

Ephesians.

A translation.



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GreyBurro@ScriptureOnline.org.

<http://www.ScriptureOnline.org>.

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The cover exhibits the ancient theater of the city of Ephesus. The theater is one of its most impressive structures. It has a seating capacity of about 25,000 people.

Ephesus is located in the province of Asia, which is on the western coast of the Anatolian peninsula. It is near the current city of Selçuk, Turkey.

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Ephesians.

Paul writes to the holy ones (1:1-2).

¹From Paul, a representative of the messiah, Jesus, by God's intent. To the holy ones and the faithful in the messiah, Jesus. ²May you receive mercy and peace from God, our father, and the lord, Jesus the messiah.

God chose us (1:3-12).

³The God and father of our lord, Jesus the messiah, is blessed. He blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven through the messiah. ⁴Because of him, he chose us before the world began. He made us holy and blameless before him with love. ⁵He preselected us for adoption through Jesus the messiah. This seemed appropriate for his plan. ⁶It causes praise for his wonderful mercy. He gave us mercy through the one he loves.

⁷We have redemption from sin through his blood. He forgives our violations because of his rich mercy. ⁸He multiplies it for us.

⁹He shows us his secret plan with all wisdom and knowledge. He prepared it by his pleasure. ¹⁰It was a plan for the fulfillment of time: Everything is completed through the messiah. That includes everything both in heaven and on the earth.

¹¹He chose us. This is his purposeful plan to accomplish everything according to his intentional purpose. ¹²We produce glorious praise by becoming the first to hope in the messiah.

You belong to the messiah (1:13-2:22).

¹³So, you heard the true word, the good news of your salvation. You were sealed by the promised holy spirit when you believed. ¹⁴He is the down payment of your inheritance. He redeems your property. This produces wonderful praise.

You belong to the messiah (1:13-2:22).

¹⁵This is why I heard about your faith in the lord Jesus. You love all the holy people.

¹⁶I do not stop giving thanks for you. I mention you in my prayers.

¹⁷May the God of our lord, Jesus the messiah, give you a wise spirit. May he reveal his knowledge. ¹⁸May he shine a light on your heart's eyes. Then you will know about the hope of his invitation. This is the rich glory of his inheritance for the holy people.

¹⁹It is the extreme greatness of his power toward us. We believe because of the strength of his great might. ²⁰He showed it when he raised the messiah from the dead. He seated him in heaven on his right side. ²¹He is above every leader, authority, power, domain, or any other named title, whether in this time or in the future.

²²"He put everything under his feet."^a He made him the head of the entire church. ²³This is his body. He fills everything in every way.

²You were dead in your violations and sins. ⁴You lived by them in the ways of this world. They conform to the ruling authority of the air. That spirit works through the disobedient sons.

³We all lived before by the lust of our flesh. We conducted ourselves by the intentions of our flesh and minds. We were naturally sons of wrath, just like everyone else.

⁴God was rich with mercy. He loved us with a great love. ⁵We were dead in our violations He made us alive by the messiah. He saved you by mercy. ⁶He raised you up. He seated you in heaven by the messiah, Jesus. ⁷He demonstrated for the future world how incredibly rich is his mercy.

It is for your good in the messiah, Jesus. ⁸You are saved by mercy through faith. This does not originate from yourselves. It is a gift of God.

⁹It does not originate from conduct. No one can boast. ¹⁰We are his product. We are created in the messiah, Jesus, for good conduct. God prepared them in advance. We should live by them.

¹¹Remember when you were gentiles in the flesh. You were called uncircumcised by those considered physically circumcised. ¹²You were without the messiah at that time. You were separated from the nation of Israel. You were strangers to the promised contract. You had no hope. You were without God in the world.

a) Psalm 8:7.

¹³Now you belong to the messiah, Jesus. You were far away before. Now you are close to the blood of the messiah.

¹⁴He is our peace. He made both into one. He removed the dividing wall. It is the enemy to his flesh. ¹⁵He canceled the law of commands with its rules. He made the two into one new man by making peace. ¹⁶He reconciled both of them into one body for God. He killed the enemy on the cross. ¹⁷He came proclaiming peace to us both far and near. ¹⁸Both have access with one spirit to the father through him. ¹⁹You are not aliens or foreigners any more. You are fellow citizens with the holy ones and God's household.

²⁰You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. The cornerstone is the messiah, Jesus, himself. ²¹In him the entire building fits together. It grows into the lord's holy temple. ²²You are built into the living peace for God in the spirit.

I am the messiah's prisoner (3:1-21).

³This is why I, Paul, am the messiah's prisoner for you gentiles. ²That is, if you accept the administration of God's grace. He appointed me for your sake.

³He showed me the secret in a revelation. I wrote to you with a few words. ⁴You were able to read them. You can gain my insight about the messiah's secret.

⁵Other generations of the sons of man did not know these things. Now he revealed them by the spirit to his holy representatives and prophets: ⁶The gentiles are coheirs. They belong to the same body. They share the promise of the messiah, Jesus, through the good news. ⁷He made me a servant by the gracious gift of God. He gave it to me by the effect of his power.

⁸I am the least of all the holy people. He gave this mercy to me. I proclaim to the gentiles the unknowable riches of the messiah. ⁹I expose the secret plan. It was kept secret from the beginning by God. He created everything. ¹⁰Now, he made the many-sided wisdom of God known to the leaders and authorities in heaven through the church. ¹¹This is the plan of time. He did it through the messiah, Jesus our lord.

¹²We have confidence and access to the one we believe because of his faith. ¹³I pray that I will not become discouraged by my struggles for you. This is an honor for your sake.

¹⁴This is why I bend my knee to the father. ¹⁵He names every family in heaven and on earth.

¹⁶He gives us power by his wonderful riches. He strengthens us through his spirit into the inner person. ¹⁷The messiah lives in our hearts through faith. We are firmly rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸Together with all the holy people, we are strong enough to understand the width, length, height, and depth. ¹⁹We know the extreme love from knowing the messiah. Complete all the fullness of God.

²⁰He can do far more than anything that we ask or imagine. This is by the power that he works in us. ²¹May he receive honor in the church and in the messiah, Jesus, for every generation for ever and ever. Let it be so.

Act worthy (4:1-5:20).

⁴As a prisoner of the lord, I urge you in the lord: Act worthy of the invitation you received. ²Be completely gentle and humble with patience. Put up with each other in love. ³Be quick to keep the unity of spirit with the binding of peace.

⁴There is one body and one spirit. You were invited into one hope. ⁵There is one lord, one faith, and one immersion. ⁶There is one God who is everyone's father. He over everything, through everything, and in everything.

⁷He gave mercy to each one of you by the measure of the messiah's gift. ⁸It says,

He went up to the high places.

He captured the prisoners.

He gave gifts to men.^a

⁹What can "went up" mean, unless he came down to the lower place, the earth? ¹⁰If he came down, then he also "went up" above all the heavens. He fulfilled everything.

¹¹He appointed representatives, prophets, preachers, shepherds, and teachers. ¹²They equip the holy people for works of service. They strength-

a) Psalm 68:19.

en the body of the messiah. ¹³Eventually all of us should achieve unity of the spirit and knowledge of the son of God. Every man might become complete. We might experience the complete measure of the fullness of the messiah. ¹⁴We should not be like infants. We should not be tossed by waves. We should not be thrown around by every wind of teaching. They us human trickery and slick scheming lies. ¹⁵Tell the truth with love. We can grow into him in every way. He is the head, that is, the messiah. ¹⁶From him, the whole body fits together. It is united by every supporting ligament.

¹⁷I say this. I assert in the lord: Do not live like the gentiles any more. They live in futile thinking. ¹⁸Their minds are dark. They are alienated from a life for God. This is their ignorance: They have stubborn hearts. ¹⁹They made themselves hard. They delivered themselves for wild living. They act completely impure with greed.

²⁰That is not the way you learned about the messiah. You listened to him. ²¹You learned about him. You received the truth about Jesus. ²²Get rid of the previous life of the old man. Deceptive lust ruined him. ²³Get a new spirit in your mind. ²⁴Clothe yourself with a new man for God. God recreates him with true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Get rid of deception. "Each person must speak the truth with his neighbor."^a We are part of each other. ²⁶"Be angry, but do not sin."^b Do not let the sun set on your anger. ²⁷Do not give space to the devil.

²⁸The thief must stop stealing. Instead, get a job. Do something with your hands. Share with the needy.

²⁹Get rid of every rotten word that comes out of your mouth. Say only what is necessary to build up. ³⁰Do not grieve God's holy spirit. He seals you for the day of redemption. ³¹Rid yourselves from all evil with bitterness, rage, anger, shouting, and slander. Treat each other with kindness and compassion. Show each other mercy. God showed mercy to you by the messiah.

⁵Imitate God like dear children. ²Live by love. Jesus loved you. He gave himself as an offering and a sacrifice for you. It had a pleasant smell to God.

a) Zechariah 8:16.

b) Psalm 4:4.

³Find no sexual misconduct, impurity, or any kind of greed among you. Do what is appropriate for holy people. ⁴Shameful, foolish, and course talk are inappropriate. Instead, speak with thanksgiving.

⁵Know this: all the sexually immoral, impure, and greedy, which is idolatry, have no inheritance in the kingdom of the messiah and God. ⁶Do not let empty words deceive you. This is why God's anger is coming against the disobedient sons. ⁷Do not join them.

⁸You were part of the darkness. Now you are in the light of the lord. Live like children in the light. ⁹The fruit of the light is goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰Figure out what pleases the lord. ¹¹Do not join with the fruitless actions of darkness. Expose them instead. ¹²Things done secretly in the dark are shameful to even talk about. ¹³Everything exposed to light is obvious. ¹⁴Everything done in the light is exposed. That is why it says,

Get up, sleepy man.

Rise from the dead.

The messiah will appear to you.^a

¹⁵Be careful how you live. Be wise, not unwise. ¹⁶Use time carefully. The times are evil. ¹⁷Do not be ignorant. Consider the lord's will. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine. That is reckless. Fill yourselves with the spirit. ¹⁹Sing to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Make music in your hearts to the lord. ²⁰Continuously give thanks for everything in the name of our lord, Jesus the messiah, and to God, the father.

Submit to each other (5:21-6:9).

²¹Submit to each other because you fear the messiah.

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as if he is the lord. ²³The husband is the head of the wife, just like the messiah is the head of the church. He is the savior of the body. ²⁴The church submits to the messiah. Wives must submit to the husband in every way.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives. The messiah loved the church. He gave himself up for her. ²⁶He made her holy. He cleaned her by washing her with water in the word. ²⁷He presented the church wonderful. She has no stain or wrinkle, or anything like it. He made her holy and blameless.

a) The source of this citation is unknown.

²⁸Husbands ought to love their own wives like their own bodies. The man who loves his wife, loves himself. ²⁹No one hates his own flesh. Care for her. Cherish her. This is the way the messiah loves the church.

³⁰We are part of the same body.

³¹This is why a man leaves his father and mother. He joins his wife. The two of them are like one flesh.^a

³²This is a big secret. I am talking about the messiah and the church.

³³However, you should be like one. Each one must love his own wife like himself. The wife must fear the husband.

⁶Children, submit to your parents in the lord. This is just. ²⁴Honor your father and mother.^b This is the first command with a promise. ³⁴It will go well for you. You will live a long time on the earth.^c

⁴Fathers, do not frustrate your children. Nourish them with the discipline and instruction of the lord.

⁵Slaves, obey your physical masters. Have sincere fear and trembling your hearts as if they were the messiah. ⁶Do not give lip-service. Do not be people-pleasers. ⁷Serve as if they were lords, not men. ⁸Know that if you do right, the lord will reward both slave and freeperson.

⁹Masters, do the same with them. Stop making threats. Know that the heavenly lord is over both of you. He demonstrates no favoritism.

Stand against the devil (6:10-17).

¹⁰For everyone else, be strong in the lord and in his powerful grasp. ¹¹Clothe yourself in the armor of God. You will be able to stand against the devil's tricks. ¹²Our struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is against the leaders, the authorities, the rulers of this dark world. They are spiritual evil in the heavens.

¹²This is why you must carry God's armor. You will be able to resist the evil day. You conquer everything and stand.

¹⁴Stand. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Wear the chest plate of righteousness. ¹⁵Bind preparation to proclaim peace on your feet. ¹⁶Carry the shield of faith at all times. You will be able to put out all the fiery

a) Genesis 2:24.

b) Exodus 20:12.

c) Exodus 20:12.

arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation. Take the sword of the spirit. This is God's word.

Pray for me (6:18-22).

¹⁸With prayers and requests, pray in the spirit at all times. Watch out. Be careful about everything. Pray for all the holy people ¹⁹and for me. Ask him to give the words when I open my mouth. Make me boldly reveal the secret of the good news. ²⁰Above all, make me an ambassador in prison. Help me to speak boldly in him.

²¹You know about me and what I do. Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a beloved brother and faithful servant in the lord. ²²I sent him to you for this reason: You can know what is happening to me. It will refresh your heart.

²³May the brothers have peace and love. May they receive faith from God, our father, and the lord, Jesus the messiah. ²²May everyone that loves our lord, Jesus the messiah, receive mercy.