

Ephesians 1:15-23

An apocalypse is when the \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven and Earth becomes visible to you.

- The apocalypse in the letter of Ephesians involves a revelation of the reconciliation of all things, as well as the enthronement of humans with the Messiah. How can understanding these apocalypses as present realities change how you view your life in the here and now?
- To think apocalyptically is to think Christianly – to view this present moment in light of ultimate reality. And in the ultimate reality, Heaven and Earth are one.

V15

- For this reason, alludes to all of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

V16

- Paul does not \_\_\_\_\_ thanking God for the Ephesians.

V17

- Praying for new wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_ a one-time thing.

V18

- Paul adopts what OT Storyline?

V19

- What Power is Paul talking about?

V20

- Paul points out two dimensions

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

V21

- Above all is spatial language
- What other language does Paul use in this verse?

V22

- The idea of the church being the body of Christ is mentioned where else in the Bible?
- Jesus refers to Paul's persecution of the church to what?

V23

- "Yes, this is here given as the final glory of the infinitely exalted Christ. Angels and archangels are subject to Him. But believing men are joined to Him, with a union such that He and they, by this same messenger of His, are called elsewhere (1 Corinthians 12:12) one 'Christ.'" (Moule)

Ephesians 2:1-10

Thought Questions:

1. How is the devil at work in hearts that don't know Christ?
2. How does Christ bring life?
3. What do we learn about grace and salvation from this passage?

### Paul's Worldview

- Shaped by Greek Philosophy , \_\_\_\_\_ religion, and Roman politics.

V21

- This \_\_\_\_\_ and the age to \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>This Age</b>	<b>Age to come</b>
Evil and Sin	Justice and love
Slavery to Powers	Freedom
Violent humans	Shalom
Death	Eternal Life

What happens when Paul encounter the risen Jesus?

- A complication in his understanding of the relationship between the ages.
- In his mind the resurrection is something that happened at the end of this age to transition us into the new creation.
- Scholars will use language of inauguration which is helpful. They will say the Day of the Lord and the new creation was inaugurated in the death and resurrection of Jesus and will be consummated when he returns.
- Because for Paul, heaven is a reality that overlaps the earth. God's kingdom is not a non-material, postmortem destination, but is rather the sovereign rule of the creator over the entire created order, with death itself, that

which corrupts and defaces the good creation, as the last enemy to be destroyed.

Paul's worldview answers these five questions

1. Who are we? We are the one people, Jew and Gentile, of the one God; we are the Messiah's people bearing the mark of faith; we are the church.
2. Where are we? We live in God's world where Jesus the Messiah has begun his reign.
3. What's wrong? Sin, death, idolatry, and injustice have marred God's good world.
4. What's the solution? Prayer, the Spirit, and resurrection are the way forward.
5. What time is it? We live in the overlap of ages; the kingdom has already come/ the kingdom has yet to come. (the already and not yet). God's future is here and it is come.

Already adopted (Romans 8:15)	But not yet (Romans 8:23)
Already redeems in Christ (Ephesians 1:7)	But not yet (Ephesians 4:30)
Already Sanctified (1 Corinthians 1:2)	But not yet (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)
Already saved (Ephesians 2:8)	But not yet (Romans 5:9)
Already raised with Christ (Ephesians 2:6)	But not yet (1 Corinthians 15:52)

- a. We live in a theological tension. By faith in Christ, all of these spiritual blessings are ours already, but the full enjoyment of these blessings is not yet ours. This is the life of faith: “the assurance of things hoped for” in the future, and “the conviction of things not seen” in the present (Hebrews 11:1).

Final Thoughts: Worldview is not what you are looking at, but what you are looking through. A worldview shapes how you interpret, evaluate, and draw conclusion based on what you see. For Paul, his worldview was thoroughly Jewish formed in light of Jesus the Messiah who has come to save the world: both Jewish and Gentile (pagan). As we will see, this worldview shapes Paul’s theology.