

Ephesians 1:1-6

Points to Consider

1. God's Predetermined Choice
2. Spiritual Blessings in Christ
3. Why?

God's Predetermined Choice

It was _____ will that Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ.

God's story is primarily a story of _____ pursuing man, not man pursuing God. It was never on Paul's radar to become an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Acts 9:3-6 - While Saul was pursuing Christians to kill, Jesus was pursuing Saul's _____.

Acts 22:12- God chose to appear to Saul on the Road to Damascus allowed Saul to know His will, _____ Jesus, and to _____ His voice.

God also wanted Saul to be a witness to _____ men of what he had seen and heard that day. God wanted Saul to tell his story.

Acts 9:10-16 - Jesus said that Saul was a _____ vessel of His to bear His name before Gentiles, Jews, and kings.

Acts 26:15-18 - The Lord appeared to Saul for the _____ of making him a minister and a witness of His, to the Jews and the Gentiles.

The Lord _____ Paul to be His instrument to open people's eyes, to turn them from darkness to light, to turn people away from the power of Satan to God, to teach people how to get their sins forgiven, and to teach people that sanctification is through faith in Him.

All of this was so they would receive the _____ predestined for saints to receive.

"He _____ us in Him before the foundation of the world." (verse 4)

"having _____ us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself" (verse 5)

"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 _____." (verse 11)

We know that God chooses people to play important parts in His plan.

- Paul, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Gideon...

We know that God chooses nations to play important parts in His plan.

- Israel, Babylon, Assyria...

Does God choose individual people or nations for salvation to the exclusion of others?

- Were all Israelites saved?
- Were people in other nations allowed to have a relationship with God?
- What do the stories teach?
 - Gen 12 teaches that God's plan always included Gentiles being blessed by Christ.
 - Jonah teaches that God cared about other cities and other nations.

Luke 2:33-35 *And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a*

sign which will be spoken against 35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." NKJV

Simeon said that Jesus would be the reason that many Jews would _____.

Matt 21:43-46 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." 45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet. NKJV

The Jews who did not believe in Jesus were not accepted into His _____.

What was predestined before the foundation of the world?

Eph 3:8-13 - God predestined from the beginning of the age that salvation of Jews and Gentiles would be _____ through Christ Jesus.

Eph 1 - God determined before He created the world, that all spiritual blessings would be found _____ Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ Jesus

Verse 3 tells us that He has blessed us with _____ spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Eph 1:5 ...having predestined us to _____ as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself. NKJV

Eph 1:6 He made us _____ in the Beloved. NKJV

Why?

Eph 1:5-10 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself. NKJV

God chose those in Christ:

- "according to the good pleasure of His _____." (5)
- "according to the riches of His _____." (7)
- "according to His good _____ which He purchased in Himself." (9)

God chose that those in Christ would receive all spiritual blessings because He _____ to!

Eph 1:4-5 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, NKJV

Being in Christ allows us to be _____ and without blame.