

Chosen

Ephesians 1:1-15

Who, What, When, Where and Why:

Jesus' Ascended into Heaven in Bethany; Disciples traveled to Jerusalem; Pentecost: 33 A.D. (Acts 1-2)

Paul converted: 34 A.D. (Acts 9)

Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth on his second missionary journey; they make a few stops on the way to Ephesus, leaves Priscilla & Aquila there: around 52 or 53 A.D. (Acts 18:1-3, 18-21)

FACTS:

- Built in 10th century B.C. (over 1000 years old)
- 250,000-300,000 people (little bigger than Laredo)
- Capital city of Roman province of Asia
- Wealthy
- Large harbor
- Houses on hill
- Library
- Indoor museum
- Public toilets paved with mosaics
- Theater seated more than 25,000 (bigger than Pizza Hut Park in Frisco)
- Temples: Domitian (emperor); Goddess of Rome; Divine Caesar; Hadrian
- Temple to Artemis (Greek)/Diana (Roman): she was the fertility goddess & cultic prostitution was part of her worship; built around 550 B.C.; four times larger than Parthenon; 425 feet long, 220 feet wide, and sixty feet high; 127 pillars were of Parian marble, with thirty-six of them overlaid with gold and jewels; All that's left now is a single column of fragments

While in Ephesus, Aquila & Priscilla meet Appollos, who came to Ephesus from Alexandria, (possibly where he received instruction from disciples of John the Baptist and also studied at the library). He knew and spoke the truth of the Lord all the way up to John the Baptist. He is then instructed by P & A, leaves to go to Achaia & Corinth (Acts 18:24-28)

Paul comes back to Ephesus on 3rd Missionary Journey – three years in Ephesus; probably 54-57 A.D.

- Baptized 12 men in the name of Jesus Christ, laid hands on them & they were filled w/ the Spirit. These men had probably been early converts of Apollos & were familiar with and believers in Christ up through John the Baptist. They'd been baptized the baptism of repentance – which looks forward to the Messiah. Christian baptism looks back to His finished work at the Cross & Resurrection. They were like Old Testament believers. (The filling of the Spirit thru the laying on of hands here as opposed to others receiving Him at salvation probably is to demonstrate Paul's apostolic authority & to unite the church of Ephesus with other churches.) (Acts 19:1-7)
- Taught three months in the synagogue (Acts 19:8)
- Taught two years in the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9-10)
- Jewish exorcists, (“by the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches”) and sons of Sceva (“who are you?”) were overcome by evil spirits (Acts 19:12-17)
- Believers burned magic books (Acts 19:18-20)
- Demetrius the silversmith, who made statues of Diana, pointed out to tradesmen that they were losing money because Paul was turning people away from Diana to gods not made with hands. Mob uproar taken care of by town clerk. (Acts 19:23-41)

In Acts 20, Paul wanted to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost so he bypassed Ephesus. He called the elders to meet him in Miletus (50-60 miles by land, around 40 by water.) He preached to them, they knelt and prayed and cried together. 58 A.D. (Acts 20:18-38)

60-62 A.D.: Paul wrote his letter during his first Roman imprisonment when he lived in his own rented house with a soldier who guarded him (Acts 28.) It's been at least two or three years since he's seen them.

Faithful in Christ Jesus – vs. 1

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and **faithful** in Christ Jesus:”

Why faithful *in* and not *to*?

Strong’s definition: trustworthy, faithful, believing.

“Faithful in” is typically used in passages like Luke 16:9-13 “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much...if you have not been faithful in unrighteous mammon...”; Luke 19:17 “...you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.” Same word but slightly different meaning and regarding a person being faithful regarding business.

Helps Word studies: *pistós* (an adjective, derived from [3982](#) /*peíthō*, "persuaded") – properly, faithful (loyalty to faith; literally, fullness of faith); typically, of believing the faith God imparts.

Here used: Easily persuaded; believing, confiding, trusting; in the N. T. one who trusts in God's promises; (relating to) the person in whom faith or trust is reposed

Differing from *belief*, faith in the New Testament is always given by God.

So basically, it is “believing, confiding, trusting in Jesus”

Blessed by Him – vs. 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,”

Galatians 3:6-9 “Just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness,’ Therefore, know that only those who are *of faith* are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘*In you all the nations shall be blessed.*’ So then *those who are of faith are blessed* with believing Abraham.”
[Abraham the Believer]

Chosen in Him – 4

“just as He **chose** us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,”

Strong’s definition: I pick out for myself, choose, elect, select;(From Helps Word studies): properly, to select (choose) out of, by a highly deliberate choice (i.e. real heart-preference) with a definite outcome (as with the destination of divine selection for salvation). Here used: so that the ground of the choice lies in Christ and his merits

I Peter 2:9 “But *you are a chosen generation*, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Helps Word studies: Typically, 1588 /eklektós ("select, chosen") describes people who choose to follow the Lord, i.e. become God's choice by freely receiving faith (4102 /pístis) from Him. Accordingly, these two terms are directly connected (see Tit 1:1; Lk 18:7-8).

Holy before Him – 4

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy** and without blame before Him in love,”

“holy” – set apart, different; here and in Eph 5:27 & Col 1:21, it is used like it is when talking about sacrifices “prepared for God with solemn rite, pure, clean”

Without blame before Him – 4

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and **without blame** before Him in love,”

Eph 5:25-27 “...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be *holy and without blame* before Him.

Colossians 1:21-22 “And you, *who once were alienated and enemies* [opposite of I Peter 2:9] in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, *to present you holy, and blameless*, and above reproach in His sight – if indeed you *continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast*, [as in Eph 1:1] and are not moved away from *the hope of the gospel* [faith is the substance of things hoped for – hope is a sure thing] which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

*Accepted in – 6

“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us **accepted** in the Beloved.”

*Every other version uses other terminology meaning the grace He gave those of us who belong to His beloved Son

“to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”

Redemption in – 7

“In Him we have **redemption** through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

Strong’s: Definition: release effected by payment of ransom; redemption, deliverance; Here used as deliverance effected through the death of Christ from the retributive wrath of a holy God and the merited penalty of sin; Ephesians 1:14 used as the redemption which will come to his possession, or to the men who are God's own through Christ

Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by His grace *through the redemption* that is in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 1:12-14 “giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be *partakers of the inheritance* of the saints in the light. He has *delivered us from the power of darkness* and *conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*, in whom we have *redemption through His blood*, the forgiveness of sins.” (See I Peter 2:9)

An inheritance in – 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.”

2820 /klērōō ("assign by divine lot-cast"), is only used in Eph 1:11 where it is often translated "obtained an inheritance." The Greek text literally reads, "In whom (Christ), indeed we were lot-cast

“In Him also we have obtained an **inheritance**, [In Christ we were assigned by a divine lot cast] *being predestined* [predetermined, foreordained, marked out beforehand] according to the **purpose** [Strong’s: literally “a setting forth in advance for a specific purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel [Definition: counsel: deliberate wisdom, decree; Used here: all the contents of His divine plan] of His will.”

(Strong’s and Word Studies)

John 19:24 “Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,’ that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: ‘They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.’”

*As He died, He provided a garment. Lots were cast and someone was chosen to wear His robe. He cast His divine lot, choosing each of us to wear His robe of righteousness

Predestined/Chosen and appointed by – 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”

“In Him we also were made [God’s] heritage (portion) and we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His [own] will.” (AMP)

Romans 8:28-29 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who love God, to those who are called *according to His purpose* [same word as in Eph 1:11]. For whom He foreknew [Definition: I know beforehand, foreknow], He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Trusted in – 12

“That we *who first **trusted** in Christ* should be to the praise of His glory.”

Only used in this verse. proelpizó: to hope before; Definition: I hope before, am the first to hope; to hope before: ἐν τίνι, to repose hope in a person or thing before the event confirms it,

Sealed with – 13

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation- having also believed, you were **sealed** in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,” (NASB)

4972 sphragízō (from 4973 /sphragís, "a seal") – properly, to seal (affix) with a signet ring or other instrument to stamp (a roller or seal), i.e. to attest ownership, authorizing (validating) what is sealed.

4972 /sphragízō ("to seal") signifies ownership and the full security carried by the backing (full authority) of the owner. "Sealing" in the ancient world served as a "legal signature" which guaranteed the promise (contents) of what was sealed.

(Strong's & Word Studies)

Used here: c. in order to mark a person or thing; hence, to set a mark upon by the impress of a seal, to stamp: angels are said with the seal of God to stamp his servants on their foreheads as destined for eternal salvation, and by this means to confirm their hopes; respecting God, who by the gift of the Holy Spirit indicates who are His)

II Corinthians 1:21-22 “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and *given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*”

(NASB uses “pledge” in both verses, here and Eph 1:14; Strong's: Definition: an earnest, earnest-money, a large part of the payment, given in advance as a security that the whole will be paid afterwards.)

Secured inheritance – 14

“Who is *the guarantee of our inheritance* until the *redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (NKJV)

*[a release affected by payment of ransom]

See II Corinthians 1:21-22

(Inheritance: what is given to one as a possession)

Paul’s sermon to the Ephesian elders: Acts 20:32 “So now, brethren, commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an *inheritance* among all those who are sanctified.”

Same word, slightly different use: **the share which an individual will have in that eternal blessedness:**

The Holy Spirit is the earnest, the security, of our inheritance until Jesus comes back to redeem His already purchased possession. He’s already paid the bride price. He is coming back to pick up His bride.

Paul’s Prayer:

“Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called – His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realm.” (1:15-20)