

Ephesians: What's God Saying to You? What are You Going to Do About It?

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I. Introduction

One of the ways God speaks to us loudly and clearly is through His Word. Every day we face things that upset our equilibrium, whether at work, at home, or anywhere else life happens. In those moments, God has something to say to us. But do we hear His voice or is it drowned out by that other constant, deceptive voice which keeps adding insult to injury?

II. Ephesians: What is God Saying to You and What are You Going to Do About It?

Who were we? It was always God's intent to create for Himself a family with whom He would share His love and rule. That's what we had in the Garden of Eden: we were God's beloved children invited to join Him in ruling the world (Genesis 1-2). But we rebelled against Him and kept rebelling against Him: Cain and Abel, Noah, Tower of Babel (Genesis 4, 6, 11). God decided to start over yet again with Abram, but the nation that eventually came from him also failed (Genesis 12 – Malachi 4). However, throughout man's failure, God never gave up on His plan to make us His family who would rule alongside Him.....He kept promising a Savior.

The Savior arrives and is subsequently killed, but..., right when we first destroyed our relationship with God, He promised to one day send the Seed who would undo the rebellion and destruction we had committed (Genesis 3:15). He repeated the promise of the Seed to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:3, 7; 26:4; 28:14 cf. Galatians 3:16). And He told king David that this Seed would come from him and rule the world forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16). That Seed would be the Anointed One of God, the Messiah, the Christ; He would be a man but He would also be God who would rule over the nations from the throne of His father David forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 2; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7 Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:1). However, His start would be lowly (Zechariah 9:9) and His rule would begin by suffering and dying for the sins of His people (Isaiah 53; John 1:29). This Savior's name was Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25) and though they crucified Him, He didn't stay dead; He came back to life and empowered His disciples to carry His victory to the ends of the earth which they did (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts).

Who are we now and where's the promised salvation? To the average Christian who is struggling through life, the promise of Jesus saving us from our current troubles rings hollow. Many of these Christians go to church every Sunday, sing and pray, they may even read their Bibles on a regular basis. They know they're saved and will be with God forever after they die, but they don't know what Jesus' salvation looks like in real time. If this is the outlook of your daily existence, Jesus wants you to know that His salvation is available right now. He has much to say to you about this salvation in the letter of Ephesians:

Chapter 1

1:3, God the Father has blessed you with **every** spiritual blessing found in His Son. Imagine being told by a Trillionaire that all of his wealth is at your disposal. Well, God's made much more than that available to you personally. But is that where you live and breathe or is life just one giant, miserable struggle?

1:4-6, before God ever created the world, God planned to make you His child through His Son Jesus Christ. You were not an afterthought; you were central to His plan. You may've had horrible parents, but now you have a Father who loves you immeasurably.

1:6, the world may not accept you; you may not even accept yourself. Maybe you think there's something wrong with you, that you fall short somehow. But God, the only One in this world whose opinion truly matters, says, "You're accepted in My Son." Your peers may reject you, your family may reject you, society may reject you, but not God.

1:7, you may think that you're too wicked to save, that your sins are too numerous and too horrendous to ever be forgiven. The guilt and shame of it all overwhelms you and makes you feel like God could never forgive someone like you. But what's the truth? Your sin, no matter how many or how wicked, was never going to stop God from adopting you as His own because His Son's blood covered all of your sins.

1:10 (1:4, 6, 7), everything in heaven and earth centers on Jesus Christ and we're *in Him*. *In Him* is a giant concept in Ephesians. Everything in this universe exists and continues because of Christ (cf. Colossians 1:16-17) and we are forever united to Him and it is *in Him* that we reside, that we find salvation, hope, co-rulership, acceptance, redemption, power, etc., etc. This is where we should live and breathe.

1:11 (3:5-6), we get to rule alongside Jesus. If we're in Him and He reigns over all (1:20-23), then by implication we get to rule with Him.

1:13-14, the Holy Spirit set His seal on us and guarantees our co-rulership with Jesus.

1:17-18, God wants us to fully understand our role in His plan: who we are, who He is, who His Son is, who His Spirit is, what He can and will do for us, and how all of this is ours because of our relationship with His Son.

1:19-21, God wants us to realize that His awesome power is at our disposal, the same power that He used to resurrect Jesus from the dead and to make Him ruler over ALL. Therefore, our lives as Christians are not supposed to amount to limping along and hoping for the best. We should be victorious over our circumstances. It's not that we won't hurt, or cry or get knocked down. We will. But the promise of Christ is that He'll always be there to pick us up and give us everything we need not just to survive but thrive (Matthew 6:25-33).

1:22-23, Jesus is our head. Our bodies get their energy and sustenance first and foremost from our heads. Well, Jesus is our Head; we are His Body. Do you realize what this should mean during your daily struggles? He's there waiting to care for you (1 Peter 5:7).

III. Conclusion

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.