

Study of of Ephesians 1
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Paul, an apostle of Yeshua Messiah by the will of Elohim, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Messiah Yeshua:

There is a lot said in this opening verse of Ephesians that is missed by most people. Paul introduces himself as an apostle of Messiah and he emphasizes that he is an apostle of Messiah **BY the Will of Elohim**. Paul recognizes that if YHVH had **NOT** divinely interceded in his life by blinding him on his way to Damascus and showing him the error of his ways, that Paul would have continued in his false understanding of who YHVH was and what He wanted from him, he would have continued in the false ways that he had been taught all of his Pharisaical life that he lead prior to experiencing YHVH in the manner that he did on the road to Damascus. This may seem harsh but in reality it is a message direct from YHVH telling Paul and **ALL of us**, that the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees, which in turn is a picture of **ALL** religious teaching, **ALL** man made religions, **ALL** man made doctrines and theologies, **ARE FALSE**. YHVH in His infinite grace and mercy showed Paul, and us, through Paul's experience, that both Paul and we have to **CHANGE** what we used to believe, so that both Paul and we could align our beliefs with the ways of YHVH, His ancient Paths, and **NOT** the ways of man. YHVH tells us throughout Scripture that the **wisdom of man** is as foolishness to Him, and the wisdom of man my friends is found in their man made religions, their man made doctrines, their world view, therefore **IF** YHVH wanted Paul to change his ways and teach people the **TRUE** Word of YHVH, so that they too could align their ways with the ways of YHVH, which of course is His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, so that **ALL** peoples could learn to be holy as our heavenly Father is Holy, **THEN** it behooves us to also follow in Paul's footsteps and toss out **ALL** of our past man made religious teachings and turn to YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life made flesh, and begin to believe and obey it all.

We simply **HAVE** to understand that our omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Elohim has given us a set of directives for life everlasting, and called it His Torah, He also in His infinite wisdom has embedded in His Torah of Life, blessings beyond measure, blessings that are automatically activated in a believers life when the believer begins to obey YHVH's inerrant and everlasting Torah, His Words of Life. That is what Paul is telling us here when he is introducing himself to the Ephesians.

The next phrase that we have to look at is where Paul says that the message that he is sending to the Ephesians is for the **faithful in Messiah Yeshua**. What does Paul mean when he says that his message is for the **faithful in Messiah Yeshua**? Well first of all we have to understand who Messiah is according to Scripture and then we can understand what these Ephesians are faithful to. According to *John* in *John 1* we read *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and the Word was Elohim*. In this verse in *John*, we are told that the **Word** of Elohim **IS Elohim** and in verse 14 we are told that *the Word of Elohim, which IS Elohim, was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth*.

Now before we can move ahead we have to define the word, **WORD**, so that we can get the complete picture of what Paul is telling us in *Ephesians 1*. In *John 17:17* we read; *Sanctify them through your TRUTH: Your WORD is TRUTH*; OK, we are just about there, now let's go to *Psalms 119:142* and

read what it says so that we can get the complete picture of what Paul is conveying to us in his letter to the Ephesians. The Psalmist wrote *Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Torah (Law) IS the TRUTH*. Messiah tells us in *John 17:17* that the **Word** of YHVH **IS TRUTH** and here in *Psalm 119:142* we are told that the **TRUTH IS YHVH's Torah** given to Moses at Mount Sinai; therefore, this means that **the Word of Elohim IS indeed His Torah**, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His directives for Life. Now we have the complete picture and we can truly understand that when Paul speaks of the saints at Ephesus and that they were faithful to Messiah, he is telling **ALL of us** that he is speaking to the saints at Ephesus that are faithful to YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His **TORAH** of Life.

OK now we have the complete picture of who Paul is speaking to and what he is trying to convey to them and us through his letter to the Ephesians, Paul is telling them to be true and faithful to the Torah of Moses and obey and do what it tells you to do.

Now let's go on and discuss what else Paul is saying in the rest of his letter to the Ephesians.

Verse 2 Grace be to you, and peace, from Elohim our Father, and from Adonai Yeshua Messiah. 3 Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Adonai Yeshua Messiah, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Messiah: 4 According as He has chosen us in Messiah (Him) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:

Where does Paul draw this from when he says that *we should be holy and without blame before YHVH in love*.

Well, to get the answer let's look at *Vayiqra 11:44 For I am YHVH your Elohim: you SHALL therefore sanctify yourselves, and you SHALL be holy; for I YHVH am Holy: neither shall you defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. 45 For I am YHVH that brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim: you SHALL therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

Furthermore we are told the same thing in the Apostolic Scriptures in *1Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be you holy; for I YHVH am holy.*

Therefore it is quite evident that Paul already had the understanding that we are to be holy as YHVH is Holy and that is why he admonishes the Ephesians and us, to also **be holy** and **without blame**, because it is a commandment from YHVH, and in order to be without blame one must obey ALL of YHVH's Commandments.

Verse 5 Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Yeshua to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; 8 Wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

We have to be very careful when we read Scripture and **NOT** let one verse stand on its own without supporting it with other verses throughout Scripture. Here in Ephesians we are told that the saints of Ephesus are predestined to becoming the adopted children of Elohim by Yeshua the Messiah. If we

are not familiar with the rest of Scripture one might think that these saints in Ephesus had **NO choice** since they were predestined by Elohim to be saints? Well what we have to understand is that YHVH is omniscient and that He already knows who and who will **NOT** accept His message and obey His Ways, and because of His omniscience or pre-knowledge, He can and does say that these saints are predestined to becoming adopted sons through and BY Yeshua the Messiah.

1Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of Elohim the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience (Obedience to what? Obedience to His Torah) and sprinkling of the blood of Yeshua Messiah (the blood of Messiah is a metaphor for the Torah obedient life that Messiah lived while He was here on earth): Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Verse 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself:

What is the **mystery** of our heavenly Father's will? The mystery of our heavenly Father is two fold, first it is His **forgiving nature**, as we can see in *Ezekiel 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says Adonai YHVH: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?*

And secondly, it is His infinite love for us as evidenced by the words spoken in *John 3:16* where it says, *for Elohim so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

In *Colossians 1:27* Paul speaks to us and says: *Whereof I Paul am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill, pleroo, confirm the Word of Elohim; 26 Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but NOW is made manifest to His saints: 27 To whom Elohim would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in ALL wisdom (wisdom is Torah); that we may present every man perfect in Messiah Yeshua: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to His working, which works in me mightily.*

The mystery that Paul is talking about, according to Scripture, **IS** that Messiah, the Living Word of our heavenly Father, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions made flesh, His Torah of Life would, by the grace of Elohim, come to earth, and then, under the commandment of our heavenly Father, which Messiah willingly obeyed, sacrificed Himself on the cross and died for our sins, our transgressions of the Torah, so that those who accept our heavenly Father's Living Torah, our Messiah as their Lord and Saviour, **MAY** inherit everlasting Life at His side, in the kingdom of Elohim.

Verse 10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Messiah, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works ALL things after the counsel of HIS OWN WILL: 12 That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Messiah.

It is of **PARAMOUNT importance** that we understand what Paul is telling us here, and to do that, we **MUST** understand who Messiah **IS** in order to understand the full meaning of Paul's message.

In *John 1:1* we read *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and **the Word WAS Elohim***; and in *John 1:14* we read *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (Truth **IS** Torah)*.

These *verses* tell us that the Word of Elohim became flesh, which means that Messiah **IS** the Living Word of the Father, His inerrant and everlasting **WORD** made flesh and therefore what Paul is telling us is that our heavenly Father **WORKS ALL THINGS** that are in heaven above and on the earth **BY** the Words of His Torah made flesh (Messiah).

That means that our heavenly Father has **PUT** all things under the control of Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, which in turn means that **ALL** the leaders of all the countries of the world, have been appointed to their position by Him who **WORKS ALL THINGS**, our Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah made flesh. Let that **FACT** sink in, and then think of the leaders that we have today in most of the countries of the world, and then **KNOW** in your heart, that it is YHVH/Messiah that has appointed them to their position, because he is giving mankind what they want. Like the Israelites of old who demanded that YHVH give them a human king instead of Him who created all things, so to has he given the people what they want, by appointing these despotic leaders world wide. It is quite a paradigm shift, for most people to wrap their mind around that **FACT, BUT** it is **TRUE**, according to the Words of Scripture.

However, those of us who have chosen to believe, follow and obey the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, are reassured by those very same words, that we will receive an inheritance, and what follows next, is extremely important for all of us to understand, that the saints, which means, all the people that have chosen to surrender their wills to our heavenly Father, in total loving surrendered obedience to His Words of Life, the Words of His Torah, **ARE** predestined according to the **PURPOSE** of our heavenly Father who **works ALL things after the counsel of His OWN WILL** that we should become the praise of His glory, because we chose to believe and trust the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words His Torah made flesh.

As you can see, receiving YHVH's inheritance all boils down to whether or **NOT** the saints willingly choose to believe, accept, and lovingly obey the Words of Torah of YHVH in the manner that the Living Torah, Messiah, taught us to do, and that means that we are to obey the Torah of YHVH with surrendered, contrite obedient selfless hearts, which is exactly what Messiah did. We are to emulate Messiah. *1John 2:6 He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.*

*Verse 13 In whom you also, after that you **heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,*

This verse, absolutely confirms that the Torah and the Gospel **ARE** synonymous terms. First of all let's go to

*Psalms 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your Torah (Law) is the **TRUTH**.*

In *Psalms 119:151* it says: *You are near, O YHVH; and **ALL** Your commandments are **TRUTH***. And in *Psalms 119:160 Your word is **TRUE** from the beginning: and every one of Your righteous judgments endures for ever.*

And finally in *John 17:17 Sanctify them through your **TRUTH**: Your **Word is TRUTH**.*

In these verses, we are told that the word **TRUTH, IS** YHVH's Commandments, His Word, His righteous judgments, and His Torah, therefore we are to understand that all of these terms, Word, Commandment, Righteous Judgments and Torah **ARE** synonymous, so that whenever you see any of these words anywhere in Scripture, it means that YHVH is talking about the Words of His Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Directives for everlasting Life.

Now since the Word **TRUTH, IS** indeed defined **AS the TORAH of YHVH**, then that means that when Paul said *after that you heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation*, he is actually saying *after that you heard the Torah, THE GOSPEL of your salvation*.

I am **NOT** twisting nor changing the words of Paul or the words of Messiah, I am simply defining what the words mean according to Scripture, and the Scriptures plainly and clearly state, that the **Truth IS YHVH's Torah** as I have shown above, and Paul then tells us that **the Gospel IS Elohim's Truth**, and Scripture, **NOT ME**, has clearly established that **the Word TRUTH is defined AS the TORAH of YHVH**.

Verse 14 Which is the earnest (Pledge) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

The word earnest is the Greek word arrhabon and it is Strongs number **G728, ἀρραβών**, arrhabōn which means Pledge.

What is the purchased possession that is to be redeemed? The purchased possession my friends is **ALL** the people who willingly and lovingly surrender their wills to our heavenly Father, they **ARE** the ones that are designated as the saints of Elohim which is just another way of saying that they are, the Sons of the Living Elohim.

Verse 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your belief (faith) in Adonai Yeshua Messiah, and love unto all the saints, 16 Do NOT cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Paul is expressing His love for the saints, and since Paul is One of our teachers, maybe we should start incorporating into our daily lives a time to pray for all of YHVH's saints, our brothers in Messiah.

Verse 17 That the Elohim of our Adonai Yeshua Messiah, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him:

What is this Spirit of Wisdom that we are to covet from the Father of our Messiah? Let's allow Scripture answer that question. *Deuteronomy 4:5-6 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as YHVH my Elohim commanded me, that you should do so in the land whither you go to possess it. 6 KEEP therefore and DO them; for this IS your WISDOM and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these Statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a WISE and understanding people.*

Here again we see that the Statutes and Judgment of YHVH, which of course **IS** the Words of His Torah, **IS** our **WISDOM**. Therefore the spirit of Wisdom **IS** the Spirit of Torah, and Paul told us in *Romans 7:14 For we KNOW that the Torah (Law) IS SPIRITUAL: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

When Paul says that the Torah *is spiritual*, he means that the Torah **IS** Spirit filled, and this Spirit Filled Torah, **IS** our Wisdom, because it comes directly from the mouth of YHVH, and as soon as **ANY** Words leave the mouth of YHVH, **they ARE forever TRUE**.

Verse 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of our heavenly Father's calling, and what the riches of the glory of our heavenly Father's inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, 20 Which He wrought in Messiah, (the words of the Living Torah made flesh) when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own Right Hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above ALL principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Here Paul is showing us the omnipotence of our heavenly Father, in that, it was our heavenly Father that sent His Word, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions made flesh, and manifested as our Messiah, to earth, in order to teach us the Father's ways, the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, and then have the Word of Elohim, which was made flesh, be nailed to a cross and die in our stead, so that those who would finally understand and surrender their wills to His, would indeed inherit the kingdom of Elohim for eternity.

Furthermore when we read what our heavenly Father has done for Messiah because of His selfless obedience, in that *He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own Right Hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come;*

This tells us that **WE**, you and I, can rest assured, that since Scripture emphatically states that our heavenly Father does **NOT** ever change (*Malachi 3:6*) that we too, **IF** we willingly choose to walk as Messiah walked, in total loving surrendered obedience to the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, as Messiah did the whole time that He was here on earth with us, we too **WILL** be raised up on Judgement Day, as Messiah was raised from His Tomb, to rule and reign with Him, as His eternal Bride.

This is **NOT** a Ferry Tale, as some people would have you believe, This **IS** a Promise from the Creator of the universe, to all people, who willingly choose to believe, follow and obey the Words of His Torah of Life, in loving surrendered obedience. It is an incredible outcome for someone like me, who once was a sinner in the magnitude of Paul, but now, because of Elohim's Grace, the very same Grace that YHVH showed to Paul, on the Road to Damascus, and the same Grace that He will show to **ALL** people, who surrender their will to His Will, that now, because I willingly and lovingly chose to surrender my will to His Will, I have an everlasting promise, that **IF** I continue in my surrendered obedience to the Words of His Torah of Life, I **WILL** reign with the Words of the Living Torah as His bride for eternity. That is what dreams are made of my friends. Amein

Verse 22 And has put ALL things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Qahal, Ekklesia Church, Assembly 23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all.

This tells us that **ALL** the power of the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Elohim, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is **IN** Messiah, and Messiah **IS** the Words of the Father's Living Torah, therefore this means that **ALL** the Power of the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Elohim, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, **IS IN His Torah of Life**. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein*