



Empowering People to Change the World

What a Glorious Future!

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Road Declaration...

What a Glorious Future!

Verse 9

- We know the “mystery of His will.” Wow!
- God has taken us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.
- From the kingdom of ignorance into the kingdom of wisdom.
- From the fear of man to the fear of God—which is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.
- We know what many university PhD’s don’t understand...the mystery of His will.

Allan Bloom, Jewish, University of Chicago, Yale, and Cornell Professor, was considered a prodigy who graduated from the University of Chicago at 18 years of age. He enrolled at 15. In his best-selling book, *The Closing of the American Mind*, Bloom's criticism revolves around his belief that the "great books" of [Western thought](#) have been devalued as a source of wisdom.

Bloom said (speaking of his “uneducated” grandparents who live by the noble standards of the Bible), “I do not believe that my generation, my cousins who have been educated in the American way, all of whom are MD’s or PhD’s, have any comparable learning to my ‘uneducated grandparents.’ When they talk about heaven and earth, the relations between men and women, parents and children, the human condition, I hear nothing but clichés, superficialities, the material of satire. I mean that life based on the Book, the Bible, is closer to the truth, that it provides the material for deeper research in and access to the real nature of things.”

- We have been blessed by our Father in Heaven with wisdom and knowledge, not the mystery, but His WILL! Upper case!
- We know how it all got started, and we know how it's all going to culminate...
- If you could really know seven books of the Bible, I would spend most of my time in the following:
- The Power Seven Books of the Bible:
 - Genesis—The foundations of everything—humankind, sin, covenant, prayer, and Israel
 - Psalms—The love of God and for God, passion for God, prayer and crying out
 - Matthew—The life of Jesus and the Kingdom of God
 - Acts—The history of the early church
 - Romans—The theology of the Bible
 - Ephesians—How to battle from a position of being “in Christ”
 - Revelation—The culmination of all things

Verse 10

- Christ is coming back! We will be raised up. Your grandparents and friends who have died before us will be raised up. We believe in a real resurrection.
- You will be reunited with your loved ones! We will have a recreated earth!
- We have a future-looking God:
 - “We are a new creation; the old has passed away; behold the new has come.”

- He calls the “things that are not as though they are.”
- **Jeremiah 29:11**
“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
- God's not looking backwards! God looks forward! God doesn't look back at all of your sins and mistakes. He looks forward with expectation and encouragement!

A new dispensation...What will that look like?

- In Revelation 20 and 21, a “new creation” – *bara*.
- Isaiah 65, “Behold I create new heavens and a new earth” – *bara*.
- Colossians says it this way:
- **Colossians 1:16-17**
“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”
- Paul goes on to say in Colossians:
- **Colossians 1:20**
“And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”
- Turn to Revelation 20 and 21. We are picking it up after the Great Tribulation and the battle of Armageddon and the Millennium...
- God is going to create a “new heaven and a new earth!”

Verse 11

- Atheist: “Hey, I don’t believe in God!” Doesn't matter, He didn't invite you to the party! But, I don't believe in God...You will!
- Predestinated! *Pro...Horizo...*He knows your horizons, your boundaries, and your destiny; working it all out “according to the counsel of His will.”
- An inheritance...obtained! He has reserved it for you! He has reservations for you and me.
 - Don't you feel better when you go on a trip to know you have reservations?
- All planned before the world was created! We are working on all of this, working it out; but He sees it all, from eternity.
- Who gets all these blessings?
- Who experiences this promised “pro-horizo?”
- Not everyone, but rather, those who have believed...
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a “Counsel” working out His will for your life.

Verse 12

- Look at who it is that is “the praise of His glory”? Like bookends.
- Read the last of verse 14, “to the praise of His glory.”
- Our verse is speaking of those “who first trusted in Christ.”

- God, the Father, has His eye on His saints! That's who these blessings are for!

Verses 13-14

- Step 1 is "hearing the gospel." One must hear with their ears the gospel of truth.
- **Romans 10:14**
"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"
- You can't believe in something that you have not heard. So, it all begins with hearing.
- Step 2 is "believing," "trusting," NT:4100.
 - *Pisteuo* (pist-yoo'-o); from NT:4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ).
 - Key word might be "to entrust," to commit wholeheartedly to.
- **Romans 10:17**
"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
- This is the kind of faith that saves us – it sets us free to enter into the "great adventure!"
- And God does a marvelous work in our lives...

Verses 13b-14

- “You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”
- Ex. In that culture at that time, you shipped things from March until November. If you were shipping something from Rome to Ephesus, the owner of the household would put wax on the opening of the cargo and then put the imprint of the family name into the seal of wax. The servants would then come and find the seal at the port and pick up the items.
- The seal provided two things:
 - 1) Ownership
 - 2) Security - If the seal of the owner was on it, no one could touch it, and it was guaranteed to reach its destination.
- We are guaranteed that we will get our inheritance! God is going to get us there! You are sealed for your salvation by the Holy Spirit.
- Guaranteed - the earnest, the down payment of your inheritance.
 - The Holy Spirit is with you forever!
 - Ex. “Earnest, guaranteed” *arobana*, in Greece today is the engagement ring. God has given us the Holy Spirit as an engagement ring of the culmination of our marriage to the Lamb. When you get the engagement ring, you know your destination! Marriage!
- “Until the redemption of the purchased possession.” You are the most expensive thing to God! In the whole universe! It cost God His Son!

- You are precious, beloved.
 - You are not an animal.
 - You did not “evolve” from an ape!
 - Listen, if there was evolution, then there would be people in all stages of the process. You would have Ralph, who is only halfway evolved. You would half apes and half humans walking around.
- The Father sent the Son for you. It cost the Son His life. His blood was shed for you. There has never been a more costly sacrifice in the universe.
 - So, He is saying:

These are the Seven Spiritual Blessings (Ephesians 1:3-14):

1. We were chosen by Him before the earth was created (verse 4).
2. We have a destiny, a future that is good. “Pro-horizo,” pre-destinated each of us of a plan marked out with His boundaries for a positive, wonderful future (verse 5).
3. We have been adopted into His family. We are now sons and daughters of the King, and we’ve been given a kingdom (verse 5).
4. We have received “grace upon grace.” Favor upon favor. He looks into your eyes and blesses you and loves you (verse 6).
 - When He looks at you, He sees His Son!
 - He has done all this for His pleasure, for your happiness, for your joy.

5. We have been redeemed from slavery to freedom through the blood of Christ on the cross (verses 7-8).
6. We know the “mystery of His will” (verse 9).
7. We have received a guaranteed inheritance reserved for us through the Holy Spirit (verses 10-14).
 - He has shown us that everything will culminate in the Last Days in which all of creation will be destroyed and created again.
 - All for those who believe and “entrust” themselves to Him.
 - Then, He has given us His Holy Spirit that is our seal, and our *arobana*, our guarantee of future blessings.

All for the praise of His glory!