

Ephesians 1

1. Background Information

- The Author
- The Recipients
- The Location
- The Time
- The Cultural Setting
 - o The city
 - o The religious environment
 - o Ethnic relations

2. A Snapshot of Ephesians

- Its Twofold Division
 - o The Gospel Story (1—3)
 - o Our Story (4—6)

- Its Four Major Themes¹
 - New identity in Christ
 - Overcoming animosity between Jews and Gentiles
 - Overcoming immoral habits of Gentile ways of living
 - Overcoming the fear of spiritual powers

3. The Gospel Story – Spiritual Blessings (Ch.1)

- Spiritual blessings
 - Election (1:4,11)

 - Adoption (1:5)

 - Redemption (1:7)

 - Sealing (1:13)

- Prayer for the Ephesians
 - A spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:17)
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 - Eyes of the heart enlightened (1:18)
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¹ The wording here has been modified but the four themes come from Clinton E. Arnold's *Ephesians: Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*.