

## Declarations from the book of Ephesians

### Ephesians 1

2May God himself, the heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, release grace over me and impart total well-being into my life.

3Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon me/us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because He sees me/us wrapped into Christ. This is why I/we celebrate Him with all my/our heart!

4And in love he chose me/us before he laid the foundation of the universe! Because of His great love, he ordained me/us, so that I/we would be seen as holy in His eyes with an unstained innocence.

5-6For it was always in His perfect plan to adopt me/us as His delightful children, through our union with Jesus, the Anointed One, so that His tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify His grace—for the same love He has for the Beloved, Jesus, he has for me/us. And this unfolding plan brings him great pleasure!

7Since I am now joined to Christ, I've been given the treasures of redemption by His blood—the total cancellation of my sins—all because of the cascading riches of His grace. 8This superabundant grace is already powerfully working in me, releasing all forms of wisdom and practical understanding. 9And through the revelation of the Anointed One, He unveiled His secret desires to me—the hidden mystery of His long-range plan, which He was delighted to implement from the very beginning of time.

10And because of God's unfailing purpose, this detailed plan will reign supreme through every period of time until the fulfillment of all the ages finally reaches its climax—when God makes all things new in all of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ.

11Through my union with Christ I too have been claimed by God as His own inheritance. Before I was even born, He gave me my destiny; that I would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in His heart.

12God's purpose was that we Jews, who were the first to long for the messianic hope, would be the first to believe in the Anointed One and bring great praise and glory to God!

13And because of Him, when we who are not Jews heard the revelation of truth, we believed in the wonderful news of salvation. Now we have been stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

14He is given to us like an engagement ring, as the first installment of what's coming! He is our hope-promise of a future inheritance which seals us until we have all of redemption's promises and experience complete freedom—all for the supreme glory and honor of God!

15Because of this, since Paul first heard about our strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our tender love toward all His devoted ones, 16His heart was always full and overflowing with thanks to God for us as he constantly remembered us in his prayers.

17 He prayed that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to me/us the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation to know Him through my/our deepening intimacy with Him.

18He prayed that the light of God would illuminate the eyes of my/our imagination, flooding me/us with light, until I/we experience the full revelation of the hope of His calling—that is, the wealth of God’s glorious inheritances that He finds in us, His holy ones!

19He prayed that I/we would continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to me/us through faith. Then our lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through us! This is the mighty power 20that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted Him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm!

21And now He is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age, but in the age that is coming! 22And He alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and has given Him the highest rank above all others.

23And now we, His church, are His body on the earth and that which fills him who is being filled by it! 1:23 That is, as we are those who are filled (completed) by Christ, we also complete (fill) Him. What a wonderful and humbling mystery is revealed by this verse.

*(to be continued)...*