

The Mystery Made Known: Ephesians 1:3-12

Ben Merkle

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The Old Testament declared to mankind the distance between God and man, between heaven and earth. Worship in the Old Testament displayed how sin had separated us from the holy God. But the Old Testament also promised that God would redeem mankind. Yet how this redemption could happen was left a mystery. Paul declares here that the mystery has finally been revealed.

First, God elected / predestined us according to his own sovereign will and according to a well thought out plan.

4. “. . . just as he chose us . . . before the foundation of the world . . .”

5. “. . . having predestined us . . . according to the good pleasure of his will . . .”

8. “. . . which he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence . . .”

9. “. . . having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself . . .”

11. “. . . being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.”

Second, he redeemed us by putting us in his Son and putting us into the Father-Son relationship that has existed from all eternity. It was for this purpose that the Son was anointed as the Christ.

3. “. . . in Christ.”

4. “. . . in him. . .”

5. “. . . to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to himself . . .”

6. “. . . by which he made us accepted in the beloved.”

7. “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins . . .”

10. “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in him.”

11. “In him we also have obtained an inheritance . . .”

Lastly, God did this in order that through the display of his grace and love we might glorify and honor and praise him eternally.

3. “. . . who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places . . .”

4. “. . . that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”

6. “. . . to the praise of the glory of his grace . . .”

7. “. . . according to the riches of his grace . . .”

12. “. . . that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of his glory.”



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