

*Bless the Lord!*



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- Bless the Lord, O my soul! The Old Testament and Jewish traditional worship of the Lord are the background of this opening praise of the Lord.
- In the Old Testament, individuals blessed the Lord in response to His deliverance or protection.
- **Genesis 14:18-20** <sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

# Bless the Lord!

- **NKJ Psalm 41:13** Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
- **NKJ Psalm 72:18** Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!
- **NAS Psalm 72:19** And blessed be His <sup>a</sup>glorious name forever; And may the whole <sup>b</sup>earth be filled with His glory. <sup>c</sup>Amen, and Amen.
- **NAS Psalm 89:52** <sup>a</sup>Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.
- **NKJ Psalm 106:48** Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!



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- **Luke 1:68** <sup>68</sup> "Blessed *is* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people

# *Bless the Lord!*

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- **Jewish Background:** The Jewish concept of heaven includes **3** heavens.
  1. the **atmosphere** surrounding the earth
  2. the celestial sky / or **universe**
  3. the **dwelling place** of God

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- **Jewish Background:** The Jewish concept of heaven includes 3 heavens.
  1. the atmosphere surrounding the earth
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- **Jewish perspective:** “the age to come” - in the future God will make all things new and fulfill all His promises to the Jews.

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- **Immediate Context of Ephesians 1:3-12:** The language used tells us that we have already received them, they are a present reality

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- **Context of book of Ephesians:**

1. the realm where we **have** spiritual blessings :Ephesians 1:3)
2. the realm where **Jesus is seated** at the right hand of God  
Ephesians 2:6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,
3. the realm where spiritual **wickedness** resides  
<sup>NKJ</sup> Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,  
<sup>NKJ</sup> Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *place*



# Bless the Lord!

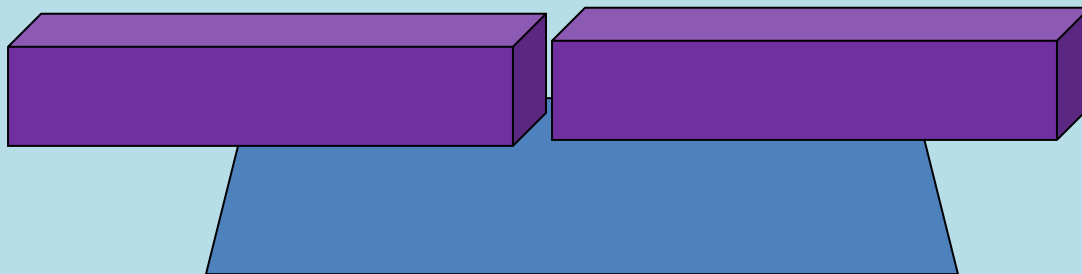
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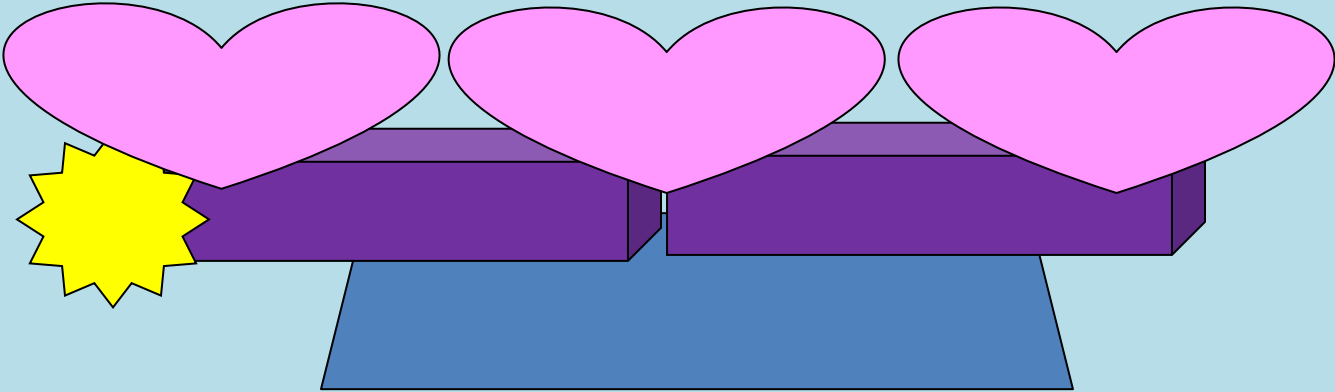
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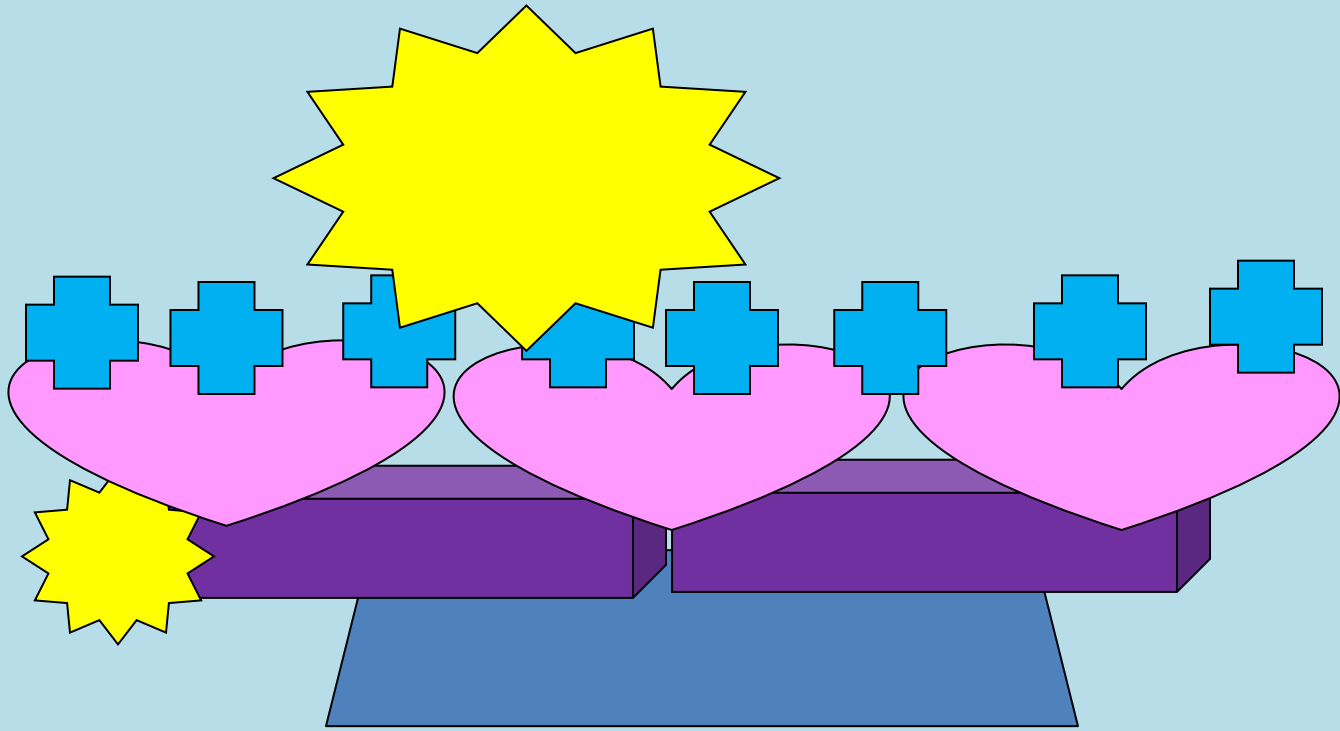
## The Sentence:

- There is one main verb: Eph 1:4: He chose us
- There are two main participles which complement this verb:
  - Ephesians 1:5 predestining us
  - Ephesians 1:9 making known to us
- There are many phrases describing the blessings!









3 Εὐλογητός ὁ θεός

**Blessed be God**

καὶ πατὴρ  
**and Father**

τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,

**of Lord our Jesus Christ**

ὁ εὐλόγησας ἡμᾶς

**who has blessed us**

ἐν πάσῃ εὐλογίᾳ πνευματικῇ

**with every blessing spiritual**

ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις

**in the heavenlies**

ἐν Χριστῷ,

**in Christ**

4

καθὼς

**even as**

ἐξελέξατο ἡμᾶς

**He chose us**

ἐν αὐτῷ

**in Him**

πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου

**before the foundation of the world**

εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἁγίους

**to be we holy**

καὶ ἀμώμους

**and blameless**

κατειώπιον αὐτοῦ

**before Him**

ἐν ἀγάπῃ,

**in love**

προορίσας ἡμᾶς

**predestining us**

εἰς υἰοθεσίαν

**into adoption**

διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

**through Jesus Christ**

εἰς

αὐτόν,

**into Him**

κατὰ τὴν εὐδοκίαν

**according to the good pleasure**

τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ,

**of will His**

6

εἰς ἔπαινον δόξης

**to praise of glory**

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τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ  
**of grace His**  
ἧς ἐχαρίτωσεν ἡμᾶς  
**which He graced us**  
ἐν τῷ ἠγαπημένῳ.  
**in the beloved**

7

Ἐν ᾧ ἔχομεν  
**In whom we have**  
τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν  
**redemption**  
διὰ τοῦ αἵματος αὐτοῦ,  
**through His blood**  
τὴν ἄφεσιν τῶν παραπτωμάτων,  
**the remission of trespasses**  
κατὰ τὸ πλοῦτος  
**according to riches**  
τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ  
**of His grace**  
ἧς ἔπερίσσευσεν  
**which He lavished**  
εἰς ἡμᾶς,  
**upon us**  
ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ  
**in all wisdom**

8

9

γνωρίσας ἡμῖν  
**making known to us**

τὸ μυστήριον  
**the mystery**  
τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ,  
**of His will**  
κατὰ τὴν εὐδοκίαν αὐτοῦ  
**according to His good pleasure**  
ἣν ἔπροέθετο  
**which He purposed**  
ἐν αὐτῷ  
**in Him**  
εἰς οἰκονομίαν  
**that in the dispensation**  
τοῦ πληρώματος τῶν καιρῶν,  
**of the fullness of the times**  
ἀνακεφαλαιώσασθαι τὰ πάντα

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εἰς ἑπαινοῦ ὁδοῦς

**to praise of glory**

to sum up all things

ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ,

in Christ

τὰ ἐπὶ τοῖς οὐρανοῖς

things in the heavens

καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς

and things in the earth

ἐν αὐτῷ. ^

in Him

Ἐν ᾧ καὶ ἐκληρώθημεν

In whom also we obtained inheritance

προορισθέντες

being predestined

κατὰ πρόθεσιν

according to the purpose

τοῦ τὰ πάντα ἐνεργοῦντος

of Him who works all things

κατὰ τὴν βουλήν

according to the purpose

τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ

of His will

10

11

12

εἰς τὸ εἶναι ἡμᾶς

that we should be

εἰς ἔπαινον δόξης αὐτοῦ

to the praise of His glory

τούς προηλπικότας

^

being the first to

hope

ἐν τῷ

Χριστῷ.

in the Christ.

*Bless the Lord, O my Soul*

He **BLESSED** us with every spiritual  
blessing He **CHOSE** us to  
be holy and blameless

**He PREDESTINED us into adoption  
through Jesus Christ**

*HE GRACED US IN THE BELOVED*

He **REDEEMED** us through Christ's blood

**He LAVISHED the riches of His grace on us**

He **MADE KNOWN** the mystery of His will

He **WILL GATHER** all together in Christ

**He WORKS all things according  
to the purpose of His will**

*to the Praise of His Glory!*

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## **The Summary:**

- The blessings that we receive are given “that we should be to the praise of God’s glory.”

Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

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Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

- Everything described here is a reflection of who God is.

*Holy. Blameless.*

*Father.*

*Master. Redeemer.*

*Planner.*

*Sovereign.*

*Loving. Gracious. Merciful. Rich. Generous. Powerful.*



# *Bless the Lord!*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.