenthesis:

Eph. 4:7, “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

Eph. 4:8, “Therefore He says: ‘*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.*’ ”

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,”

1. The main epistle begins at Eph. 1:3, which relates to Eph. 3:20–21.

Eph. 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

...

Eph. 3:20, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Eph. 3:21, “to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

2. What is in between are all of the blessings that the Triune God has blessed us with in this Church Age.

3. Eph. 1:3–14 The Trinitarian blessing

The Father, Eph. 1:3–6

appointed to our destiny

The Son, Eph. 1:7–12

redeemed, forgiven, given an inheritance

The Spirit, Eph. 1:13–14

sealed, our guarantee

4. Prayer that we would come to know the hope of our calling, that is

a. our new position in Christ, our new vocation as members of the body of Christ.

b. their rich corporate inheritance, and

c. what He provided in terms of the same power He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

5. Ephesians 2:1–10

Eph. 2:6, “and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Eph. 2:7, “that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

6. The “by grace through faith salvation” that is described in Eph. 2:8–9.

Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph. 2:9, “not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

7. The result of that is stated in vs. 10:

Eph. 2:10, “For we are His artistic masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

8. Paul then reminds them of who they were. They were separated from God, they were separated from the Jews, they were characterized by 5 things, Eph. 2:12:

- Without Christ,**
- Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,**
- Strangers from the covenant of promise,**
- Without hope, no future,**
- And without God.**

9. Contrast, “BUT NOW IN CHRIST ... brought near”, those far off were brought near by the death of Christ.

Eph. 2:13, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

10. Christ is our Peace, who made both Jew and Gentile ONE.

Eph. 2:14, “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,”

11. Abolished the law, another blessing.

Eph. 2:15, “having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,”

12. Created in Himself one new man from the two, thus making first, peace horizontally between Jew and Gentile, and second vertically peace with God.

Eph. 2:15, “having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Eph. 2:16, “and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”

13. Now in Christ, Jew and Gentile both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Eph. 2:18, “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

14. The result is another blessing. No longer strangers as they were in Eph. 2:13.

Eph. 2:19, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,”

15. Built on the foundation of the New Testament apostles and prophets.

Eph. 2:20, “having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”

16. Part of a new building, a new temple being constructed by the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 2:21, “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

Eph. 2:22, “in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

17. Paul was appointed and given to the Church to teach us about who we are in Christ and what we are to do as members of the body of Christ.

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),”

18. This mystery is again another blessing, revealed by the Spirit to the New Testament apostles and prophets.

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”

19. More blessing: same heirs, same body, same promise for Jew and Gentile alike.

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

20. Again, another blessing is that we might be used by God to make known God's wisdom to the angels, fallen and elect.

Eph. 3:10, “to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,”

21. This is all important so that we don't lose heart when we encounter adversity, opposition, rejection, or persecution.

Eph. 3:13, "Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory."

22. With the end result that we might know the love of Christ and be filled with all of the fulness of Christ—a phrase that relates to the development of a Christ-like character within us.

Eph. 3:18, “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

Eph. 3:19, “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

23. To know God more intimately.

Eph. 3:20, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Eph. 3:21, “to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

24. Then Eph. 4:1–3, why we are to live in light of this new vocation in Christ.

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Eph. 4:2, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

Eph. 4:3, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

25. Eph. 4:4–6 gives us the unity we have in Christ.

Eph. 4:4, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph. 4:5, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph. 4:6, “one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”