



### Scriptures

- **Ephesians 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God to the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus: <sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, v which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

- **Romans 9:6, 10-14**

<sup>6</sup>But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;

<sup>10</sup>And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup>for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, <sup>12</sup>it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."<sup>13</sup> Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."<sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

### Other Scriptures

- John 6:63,65; 15:6; 20:17
- Acts 22:3; 3:22-26
- Mt. 6:19-20; 27:37
- Rom. 5:17-18; 14:17
- Phil. 4:11-12
- Ps. 115:16
- Luke 9:57-58; 12:15
- Rev. 6:9-11
- Rom. 8:9, 29-30
- Titus 1:1; 3:5
- Duet. 7:6; 31:16, 27
- Eph. 1:3-4

# Identity & Destiny

## Ephesians 1-3

### Part 9



### Main Points

- God our Father is the fountain of all blessing.
- Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu means blessed are you O Lord our God
  - He blesses us with grace and peace (shalom).
  - God *has* blessed us with *spiritual* blessings in heavenly places.
    - Done before the foundation of the world. Not a future act.
    - The blessings are *not* necessarily the American dream (finances of this world), though He may bless you that way. These are spiritual blessings.
    - It must work everywhere in the world for every believer or it is not the true gospel.
    - He has not called us to a mountain of money, but to Mt. Sinai!
    - The grace is that we are chosen; we deserved His wrath, but He chose us to receive grace, and a future with Him in His kingdom.
  - This blessing should strengthen our love and confidence in our walk with Him

### Discussion Questions

1. What do you think is meant by the spiritual blessings in heavenly places? What did Paul have in mind by this statement?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If these were given to you before you were born, then you have received an inheritance not of this world, but in the next. How does this shape your emotions toward eternal life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Take a moment to find some Scripture verses that speak of the things of this world compared to the blessings of the spiritual kingdom. Use a concordance to help you. Here are a few to get you started. Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Cor. 4:18; and Phil. 3:18-20