



### Scriptures for the Introduction of Ephesians

- **Philippians 3:5-6**  
5Circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6As to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.
- **Acts 23:6**  
6But perceiving that one group was Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!"
- **Acts 22:6-8**  
6"But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, 7and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'" 8"And I answered, 'Who are you Lord?' and He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'"
- **Acts 26:14-15**  
14 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'" 15" And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'"
- **Acts 20:6,16**  
6We sailed from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread...  
  
16For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.
- **Acts 22:3**  
22I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today."
- **Romans 9:1-4**  
1I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, 2my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart 3for I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, 4who are Israelites...
- **Romans 10:1; 11:1**  
1Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.  
  
1I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite...
- **2 Tim.1:3**  
1I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did...

# Identity & Destiny

## Ephesians 1-3

### Part 1



#### Other Scriptures

Hebrews 1

John 4:22

Acts 23:6

Romans 9-11

Rev. 21:10-12

Gal. 2:7

Matt. 5:17-19

- **Ephesians 1:1-3**

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the Saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

#### Main Points

- The Old Testament and New Testaments are not two different Bibles.
  - There is no separation in our thinking between them.
  - Both were written by Jews and have a hand in glove relationship through “progressive revelation and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- Paul was the author of Ephesians and most of the New Testament. *We need to understand the book through the Hebraic context and Jewish heart of its author.*
  - He was a Hebrew, a Pharisee, and a persecutor of followers of Jesus ‘til He met Jesus.
- Paul didn’t leave one religion to go to another. He maintained His Jewish identity and gained the connection to Christ.
  - He continued to celebrate feasts, not under the law, but celebrating the beauty of the law.
  - Pentecost-Shavuot
- Gamaliel, who taught Paul, was the grandson of one of Judaism’s greatest Rabbis—Hillel.
- The Romans Road is really Paul’s passion that salvation should come first to the Jew and then the Gentile!
- Paul did not change names, but rather had two names—one, his Jewish given name, and the other (Paul), his Roman name. Because he was the apostle to the Gentiles, he became known as Paul.
- Each time God addresses us through the N.T. books, he begins by offering to us grace and peace.
  - That is God’s heart toward us. He is not MAD at us.
- Want blessing? Seek the ONLY blessed one.
  - “Avinu Malkeinu”- Our God and our Father/King.
  - “Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu”- Blessed are thou O Lord our God

#### Discussion Questions

1. How does seeing the New Testament through the Jewish context, deepen your understanding of its message? For Jews? For Gentiles
2. Have you ever felt that God was angry at you? How does this teaching help to change you in that area?
3. Try reading Ephesians in one sitting. Does this excite you for the rest of the teaching? How?