

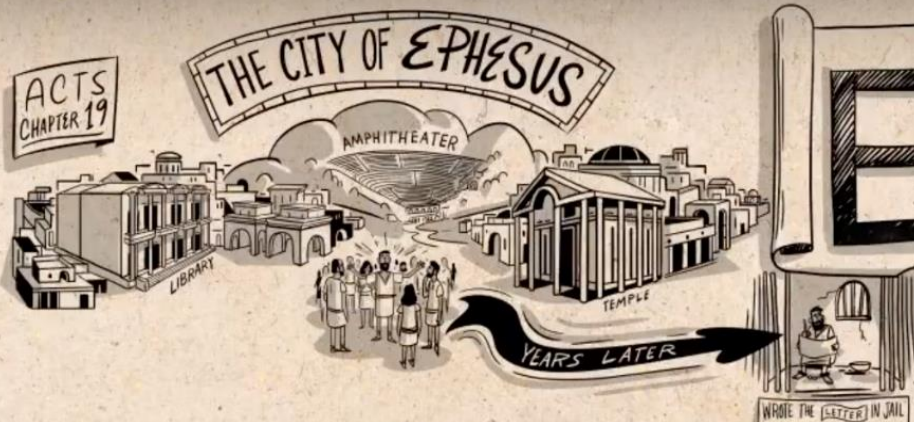
# EPHESIANS

1:3-6

Eternity Past



ACTS  
CHAPTER 19



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE

# EPHESIANS

PAUL SUMMARIZES  
THE GOSPEL STORY  
& HOW IT SHOULD RESHAPE EVERY PART OF  
OUR STORY.

## 1-3 THE GOSPEL STORY

"THEREFORE"

## 4-6 OUR STORY

1:3-14

OPENING POEM

PRaise GOD FOR  
WHAT HE'S DONE

IN CHRIST

ACTS  
CHAPTER 2

1:15-23 PRAYER

EXPERIENCE  
THE POWER  
THAT RAISED JESUS  
FROM THE DEAD

SPIRIT



1:10 UNITY OF EVERYTHING UNDER THE MESSIAH

2:1-10 GOD'S GRACE...

2:11-22 ...A NEW, MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY

3 PAUL'S UNIQUE ROLE AS  
MESSENGER TO NON-JEWS



NO PURPOSE DECEPTION SELFISHNESS SIN

PEACE

4:1-16



UNITY DOES NOT = UNIFORMITY

one SPIRIT  
MANY GIFTS

• APOSTLE • PROPHET • TEACHER  
• PASTOR • EVANGELIST

TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH:



4:17-6:9



TAKE OFF	PUT ON
LIES	TRUTH
ANGER	PEACE
THEFT	GENEROSITY
GOSSIP	ENCOURAGE
REVENGE	FORGIVENESS
PROMISCUITY	SELF-CONTROL
DRUNK	GOD'S SPIRIT

6:10-24 THE ARMOR OF GOD

SPIRITUAL  
EVIL

SIGNS of the SPIRIT

- 1 SINGING TOGETHER
- 2 SINGING ALONE
- 3 BEING THANKFUL
- 4 ELEVATING OTHERS

CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD



# Ephesians 1 New International Version (NIV)

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:  
<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.



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# Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

## Who is God???

- **Karl Marx** (philosopher, economist) asserted that anyone believing in God must have a mental disorder that caused invalid thinking.
- **Sigmund Freud** (psychiatrist) wrote that a person who believed in a Creator God was delusional and only held those beliefs due to a “wish-fulfillment” factor that produced what Freud considered to be an unjustifiable position.
- **Friedrich Nietzsche** (philosopher) bluntly said that faith equates to not wanting to know what is true.



# Who is God???

A. W. Tozer

“What is God like?” If by that question we mean ‘What is God like in Himself?’ there is no answer. If we mean ‘What has God disclosed about Himself that the reverent reason can comprehend?’ there is, I believe, an answer both full and satisfying.”



**Job 11:7-8** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> “Can you fathom the mysteries of God?

Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?

<sup>8</sup> They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do?

They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know?

**Isaiah 40:15** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.



# Who is God???

Who is God? - His Nature

Who is God? - His Character

Who is God? - His Work

Yahweh



# Who is God? - His Nature

- God is **spirit**, by nature intangible (John 4:24).
- God is **triune**,—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17).
- 
- God is **infinite** (1 Timothy 1:17)
- God is **incomparable** (2 Samuel 7:22),
- God is **unchanging** (Malachi 3:6)
- God is **everywhere** (Psalm 139:7-12),
- God is **all knowing** (Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28),
- God is **all powerful** and has **all authority** (Ephesians 1; Revelation 19:6).



# Who is God? - His Character

- God is **just** (Acts 17:31),
- God is **loving** (Ephesians 2:4-5),
- God is **truthful** (John 14:6),
- God is **holy** (1 John 1:5).
- God is **compassionate** (2 Corinthians 1:3),
- God is **merciful** (Romans 9:15),
- God is **gracious** (Romans 5:17)
- God is **forgiving** (Psalm 103:10-12)



# Who is God? - His Work

- God is the creator of the world (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:5);
- God is actively sustains the world (Colossians 1:17);
- God is executing His eternal plan (Ephesians 1:11) which involves the redemption of man from the curse of sin and death (Galatians 3:13-14);
- God is drawing people to Christ (John 6:44);
- God is disciplining His children (Hebrews 12:6); and
- God will judge the world (Revelation 20:11-15).



## Exodus 3:13-15 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “**I am who I am.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I am has sent me to you.**’”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation.



# Yahweh

- God alone is a self-existent being and the first cause of everything else that exists.

John 5:26 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

Acts 17:25 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

- God is a necessary being. A necessary being is one whose nonexistence is impossible.

Job 34:14-15 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> If it were his intention  
and he withdrew his spirit and breath,  
<sup>15</sup> all humanity would perish together  
and mankind would return to the dust.



Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

### The Beginning

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Romans 4:16-22 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.”<sup>[a]</sup> He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the **God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.**

Revelation 22:13 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.



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He predestined us for adoption to sonship

## Predestination

Romans 8:29-30 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

## Sonship

J. I. Packer in his famous book *Knowing God*,

“find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.”



# For he **chose US** in him before the creation of the world

## What does this mean???

- God's purpose in the salvation of his people is invincible—it cannot fail—because it is based first not on our choosing God but on God's choosing us. So rest assured

John Piper

Your salvation did not begin with your choice to believe in Christ—a choice which was real and necessary. Your salvation began before the creation of the universe when God planned the history of redemption, ordained the death and the resurrection of his Son, and chose you to be his own through Christ.

- God loves us

God's plan for redemption was designed even before the fall.

- We must have faith in the things He has promised us



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# Conclusion

The eternal nature of the gospel must:

- Give you assurance... It isn't about you and your winning convictions. Its about God's decision taken before the foundations of the world was set.
- Praise... The streets of heaven will be filled with former captives who, through no merit of their own, find themselves redeemed, forgiven, and free. Slaves to sin have become saints. No wonder we will sing a new song—a song of praise to the Redeemer who was slain ([Revelation 5:9](#)).
- Inspire us to evangelize... Gods glory must be known by the whole world as the greatest treasure imaginable

