Ephesians

The Church: Christ's Body to a Broken World Ephesians 1:1-14 – Part 1

Timeline of the Apostle Paul

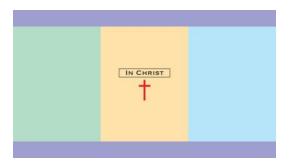
33 AD	Death & Resurrection of Jesus
34-35 AD	Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
46-47 AD	1st Missionary Journey
49-51 AD	2nd Missionary Journey
52-57 AD	3rd Missionary Journey
62 AD	Letter to Ephesus from Rome
64-65 AD	Death of Paul in Rome

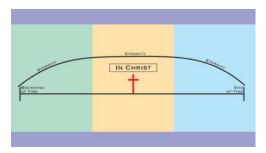
Acts 18:19-21 (ESV)

And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.

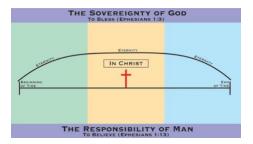
Ephesians explains the Church's <u>UNIVERSAL</u> role as the <u>BODY</u> of Christ who is Lord over the UNIVERSE.

Ephesians 1:1–14 (ESV) — Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



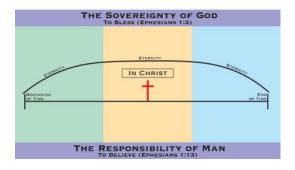


In Ephesians 1:3-14, we are given the interconnectedness of the Eternal Plan of God in both time and eternity.



Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

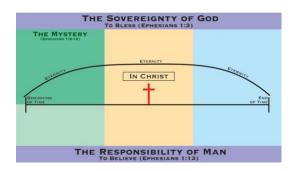


Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

John 6:28-29 (ESV)

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

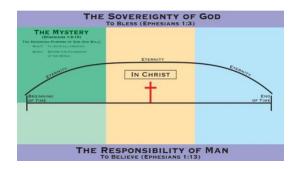


Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV)

Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Colossians 1:25-27 (ESV)

Of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.



Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV)

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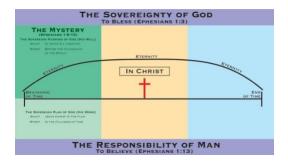
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Ephesians 1:4a (ESV)

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world...

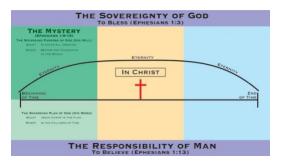


Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV)

Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

John 1:1–3 (ESV) — In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:14 (ESV) — And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

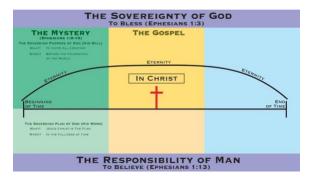


Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV)

Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Galatians 4:4–5 (ESV) — But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The <u>SOVEREIGNTY</u> of God and the <u>FREEWILL</u> of Man are not ENEMIES, but FRIENDS!



Reality #1

It is an indisputable Biblical fact that God, the Originator, Creator, and Sustainer of all life, has been, is now, and forever will be, in charge of all things.

Reality #2

Man, created in the image of God, as the pinnacle of creation, as a free moral agent, is responsible before God.

Question

How can God be in charge, knowing the beginning from the end, and man still have the ability to freely choose?

Truth

These two seemingly irreconcilable realities converge at the Cross & Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (ESV)

In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.



Election is the sovereign act of God in <u>GRACE</u> whereby He <u>CHOSE</u> and <u>ADOPTED</u> in Christ Jesus for salvation <u>ALL</u> those whom He <u>FOREKNEW</u> would RECEIVE Him.

"Election is the sovereign act of God in grace whereby He chose and adopted in Christ Jesus for salvation all those whom He foreknew would receive Him."

The key to <u>EMBRACING</u> Biblical <u>ELECTION</u> is UNDERSTANDING the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God.

Romans 8:28-30 (ESV)

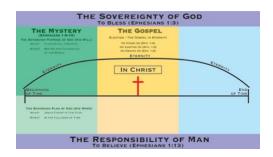
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

1 Peter 1:1-2 (ESV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

There is a difference between God knowing beforehand the events that were to happen and God determining those events to occur.

The Bible teaches **ELECTION**, but not **SELECTION**!



Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)

He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will There is a difference between God knowing beforehand the events that were to happen and God determining those events to occur.

The Bible teaches <u>PREDESTINATION</u>, but not <u>PREDETERMINATION!</u>

Ephesians 1:5 (ESV)

He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

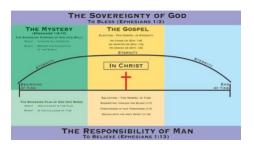
Those who receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior were destined before the foundation of the world to be adopted as sons and daughters!

Ephesians 1:6 (ESV)

To the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, ... according to the riches of his grace

Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

In him we have ... the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV)

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (ESV)

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)
And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

"Election is the sovereign act of God in grace whereby He chose and adopted in Christ Jesus for salvation all those whom He foreknew would receive Him."

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