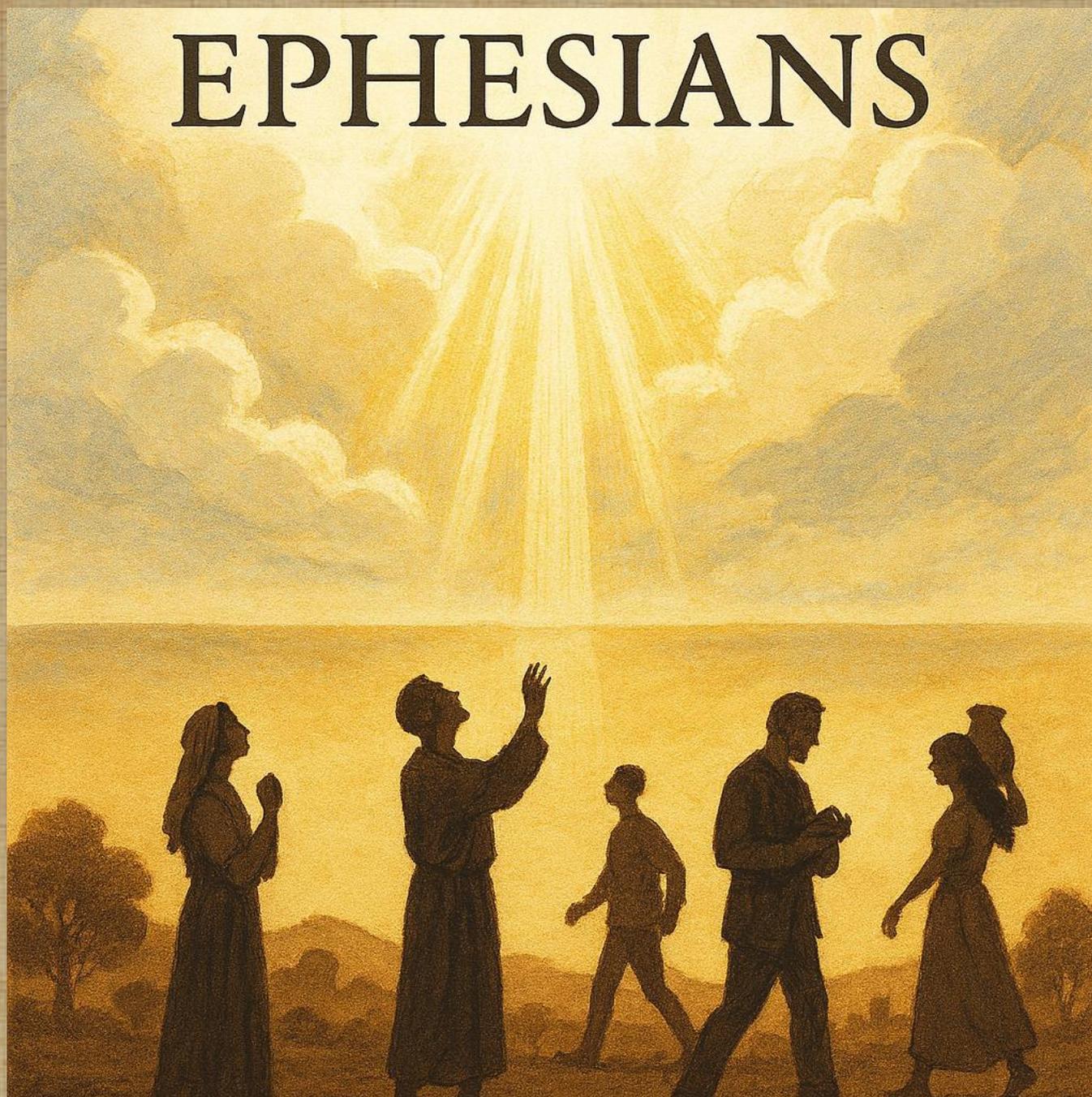
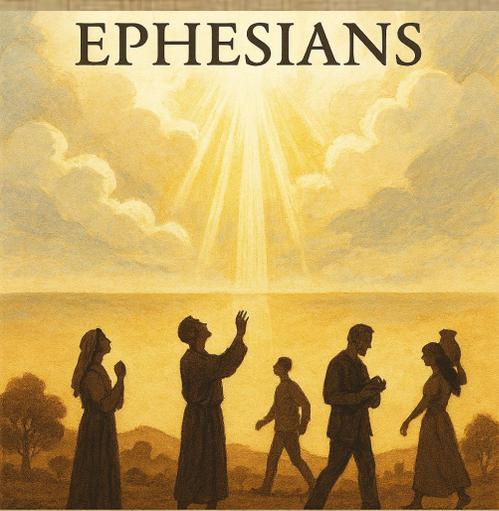


# EPHESIANS



# EPHESIANS



- **We are eternal spiritual beings living in a temporary earthly realm.**
- **Goal: Explore the heavenly realms described in Ephesians and review scriptures in light of what we learn.**



# Heavenly Realms Meaning ?

## Ephesians 1:3, 1:20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12

**EPH 1:** <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ

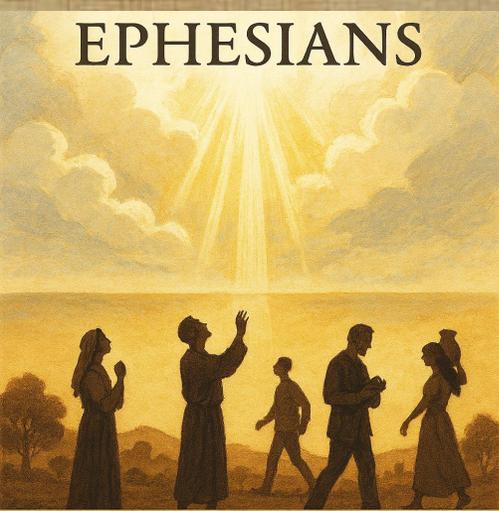
- There is one Greek word in the verse for heavenly the word realms has been added.
- The Greek adjective now followed by an added noun. Other translations render this as heavenly place or high places.



# Heavenly Realms Meaning ?

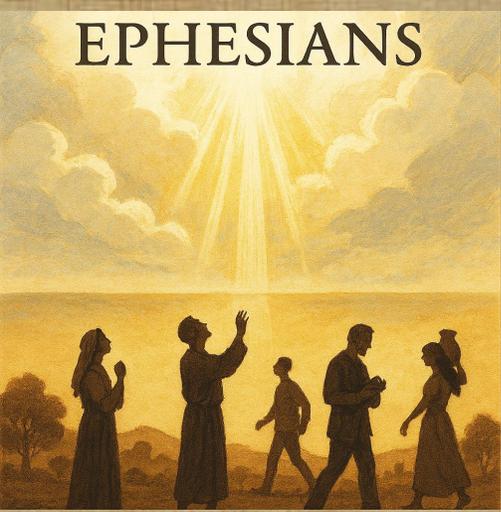
## Ephesians 1:3, 1:20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12

- When reading Ephesian 1:3 by itself with no background one is inclined to view this as heaven the dwelling place of God.
- A careful look at the five verses in Ephesians as a set reveals that this is a phrase used to describe realms that include spiritual entities aligned with God and others not aligned with God.
- Ephesians 6:12 describes those not aligned with God.



## 6:12 The realm not aligned with God

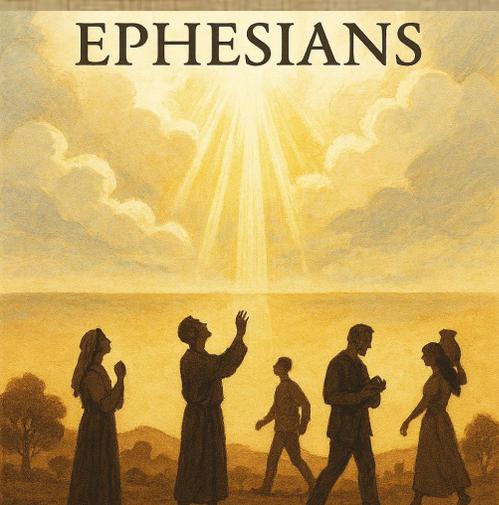
<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in **the heavenly realms**.



## heavenly realms

### **Terminology in the Pauline epistles that are similar to the heavenly realms in Ephesians**

The Pauline epistles particularly Colossians and Ephesians frequently describe a spiritual, unseen, and heavenly realm where Christ is exalted, believers share in his position, and spiritual warfare takes place. Similar terminology includes:



## heavenly realms

### **Terminology in the Pauline epistles that are similar to the heavenly realms in Ephesians**

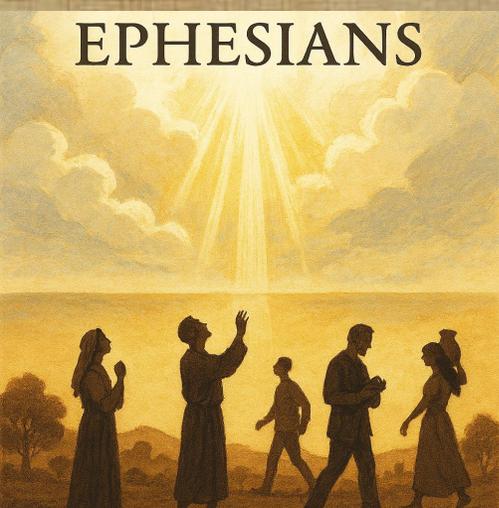
“ the Kingdom of the Son” Colossians 1:13

“above” Colossians 3:1

“the heavenly Jerusalem” Galatians 4:26

“Principalities, Powers, Rulers, Authorities”  
Colossians 1:16, 2:15, Romans 8:38

# EPHESIANS



## heavenly realms

**Terminology in the Pauline epistles that are similar to the heavenly realms in Ephesians search on word heaven**

Romans (2)

1 Corinthians (5)

2 Corinthians (4)

Galatians (1)

Ephesians (9)

includes “realms” 5x

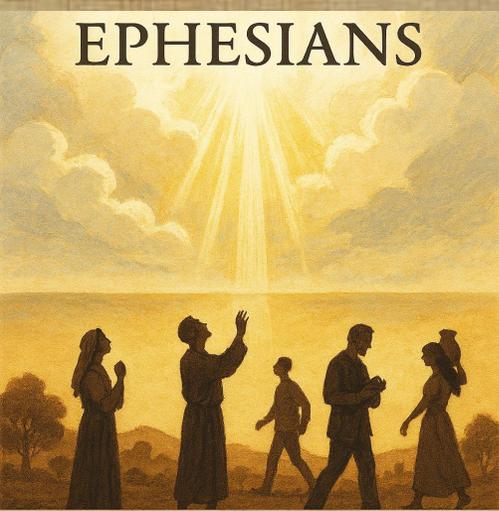
Philippians (3)

Colossians (5)

1 Thessalonians (2)

2 Thessalonians (1)

2 Timothy (1)



## 6:12 The realm not aligned with God

<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in **the heavenly realms**.



# Heavenly Realms

Ephesians 1:3, 1:20, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12

Heavenly  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Heavenly  
Realm Not  
Aligned with  
God

New  
Testament  
Is thematic in  
contrasting  
Between the  
realms

Physical  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

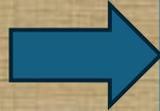
Physical  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

# Physical Realms are subsets of Heavenly Realms

Heavenly  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Physical  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Conceptual  
Relational



Heavenly  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Heavenly  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

Bound by  
time (also  
history and  
geography)



Physical  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Physical  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

Heavenly  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

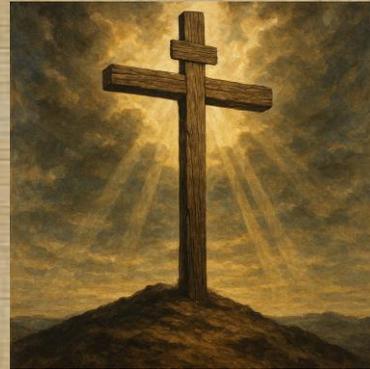
Physical  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

# Physical Realms are subsets of Heavenly Realms

Forgiven Sinners

Sinners

Heavenly  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God



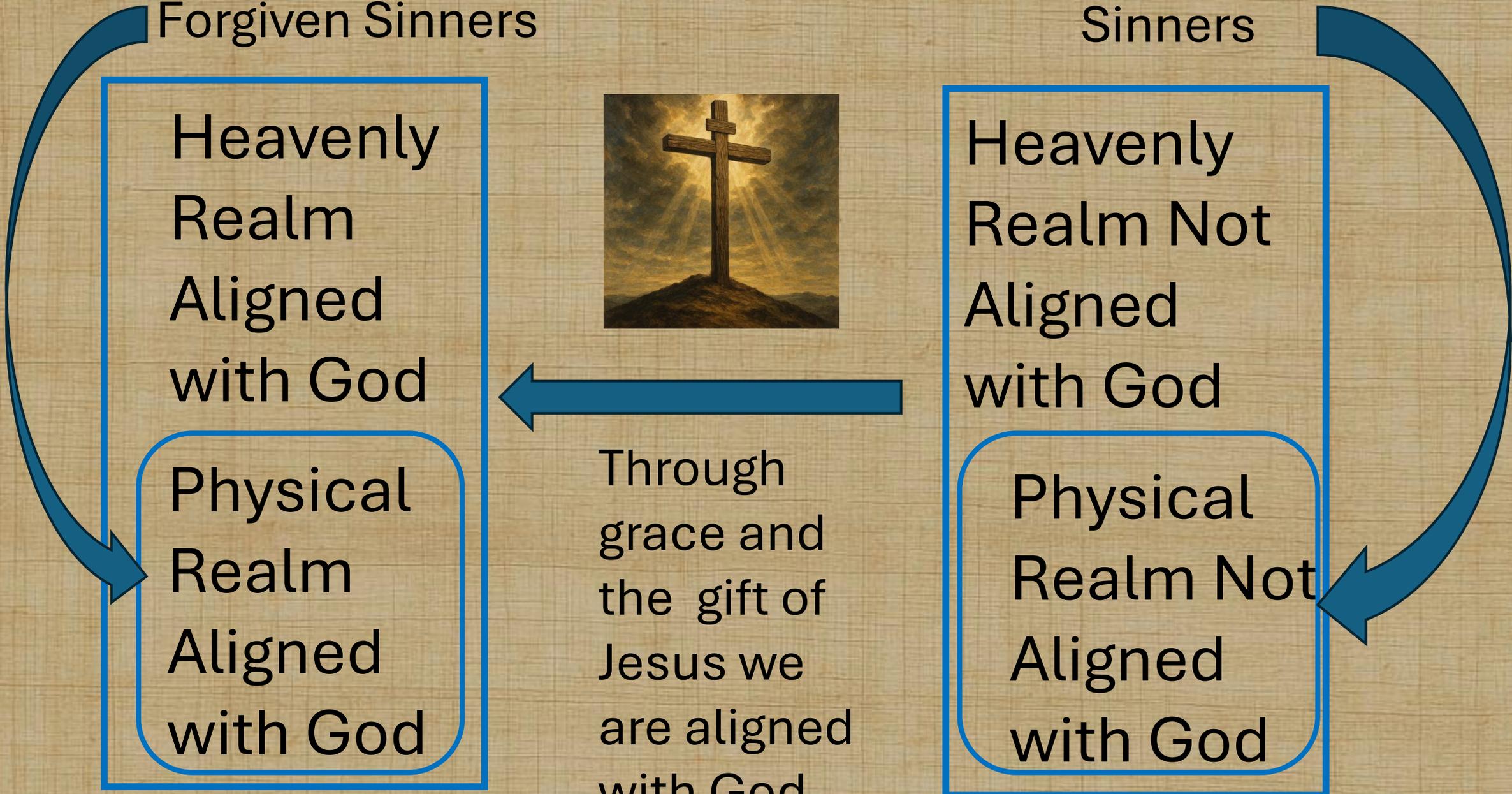
Heavenly  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

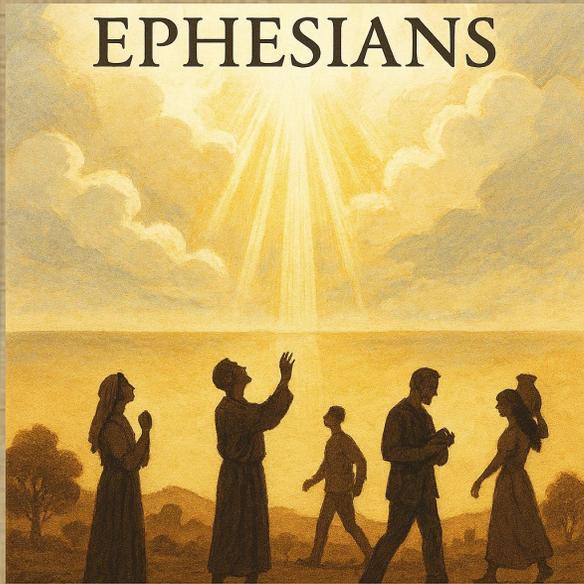
Physical  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Through  
grace and  
the gift of  
Jesus we  
are aligned  
with God.

Physical  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

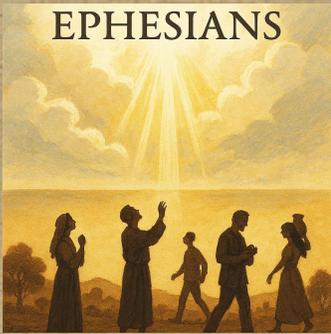
All entities are intermingled





The set of five “Heavenly Realms scriptures in context

The list can be used as guideposts to remember the surrounding scripture



## ... In the heavenly realms

Verse	... In the heavenly realms	Context
1:3	Blessed us . . . .	Opens list of blessings
1:20	Raised Christ and seated him . . .	In the middle of first prayer
2:6	With Christ seated us . . . .	At close of dead vs alive
3:10	Made known to rulers and authorities . . . .	Mystery revealed
6:12	Against the spiritual forces of evil . . .	Introduces full armor

Realm aligned with God

Realm Not aligned with God



## Ephesians 1:20

**EPH 1:** <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in the heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing in Christ

- Explains the source of our blessings and is an opening statement for the large list of blessings in chapter 1



## Ephesians 1:20 Christ seated middle of the first prayer

**EPH 1:** <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms





- **Eph 1 context middle of first prayer**

- 19<sup>b</sup> That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Heavenly  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Physical  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

## Heavenly Realms Interlude EPH2

Eph 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us **alive** with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

FLIP THIS SLIDE

Eph 2:1 As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed **the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of **wrath**

Heavenly  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

Physical  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

# Heavenly Realms Interlude EPH2 Dead - Alive

Eph 2:1 As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed **the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of

Heavenly  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

Physical  
Realm Not  
Aligned  
with God

**wrath**

Eph 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us **alive** with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—**it is by grace you have been saved.**

Heavenly  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God

Physical  
Realm  
Aligned  
with God





## Ephesians 2:6

**EPH 2:5** it is by grace you have been saved. . .<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

- Context. This is just after the dead to alive discuss in chapter 2
- God's grace allows us to be seated with Christ in the Heavenly realms.



# Ephesians 2:6

Seated in the  
heavenly realm





## Ephesians 3:10

**EPH 3:10** <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the **rulers and authorities** in the **heavenly realms**, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Context. Rulers and authorities know about the mystery of Christ look at preceding verses.



## Ephesians 3:10 context

**EPH 3:4** <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my **insight into the mystery of Christ,** <sup>5</sup> which **was not made known to people in other generations** as it has **now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.** <sup>6</sup> **This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**



## Ephesians 3:10 context

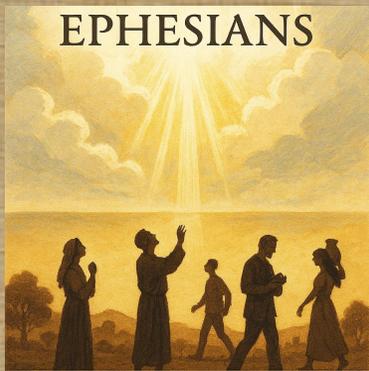
**EPH 3:7** I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his **power**.<sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this **mystery**, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things



## Ephesians 3:10

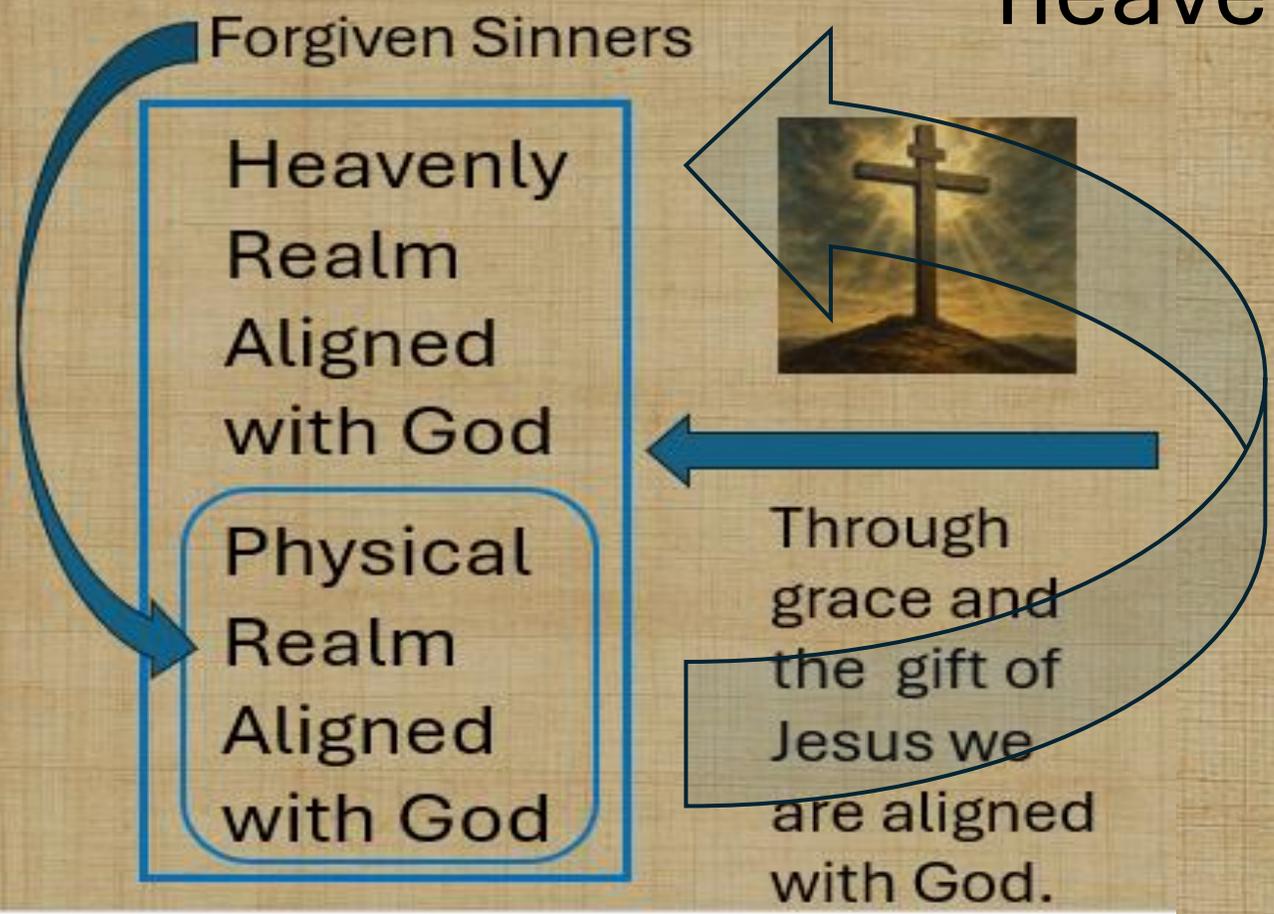
**EPH 3:10** <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Duplicate slide to link back to context.



# Ephesians 2:6

Seated in the heavenly realm

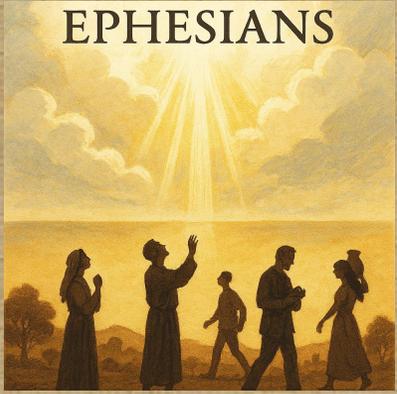


# Ephesians 3:12

<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.



# EPHESIANS

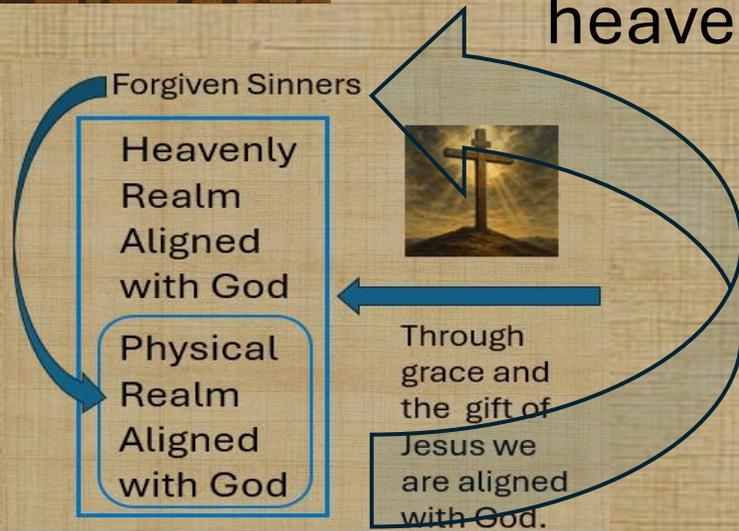


## Ephesians 2:6

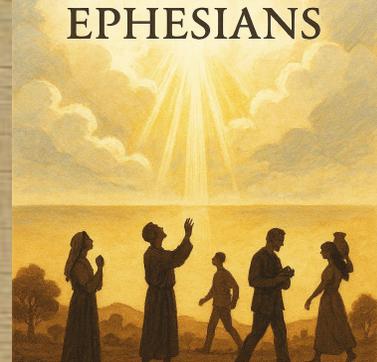
Seated in the  
heavenly realm

## Ephesians 3:12

<sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we  
may approach God with freedom  
and confidence.



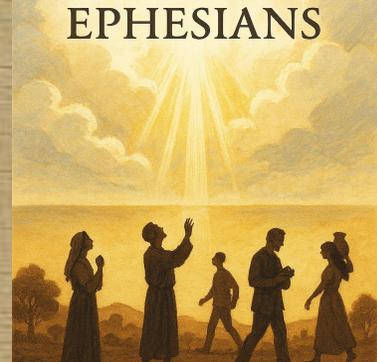
- In some circles there is an implied need for clergy or priest to gain access to God.
- As for the Gnostics, no special knowledge is needed.



## Ephesians 3:14 -3:21 The Second Prayer

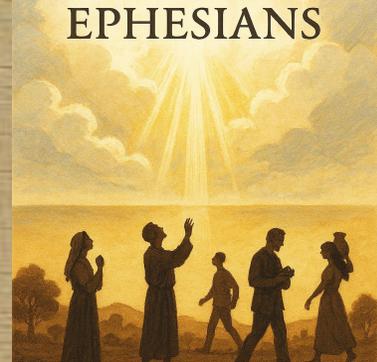
<sup>14</sup> For this **reason** I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may **strengthen you with power through his Spirit** in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**.

Finish the prayer then talk about reason



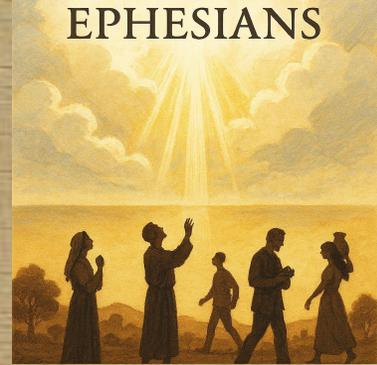
## Ephesians 3:16 -3:21 The Second Prayer

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



## Ephesians 3:16 -3:21 The Second Prayer

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to **do immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to **his power that is at work within us**, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!  
Amen

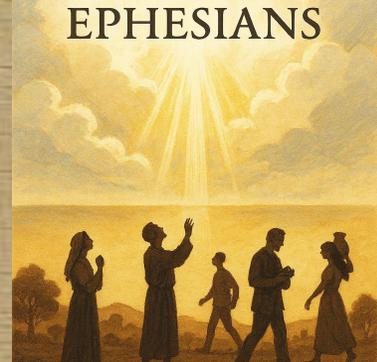


## Ephesians 3:14 -3:21 The Second Prayer

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What is the reason ?

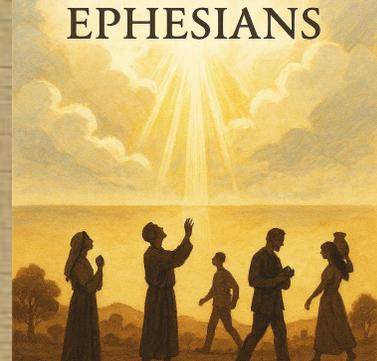




## Ephesians 3:14 -3:21 The Second Prayer

What is the reason ?

Summarize the preceding verses about the revelation of the mystery of Christ, the revelation to powers and authorities and access to God through faith.

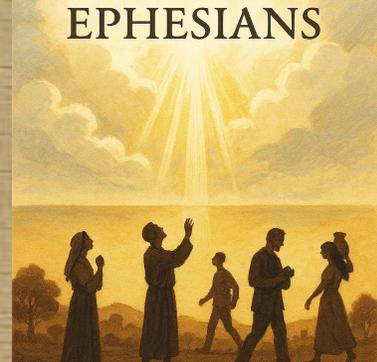


## Ephesians 3:1

**3** For this **reason** , Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles.

Paul is linking a previous thought into the verses about the mystery of Christ.

Backing up to look at the linking of reason

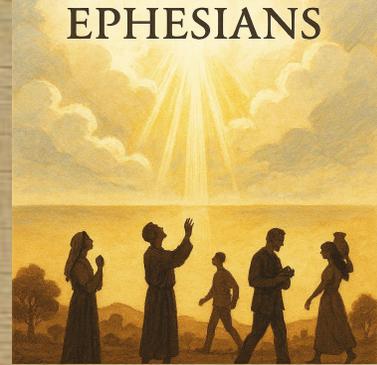


## Ephesians 3:1

**3** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles.

Paul is linking a previous thought into the verses about the mystery of Christ.

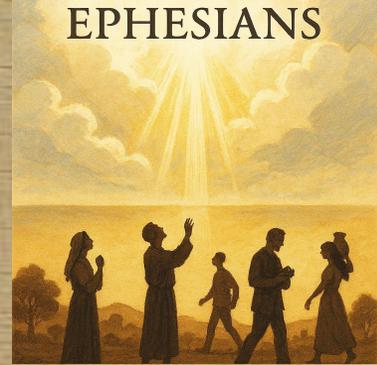
What is the reason mentioned in 3:1 ?



## Ephesians 3:1 what is the reason?

The gentiles were separated from the Jews.

**Eph 2:12** remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.



## “For this reason” links

Jews and Gentiles now one in Christ.

For This Reason....

The Mystery of Christ

For this reason....

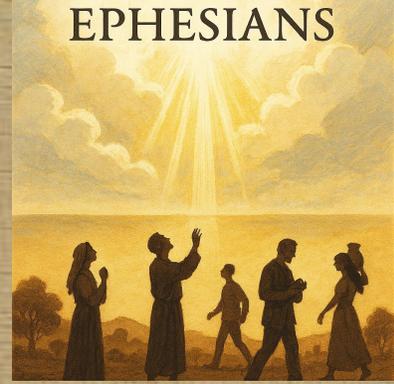
A prayer to have Christ dwell in their hearts and to grasp the love of God and the power within us.



## The Armor of God (Panoply) Eph 6

- <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

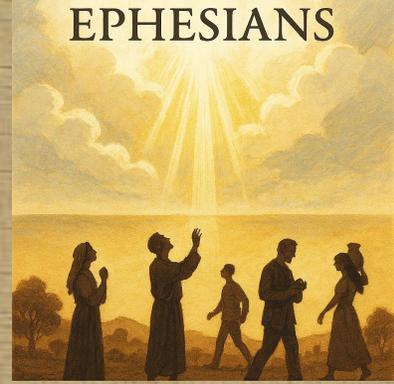
Just adding  
the last of  
The five  
realms more  
later



## Ephesians 4

### Unity and Oneness

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father

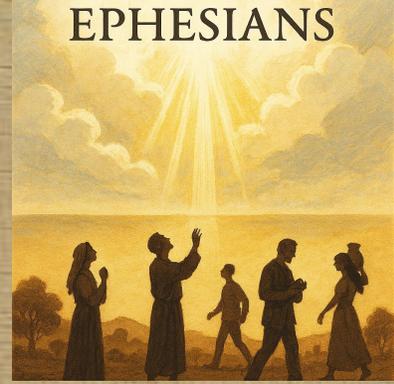


## Ephesians 4:8

### Gifts

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

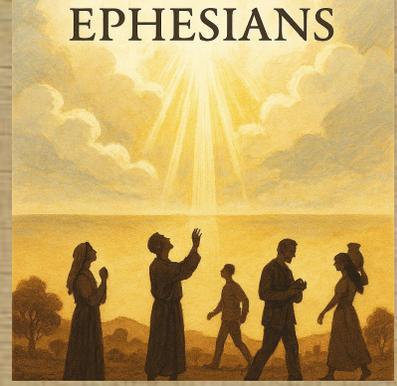
**“When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”**



## Psalms 68:18

### Gifts

**17 The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary. 18 When you ascended on high, you took many captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious— that you, LORD God, might dwell there.**



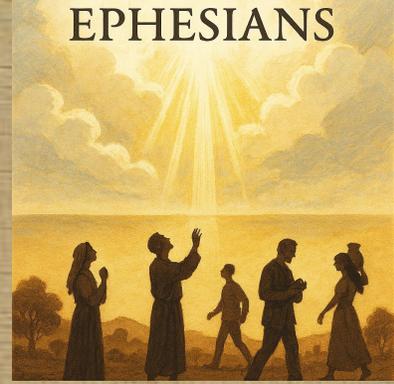
## Psalms 68:18 context i.e. v24-v26

### Gifts

- <sup>24</sup> Your procession, God, has come into view,  
the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.
- <sup>25</sup> In front are the singers, after them the musicians;  
with them are the young women playing the timbrels.
- <sup>26</sup> Praise God in the great congregation;  
praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.

## Eph 4:8 vs Psalms 68:18

- Psalms 68 pictures a large celebration procession and the King is receiving Gifts.
- Paul flips the receiving to giving for emphasis of what Christ is doing.
- Many educated in Judaism would see the intentional change.
- This giving of gifts will follow shortly after Eph 4:8

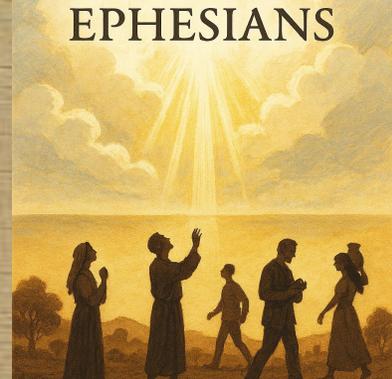


## Eph 4:9-10 descended / ascended

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

## Eph 4:11 -13

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself **gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



## Gal 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who **gave** himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,



## The Armor of God (Panoply) Eph 6

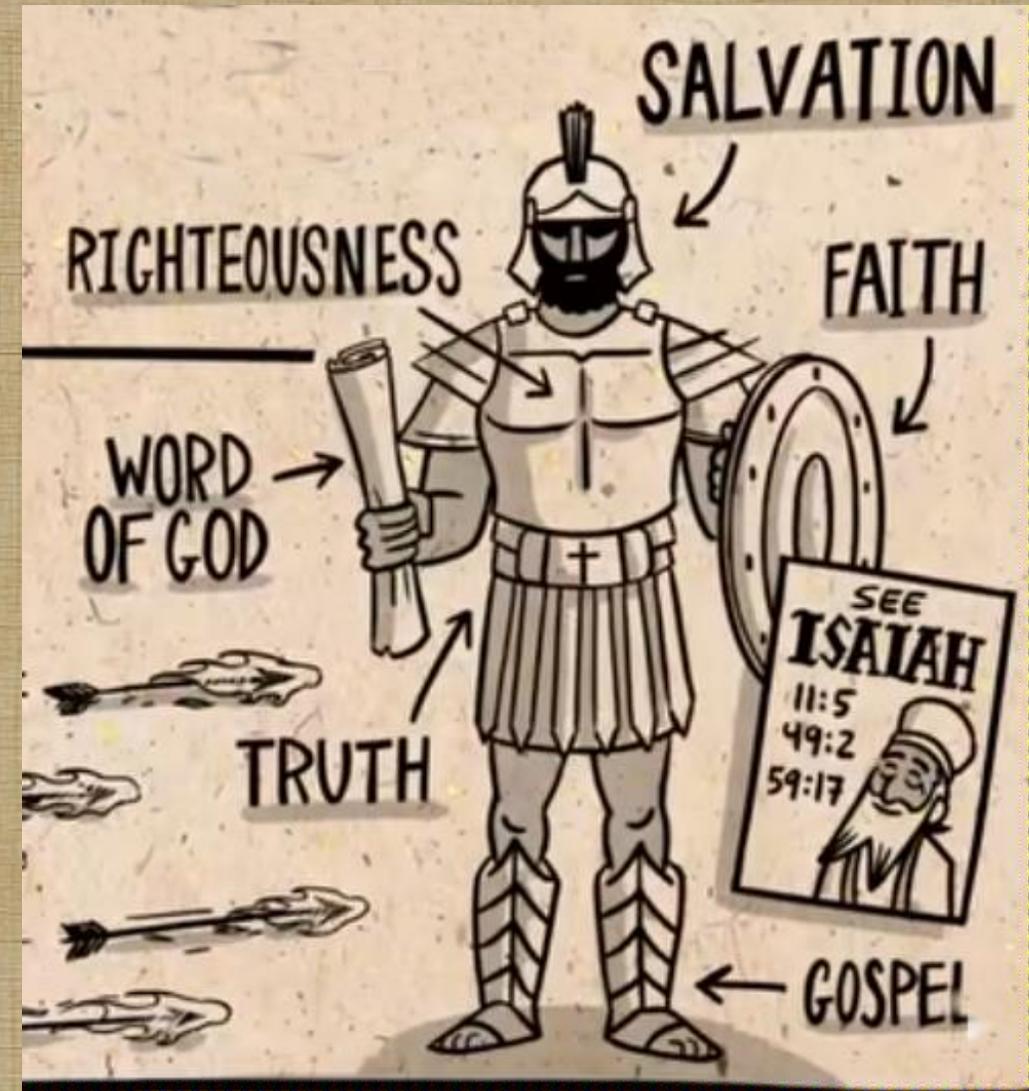
- <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

# Armor of God

## Isa 11 The Branch From Jesse

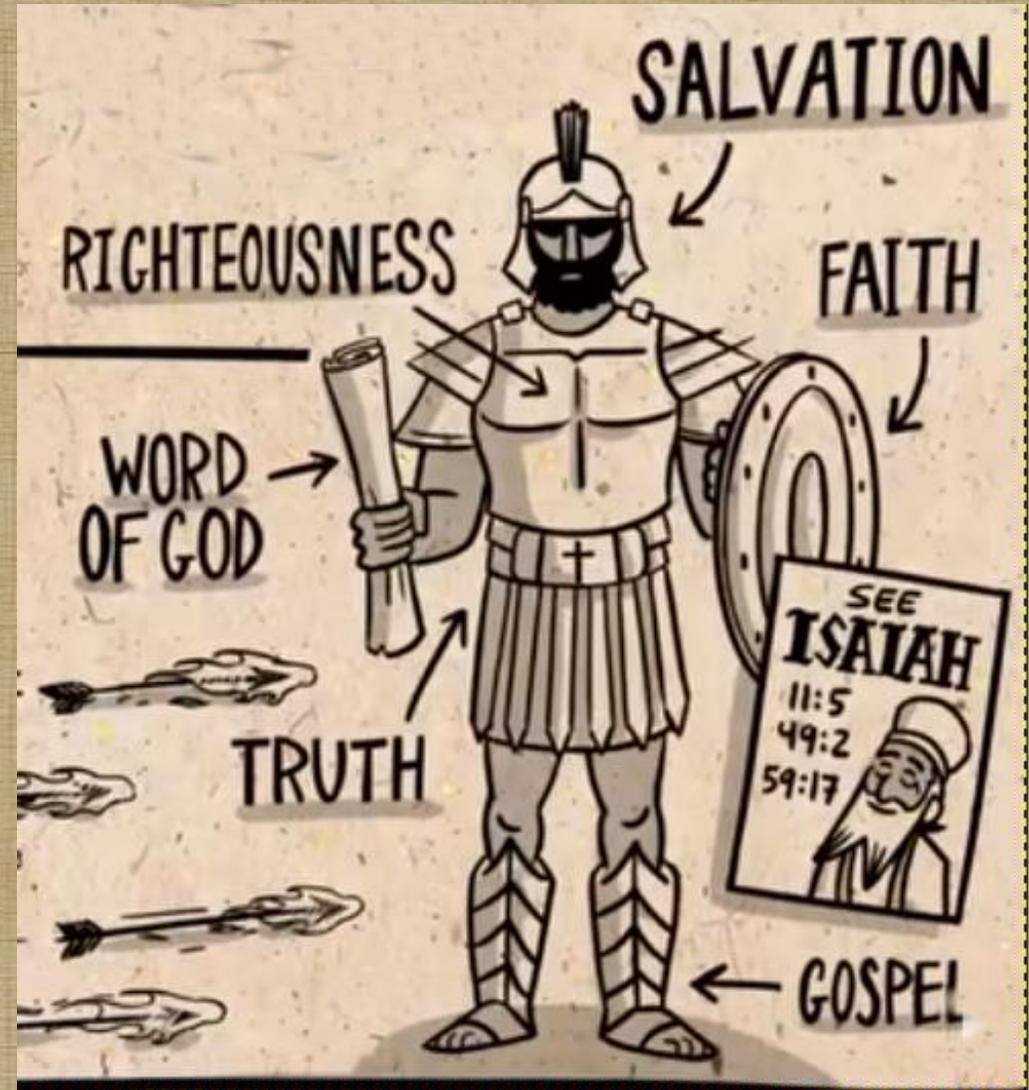
**11:1** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**11:5** Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.



# Armor of God

Paul uses portions of language found in Isaiah to build the suit of Armor.

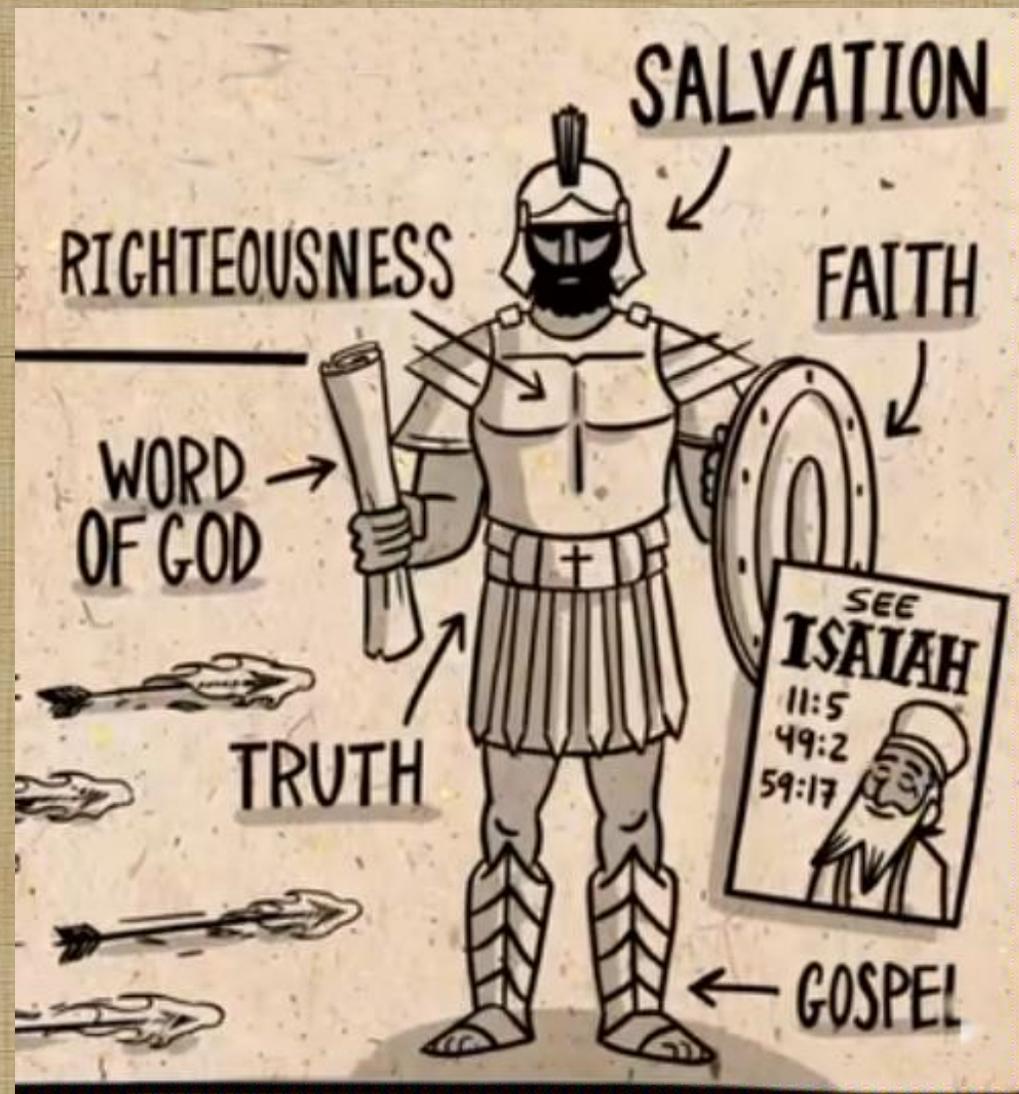


# Armor of God

Isa 49 **The Servant of the LORD**

**49:2** He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he

hid me; he made me into a  
polished arrow and concealed  
me in his quiver.

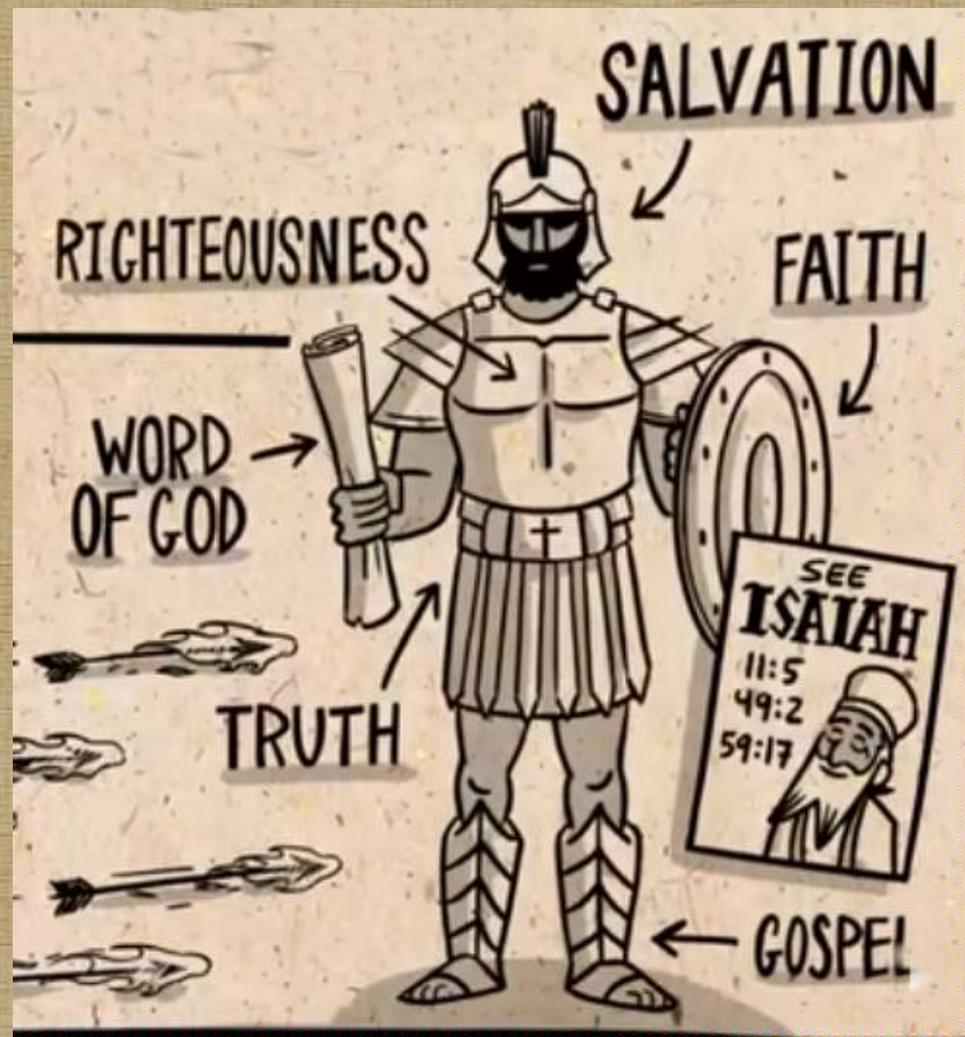


# Armor of God

Isa 59

**The Redeemer will come to Zion**

**59:17** He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak





## What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- <sup>4</sup> For he chose us **in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.



**Blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.**



What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- <sup>4</sup> For he **chose** us **in him** before the creation of the world to be **holy** and **blameless** in his sight.



What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- <sup>5</sup> he **predestined** us for **adoption** to **sonship** through **Jesus Christ**, in accordance with **his pleasure and will**— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has **freely given us** in the One he loves.



What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- <sup>7</sup> In him we have **redemption** through his **blood**, the **forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the **riches of God's grace** <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all **wisdom and understanding**,



What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- <sup>9</sup> he **made known** to us the **mystery** of his will according to **his good pleasure**, which he **purposed in Christ**,<sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their **fulfillment**—to bring **unity** to all things in **heaven and on earth under Christ**.



What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- **<sup>11</sup> In him** we were also **chosen**,<sup>[e]</sup> having been **predestined** according to the **plan** of him who works out everything in conformity with the **purpose of his will**, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our **hope in Christ**, might be for the **praise of his glory**.



What are the blessings mentioned in Ephesians chapter 1.

- <sup>13</sup> And you also were **included in Christ** when you heard the **message of truth**, the **gospel** of your **salvation**. When you **believed**, you were **marked** in him with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit**, <sup>14</sup> who is a **deposit** guaranteeing our **inheritance** until the redemption of those who are **God's possession**—to the **praise of his glory**.