

Bless the Lord! Ephesians 1:3-12

This praise to God – _____ – at the beginning of a letter – is found _____ in Greek writings. It is _____ in Paul’s letters in the New Testament.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! The Old Testament and Jewish _____ of the Lord are the background of this opening praise of the Lord. In the Old Testament, individuals blessed the Lord in _____ to His _____. **Gen 14:18; Ps 41:13, 72:18-19, 89:52, 109:48; Luke 1:68**

The phrase “heavenly places” – which is used many times in Ephesians, and is used _____ in Ephesians – refers to the _____

Jewish Background: The Jewish concept of heaven includes _____ heavens.

1. the _____ surrounding the earth
2. the _____
3. the _____ of God

Jewish perspective: “the age to come” - in the _____ God will make all things new and fulfill all His promises to the Jews.

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

Context of book of Ephesians:

1. the realm where we _____ spiritual blessings :**Ephesians 1:3**
2. the realm where _____ at the right hand of God **Ephesians 2:6**
3. the realm where spiritual _____ resides ^{NKJ} **Ephesians 3:10;** ^{NKJ} **Ephesians 6:12**

The Sentence:

There is one main _____. Eph 1:4

There are two main participles which _____ this verb. Ephesians 1:5; Ephesians 1:9

The Summary:

The blessings that we receive are given “that we should be to the praise of _____.” **Eph 1:12**
Everything described here is a reflection of _____.