

Bless the Lord!

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- This praise to God - this doxology - at the beginning of a letter - is found nowhere in Greek writings. It is only found in Paul's letters in the New Testament.

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^{NKJ} **Ephesians 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

⁴ 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,

⁵ 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 has made us accepted in the Beloved.

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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,

¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him.

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¹¹ 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 will,

¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

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- Bless the Lord, O my soul! The Old Testament and Jewish traditional worship of the Lord are the background of this opening praise of the Lord.

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- In the Old Testament, individuals blessed the Lord in response to His deliverance or protection.
- **Genesis 14:18-20** Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

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- **NKJ Psalm 41:13** Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
- **NKJ Psalm 72:18** Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!
- **NAS Psalm 72:19** And blessed be His ^aglorious name forever; And may the whole ^bearth be filled with His glory. ^cAmen, and Amen.
- **NAS Psalm 89:52** ^aBlessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.
- **NKJ Psalm 106:48** Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

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- Phrase still used in New Testament times by Priest Zechariah at birth of John the Baptist:
- **Luke 1:68** "*Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people*"

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"Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu" (Hebrew) means
"Blessed are You, Lord our God"

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- The phrase “heavenly places” - which is used many times in Ephesians, and is used ONLY in Ephesians - refers to the unseen world of spiritual reality.

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- **Jewish Background:** The Jewish concept of heaven includes 3 heavens.
 1. the atmosphere surrounding the earth
 2. the celestial sky / or universe
 3. the dwelling place of God

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- **Jewish Background:** The Jewish concept of heaven includes 3 heavens.
 1. the atmosphere surrounding the earth
 2. the celestial sky / or universe
 3. the dwelling place of God
- **Jewish perspective:** “the age to come” - in the future God will make all things new and fulfill all His promises to the Jews.

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- **Immediate Context of Ephesians 1:3-12:** The language used tells us that we have already received them, they are a present reality

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- **Context of book of Ephesians:**

1. the realm where we **have** spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3)
2. the realm where **Jesus is seated** at the right hand of God
Ephesians 2:6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,
3. the realm where spiritual **wickedness** resides
NKJ Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,
NKJ Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

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- ^{NKJ} **Ephesians 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ 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, ⁵ 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 has 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, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him. ¹¹ 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 will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

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The Sentence:

- There is one main verb: Eph 1:4: He chose us

3 Εὐλογητὸς ὁ θεὸς

Blessed be God

καὶ πατὴρ

and Father

τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

of Lord our Jesus Christ

ὁ εὐλογήσας ἡμᾶς

who has blessed us

ἐν πάσῃ εὐλογίᾳ πνευματικῇ

with every blessing spiritual

ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις

in the heavenlies

ἐν Χριστῷ,

in Christ

4

καθὼς

even as

ἐξελέξατο ἡμᾶς

He chose us

Main verb

ἐν αὐτῷ

in Him

πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου

before the foundation of the world

εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἁγίους

to be we holy

καὶ ἁμώμους

and blameless

κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ

before

Him

Bless the Lord!

The Sentence:

- There is one main verb: Eph 1:4: He chose us
- There are two main participles which complement this verb:
 - Ephesians 1:5 predestining us

4

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even as

ἐξελέξατο ἡμᾶς
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Main verb

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εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἁγίους
to be we holy

καὶ ἀμώμους
and blameless

κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ
before Him

ἐν ἀγάπῃ,
in love

5

προορίσας ἡμᾶς
predestining us

participle

εἰς υἱοθεσίαν
into adoption

διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
through Jesus Christ

εἰς
αὐτόν,
into Him

κατὰ τὴν εὐδοκίαν
according to the good pleasure
τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ,
of will His

6

εἰς ἔπαινον δόξης
to praise of glory

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The Sentence:

- There is one main verb: Eph 1:4: He chose us
- There are two main participles which complement this verb:
 - Ephesians 1:5 predestining us
 - Ephesians 1:9 making known to us

γνωρίσας ἡμῖν

making known to us

τὸ μυστήριον

the mystery

τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ,

of His will

κατὰ τὴν εὐδοκίαν αὐτοῦ

according to His good pleasure

ἣν ᾤκνησεν

which He purposed

ἐν αὐτῷ

in Him

εἰς οἰκονομίαν

that in the dispensation

τοῦ πληρώματος τῶν καιρῶν,

of the fullness of the times

ἀνακεφαλαιώσασθαι τὰ πάντα

participle

Bless the Lord, O my Soul

He BLESSED us with every spiritual
blessing He CHOSE us to
be holy and blameless

**He PREDESTINED us into adoption
through Jesus Christ**

HE GRACED US IN THE BELOVED

He REDEEMED us through Christ's blood

He LAVISHED the riches of His grace on us

He MADE KNOWN the mystery of His will

He WILL GATHER all together in Christ

**He WORKS all things according
to the purpose of His will**

to the Praise of His Glory!

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The Summary:

- The blessings that we receive are given “that we should be to the praise of God’s glory.”

Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

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The Summary:

- The blessings that we receive are given “that we should be to the praise of God’s glory.”
Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.
- Everything described here is a reflection of who God is.
Holy. Blameless.
Father.
Master. Redeemer.
Planner.
Sovereign.
Loving. Gracious. Merciful. Rich. Generous. Powerful.

Bless the Lord!

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.