

GOD'S PLAN

Redemption, Inheritance, and Life in Christ

KEY PASSAGE Ephesians 1:3-14

Purpose: This study explores the mystery of God's redemptive plan and the spiritual inheritance believers receive in Christ.

I. Introduction to the Mystery of God's Plan

- Ephesians was written as a circular letter intended for multiple churches.
- Ephesians 1:3-14 forms one long and complex sentence in the original language.

II. The Breadth of God's Plan

- **The Godhead:** The entire Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is active and involved in the execution of this plan.
- **All of Time:** The plan was conceived before the foundation of the world, culminates in the fullness of time in Jesus Christ, and extends into our future inheritance.
- **Unifies all Realms, Heaven, Earth, and The 'In Christ' Realm:** Believers reside in a mystical realm in Christ that straddles heaven and earth.
- **The Union of All Things:** The ultimate goal is to unite all things in heaven and earth in Christ, the answer to every human struggle, from poverty and war to death itself.

III. Christ the Head, the Church as the Center of Purpose

- **Predestination and Adoption:** God predetermined that those in Christ would be adopted as His children and receive a divine inheritance.
- **The Lavishing of Grace:** Jesus took the wage of sin, death, upon Himself, making possible our redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of our trespasses.
- **The Holy Spirit's Guarantee:** The indwelling Holy Spirit acts as a down payment or seal, guaranteeing the future fullness of our inheritance.
- **We Are the Chosen:** We are at the center of this purpose, chosen by God before the world existed and invited to respond by choosing Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding the “Mystery”

Why does Paul refer to God's plan as a “mystery” in verse 9, and what does it mean that this mystery is now revealed to us?

2. The Role of the Trinity

Looking at the text, how do we see the specific roles of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in our salvation and inheritance?

3. Living “In Christ”

If we are already blessed “in the heavenly places” (verse 3) while still living on earth, how should this truth change the way we approach daily problems and worries?

4. The Concept of Inheritance

What does it mean that our inheritance is both a present reality, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and a future promise, the final acquisition of possession?

5. The Chosen Response

While God chose us, we are called to choose Him. Have you chosen Him? Who can you lead to make the choice?

Personal Application

What is one truth from Ephesians 1:3-14 that you want to remember and live out this week?

CLOSING PRAYER Thank God for choosing, redeeming, adopting, and sealing His people in Christ. Ask for wisdom to live today in light of the inheritance He has promised.