

Study Questions  
Ephesians 4 Revisited  
Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

1). Eph 1:9 *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ,*

a). Eph 2:1 ¶ *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

b). What is the foundational focus of the first two chapters of Ephesians and what distinction if any is made in the presentation of this focus between one chapter and the next?

2). How does Chapter 3 begin and where do we need to go to find the conclusion of that which is stated in the beginning of the first verse?

3). What lies between these two points and why is it there?

4). Eph 3:1 ¶ *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles- 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,*

a). How does Paul describe himself?

b). In what sense is he a prisoner?

c). What is the specific reason that the dispensation [the stewardship] of the grace of God was given to him and what would this mean?

5). *Ac 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*

*Ac 9:1 ¶ Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

a). What is revealed here about Paul's [Hebrew – Saul] life before his journey to Damascus?

b). Who is the subject of his persecution?

c). Do you think this had any bearing on why the Lord chose him to be an Apostle?

6). *Ac 9:3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to*

*him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.*

- a). What takes place here on the Damascus road?
- b). Does Paul recognize who is talking to him?
- c). How many days is Paul without his sight and food and drink?

*7). Ac 9:17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. 19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples*

*at Damascus. 20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.*

- a). What happens to Paul on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and what is he then able to do?
- b). Not only is this an historical account of Paul's real life experience, but it also forms a significant type – do you know what it is a type of?
- c). Where else have we seen this type previously?
- d). What will be the antitype?
- e). Why do you think that God uses the experience of Paul to establish another type after the fashion of those we have just looked at?
- f). What additional credibility do you think this gives to Paul's ministry?
- g). What then does the grafting in of the Gentiles through Paul's ministry substantiate and verify?
- h). How does all of this make the certainty of God's plans and purposes by and for His Son even more sure?

*8). Eph 3:3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and*

*partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.*

a). What do you understand a ‘mystery’ to be?

b). What is the mystery that has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets?

c). Why was this mystery not made known to other generations?

d). What needed to be set in place before the mystery would be revealed?

Why was this necessary? What is the process by which the revelation of the mystery took place?

e). What connection can we make between the power of Christ’s resurrection and Paul’s ministry?

9). 1Pe 1:10 ¶ *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*

*12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached*

*the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.*

- a). What had the prophets prophesied of?
  - b). What was revealed to them?
  - c). How did the prophets testify beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow?
  - d). How has that which the prophets testified of now been reported to us?
  - e). Who else desires to look into this and why?
- 10). What is Paul's prayer about at the end of Chapter 3 and why do you think he prays in this way?