

Ephesians 1:1 – 14

Pentecost 2025

God bless you richly in the name of Jesus Christ. Today is Pentecost, one of the monumental days in Church history. And it is not only a day of significance for Christians, but also an important feast day for the nation of Israel in the Bible. This feast is mentioned by several names in the Old Testament. We won't look these up right now, but for your reference:

Feast of Weeks – Deuteronomy 16:10, 16

Feast of the Harvest – Exodus 34:22; 23:16

Day of the Firstfruits – Numbers 28:26

Acts 2:1 – 4

This is the record of the experience of Pentecost – the initial outpouring of holy spirit. Sometimes you will hear this day called “the birthday of the Church” though that phrase is not a Biblical phrase. But it was a significant moment’ the fulfillment of what had been promised since the events of Genesis 3. Man had lost his connection with God, holy spirit, and ever since then God had been taking steps to redeem man from that state of separation. Throughout the Old Testament, God could and did put spirit upon certain individuals for specific times and specific tasks. But now, with the events of Pentecost, the gift of holy spirit became available in the new birth. This morning I would like to look with you at what this mean, at least in part, from the viewpoint of God's perspective. It is always good to remember that God's thoughts

are not our thoughts as it says in Isaiah. So to be able to read at least some of God's thoughts is tremendous. Let's go to Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:1

We are included in the address of this epistle. This is God's Word TO and FOR us. Incidentally, this is also where we got the name for this ministry.

Ephesians 1:2, 3

This tells us that the scope of Ephesians is in the realm of the spirit. Spirit is what was lost in Genesis 3 and spirit is what was restored on Pentecost.

Ephesians 1:4, 5

He has chosen us to stand before Him as holy and without blame in love. In verse 5 we read that we are predestinated unto the adoption of children. God's purpose in the opening chapters of Genesis was to make a home for His family – but those plans were abruptly disrupted. Now, with the Day of Pentecost fully come, He once more has children. God wanted a family. By the way, this predestination must be understood in light of God's foreknowledge. "Whom He did foreknow, them he also predestinated" (Romans 8:29). And all of this was done according to the good pleasure of His will. What we are reading here in Ephesians is presented from the viewpoint of God's purposes. This is what He wanted.

Ephesians 1:4 – 9

All of this was accomplished because of what God did in Christ. This was God's purpose. It wasn't anything that man could do for himself. It

is the accomplishment of God's purpose to have a family. And that really is the great reality of Christianity. It is not a religion – it is the reality of the Father and His family.

Ephesians 1:10, 11

And there is more to come. There are events that will unfold that are still future. Discussion of these events is beyond the scope of what we are dealing with today though. It is enough to know that there are wonderful things still to come as the Father unveils His plan of redemption.

Ephesians 1:12

The first one to trust in Christ was God Almighty. And we are to be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13, 14

We also trusted in Christ after heard the good news of salvation. The Word of truth makes known Christ, who makes known the Father. We heard that Word and believed it. And after hearing and believing, we were sealed with the promised holy spirit, which first became available on Pentecost so many years ago. That holy spirit is the earnest of our coming inheritance, the future when the fulness of what God in Christ accomplished comes to pass. Pentecost sealed the deal!