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The Reason for Godly Wisdom
1: 18b-23

The reason for Godly wisdom DIG: What are the three facts that Rabbi Sha'ul wanted the Ephesians to know? How did God demonstrate His power to us? In what ways are you using the power that God has given you to advance His purposes? Why do we need God's power? Since God is over all authorities and powers in this world, why do you think evil still exists?

REFLECT: Which is a greater temptation for you: to live as if you are powerless and no power is available, or to live as if you have plenty of power without relying on God? Why should having faith in Messiah make a difference in your life? The same power that raised Yeshua from the dead works through your faith. How should you be using this power?

What a glorious inheritance God has given to His children.

Having prayed that **the Ephesians** might know **God** personally (**to see link click As – The Request for Godly Wisdom**), **Rabbi Sha'ul** now gave the reason: **so that you will know three facts**, which are spelled out in **1:18b-23**. The Greek word **know** is *epignosis*, meaning *knowledge that is true, accurate, thorough and full.* It was **the knowledge** of **God Himself**. **Paul** was **praying** in effect, "**God**, give them a keen, deep, rich, strong understanding of their **inheritance in Messiah**." **The apostle prayed** that **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** would give their **spirits** the right **spirit of wisdom and revelation** so that they would have **a fuller, deeper knowledge of Him.** This knowledge goes beyond intellectual knowledge or worldly wisdom (see the commentary on **First Corinthians An – The Foolishness of Worldly Wisdom**). It is far richer, and **Paul** desired that the **Ephesian** believers, like those in Colossae, would **keep seeking the things above, where Messiah is sitting at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1).**

The first fact to be established pertained to the past (1:18b): So that you will know the hope to which He has called you. A believer's present **hope** has

its source in the past when he was called to salvation **(Romans 1:6** and **8:30; Ephesians 4:1** and **4; Second Timothy 1:9).** The word **hope** in Scripture is the absolute certainty of a believer's victory in **ADONAI (Romans 8:23-24; Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:5; First Thessalonians 1:3** and **First Peter 3:15).**

The second fact Paul wanted his readers to know refers to the future (1:18c): The riches of His glorious inheritance He has promised His people. At the time of the resurrection of believers (see the commentary on **Revelation Ff – Blessed and Holy are Those Who Have Part in the First Resurrection**), **Ha'Shem** will inherit those whom **He** has purchased at a great price according to **the riches** of **His grace (1:7).** In **1:14 Paul** wrote that the believers' **inheritance** is their final redemption from the presence of sin. Here in **1:18 he** wrote about **God's inheritance**, the believers themselves! Because of the glorious **grace (1:5)** of the glorious **Father (1:17)**, **He** will receive **His** glorious **inheritance (1:18)**.[86]

The moment you were spiritually born into **God's** family, you were given some astounding birthday gifts: the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, family intimate access, and the family **inheritance (First Corinthians 2:23)**. The B'rit Chadashah gives great emphasis to our rich spiritual **inheritance (Philippians 4:19)**. As children of **God** we get to share in the family fortune. Here on earth we are given **the riches . . . of His grace . . . kindness . . . patience . . . wisdom . . . power . . . and mercy (Romans 2:4, 9:23, 11:33; Ephesians 1:7, 3:16** and **24).** But in eternity we will have even more.

Paul said: **I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance God has given to His people (1:18 NLT).** What exactly does that **inheritance** include? First, we will get to be with **ADONAI** forever **(First Thessalonians 4:17** and **5:10)**. Second, we will be completely changed to be like **Messiah (First John 3:2** and **Second Corinthians 4:17)**. Third, we will be free from all pain, death, and suffering **(Revelation 21:4)**. Fourth, we will be rewarded and reassigned to positions of service **(Mark 9:41** and **10:30; First Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 10:35;** and **Matthew 25:21** and **23)**. Fifth, we will get to share in **Messiah's glory (Romans 8:17; Colossians 3:4; Second Thessalonians 2:14; Second Timothy 2:12; First Peter 5:1).** What an **inheritance**![87]

The third fact Rabbi Sha'ul wanted believers to know concerns the present (1:19-23): How surpassingly great is His power working in us who have faith (1:19a). The word **power** (Greek: *dynamis*) means a spiritually dynamic and

living force. This is **the power** of **God** directed toward believers. **Paul** then mentions three manifestations of **God's power** seen **in Messiah**.

> First, the energetic **power according with the working** (Greek: *energeken,* where we get our word energy) **of the strength** (Greek: *ischyos*, which **He** provides **of His might** (Greek: *kratous*, meaning *the power that overcomes resistance,* as in **Messiah's** miracles and is only used of **God**, never of believers) **in Messiah when God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in heaven (Ephesians 1:19b-20** and **Psalm 110:1).** All these words have the general meaning of **power**, and taken together they underscore **God's great power** available to believers.[88]



> These verses also introduce the theme of spiritual warfare, which returns in **2:2**, **3:9-10**, and **4:26-27**, culminating in **6:10-18** (see **Ca – The Spiritual Battle**). **Messiah** is **above every ruler, authority, power, dominion or any other name that can be named either in the present age or in the world to come (1:21).** It should be noted that the matter of the cosmic war between **Ha'Shem** and **His angels**, and **the Adversary** and **his demons** is a matter of great importance in the Bible. Redemption is a demonstration of **God's power** before **the angels (3:10)**. Our conflict is with these **fallen angels**, who endeavor to halt our efforts for **God (Ephesians 6:12; First Peter 3:18-22,** which shows **Messiah's** triumph over those **fallen angels**, accomplished by **His** death). **Satan** and **his demons** have tried to thwart the plan of **God** from the beginning (see the commentary on **Genesis Ba – The Woman Saw the Fruit of the Tree and Ate It**), and are the constant enemy of the work of the Kingdom, but they are destined to be overthrown and eternally banished (see the commentary on **Revelation Fl – When The**

Thousand Years Are Over).[89]

The second manifestation of **God's power in Messiah** is seen in **His** placing **all things under his feet** (see the commentary on **Hebrews Am – The Proof of Messiah's Sovereignty**). **(1:22a)**. Whereas Adam lost his headship over creation when he sinned, **Messiah** was made **Head** over **all creation** (see **Ap – Redeemed in Messiah**). This will be fully realized in the future (see the commentary on **First Corinthians Dt – Messiah: The Firstfruits of Those Who Have Fallen Asleep**).

The third manifestation of **God's power in Messiah** is **His making the Kosher King Head over everything for the Church, which is His Body, the full expression of Him who fills all creation (1:22b-23).** Though the final manifestation of **Messiah's headship** over **all creation** will be in the future, **He** is now **Head** over the fellowship of believers. **He** is also called **the Head of the Church** in **Ephesians 4:15**, **5:23** and **Colossians 1:18**. Though **the Church** is implied in **Ephesians 1:10**, it is specifically mentioned for the first time here in **1:22b**. **His Body** is **the** unseen, universal **Church** consisting of all true believers.[90]

That ends **Paul's** speech. The power of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**, through the resurrected and ascended **Messiah** is available to all believers – by **faith**. **His power** is **in us who believe (1:19)**. It is **grace** that supplies our **inheritance**, but it is **faith** that lays hold of **it**. We are saved **by grace through faith (2:8-9),** and we live by grace through **faith (First Corinthians 15:10)**. In the four Gospels, we see **God's power** at work in the ministry of **Yeshua Messiah**, but in the book of **Acts**, we see that same **power** at work in ordinary men and women, members of **the Body of Messiah.** What a transformation took place in **Peter's** life between the end of the Gospels and the beginning of **Acts**. What made the difference? The resurrection **power** of **Yeshua Messiah (Acts 1:8).** The greatest power shortage today is not in our generators, or our gas tanks. It is in our personal lives. Will **Paul's** prayer be answered in your life? Will you, starting today, begin to know by experience **God** and **His** calling, and **inheritance**, and **power**?[91]

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for the rich and glorious **inheritance** that **You** have given to me **(Ephesians 1:18)**. How awesome that I will be able to live with **You** eternally! Our relationship is a close family relationship **(John 1:12).** When neighbors pass by, people say hello and may chat for a bit; but when father comes, they run up to and give a big greeting of love and warmth. **I also heard a loud***

voice from the throne, *saying:* ***Behold, the dwelling of God is among men, and He shall tabernacle among them. They shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them and be their God. He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:1-4).***

What a comfort to have ***You*** *there with me in all* ***Your*** *holiness and purity. I never have to worry about any sin or deceit or anything wrong ever entering my life ever again for heaven is totally* ***Your*** *holy home! What a fantastic thought to never worry about sin ever again!* ***And nothing unholy shall ever enter it, nor anyone doing what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Book of Life (Revelation 21:27****).*

I long to please ***You*** *in my earthly life now, that I may bless* ***You*** *by* ***throwing*** *any* ***crowns*** *I may receive* ***at your feet*** *in worship of* ***You****, as* ***the elders*** *do****. The twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. And they throw their crowns down before the throne, chanting, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power" (Revelation 21:10-11a).*** *I love* ***You****, for* ***You*** *are so Worthy! In* ***Messiah Yeshua's*** *holy* ***Name*** *and power of His resurrection. Amen*