

ENCORE | Ephesians 1-6 (*in review*)

01) What is the three-fold emphasis of the Book of Ephesians?

02) Ephesians 1:3 is the key verse to understanding the rest of the book; read it together.

- a) What does it mean that God has blessed us (His children) with every spiritual blessing?
- b) What does it mean that we have been blessed in the heavenly places?
- c) What is the significance of the term “in Christ”?

03) Read Ephesians 1:13-14.

- a) Who are these verses talking about?
- b) How is the Holy Spirit described?
- c) What is the significance of that for your life?

04) Read Ephesians 1:19-22.

- a) How is Christ described in these verses?
- b) Verse 22 says God gave Christ to the Church. What does that mean for your life?
- c) Is there any power greater than Christ?
- d) Is there any enemy of yours with more authority than Christ?
- e) As His child, how much power is available to you?
- f) Is there any sin that you cannot overcome by the power of Christ?

05) Chapter 2 helps us remember who we were before Christ and is a call to break down the wall of separation that sometimes hinders true Christian fellowship (Eph. 2:14). What are some common “middle walls” that we might struggle with today?

06) Chapter 3 tells us much about our mission “to make all see” (Eph. 3:9-10).

- a) What are we called to make known (v. 10)?
- b) What should people be seeing in your life?

07) Read Ephesians 4:1-4. What is God’s will for your relationships in the Body?

08) What is the key principal found in 4:22-24?

09) In Ephesians 5:1-21 we find the admonition to personal separation. In other words, as God’s children we are to be different, we are to be seeking personal holiness—sanctification.

- a) What does Ephesians 5:8 say?
- b) How can you walk in the light?

10) What is the common theme of Ephesians 5:22-6:9?

11) Ephesians 6:10-17 is about spiritual warfare and the armor of God.

- a) How does this passage on spiritual warfare relate to the rest of the Book of Ephesians?
- b) How does Ephesians 6:10-17 relate to Ephesians 1:19-22?

12) How would you summarize the Book of Ephesians?

13) How has God changed you as a result of our study in Ephesians?

14) What in your life still needs to change?

Looking Ahead | Judges 1:1-2:23: The Introduction

Monday (v. 1:1-7) – After the death of Joshua, Israel was governed for a period of time by a group of elders (Josh. 24:31; Ju. 2:7). From the time of the death of the elders until the coronation of Israel's first king (Saul), leadership of Israel was given to several judges. These judges acted as God's agents to deliver His people from foreign oppression. Subsequent to the military deliverances, the judges continued to function as protectors of the nation and civil administrators of the people. The book of Judges covers a period of time from the death of Joshua to the dawn of the monarchy. Most conservative scholars believe the book of Judges covers about three hundred to three hundred and fifty years of Israel's history (1390 BC -1043 BC). The Judges mentioned here functioned more as governors & law makers than simply presiding over legal hearings like our judges do today (though they did that also). They also acted as military leaders, and the Judges we are going to study were always called of God to deliver His people out of the "hand" (this word is repeated often in Judges) of their enemies.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Exo. 39-40; Mk. 4:21-41

Tuesday (v. 1:1-7) – The first verse of the book of Judges is more than a historical marker. It is a statement that identifies a drastic change in the spiritual condition of Israel. Even though the books of Joshua and Judges stand side by side in Scripture, they are poles apart in what they record about Israel's relationship to God. Joshua is a book of victory and faith as the Israelites destroyed the backbone of military resistance in the land of Canaan. Judges is a book of defeat and sin as the individual tribes failed to obey God's command to drive out the inhabitants of the land and the remaining heathen influence. In the book of Judges we find the "Seven Cycles of Sin" Each successive cycle led to greater and greater expressions of decadent behavior. At the lowest ebb of each cycle, God sent a deliverer to rescue the people from their oppression.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Ps. 90; Mk. Lev. 1-2; Mk. 5:1-20

Wednesday (v. 1:8-15) – Othniel (the first Judge) is mentioned here as being a brother of Caleb (we will study his life next week). Notice how little time had passed from the conquest (Joshua) to the time of the Judges. It seems that the Children of Israel started out well, they were obedient to God's command to drive out the inhabitants of the land and to take possession of everything. What can we learn from Caleb in these few verses? What can we learn about Caleb's family from these verses?

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Lev. 3-5; Mk. 5:21-43

Thursday (v. 1:16-36) – Partial victories leading to failure. This passage clearly identifies why the Israelites had so many spiritual struggles throughout their history; they were disobedient. God had told them to drive out the inhabitants of the land but they refused. We might object, but they were being merciful! Or we might say; yeah but look, their enemies had chariots of iron. God had promised to give the victory, and God had commanded the Israelites to "utterly destroy" the Canaanites. Their failures here led to 350 years of failures during the time of the Judges, 350 years of failure under the kings of Israel, 600 years of servitude under the Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians, and Romans, and ultimately their rejection of Jesus Christ. One lesson we can learn from this passage is that we need to take the commands of God seriously, even (especially?) when His will seems to go against what we think is best.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Lev. 6-7; Mk. 6:1-29

Friday (v. 2:1-15) – This is what we call "generation degeneration." God confronted the people on the issue of their disobedience. He then told them the punishment they would bear for their sin; God would no longer drive out the people. The people seemed to be remorseful, but it seems clear from the text (and the rest of the book) that they were not repentant. What is the difference between being upset or remorseful and true repentance? "Bochim" means literally "weepers" think about that. They named the place where the Lord had appeared to them and given them a message "He made us cry" their reaction and their thinking seems to have been very self-centered.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Lev. 8-10; Mk. 6:30-56

Saturday (v. 2:16-23) God's loving judgment. Don't you just love it when you find a phrase like this in the Bible "nevertheless"? Even though the people had rejected His commands, even though they had turned from Him to worship idols and had spurned His great love, even though His great name was trampled underfoot, and He had already told them that they would be judged if they didn't live by His commands; "nevertheless." God still loved them and even raised up Judges to deliver them. What a beautiful picture of our God we find in the book of Judges. What a beautiful picture pointing forward to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

▪ Daily Bible Reading: Lev. 11-12; Mk. 7:1-13