

# The Big Picture

GOD IN THE CENTER FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION

## Redemption: To the Praise of His Glory

### A Deeper Look - Study Guide Companion

This week we saw that redemption begins with God, is accomplished through Christ, and leads to the praise of God's glory. Over the next five days, return to Scripture and look more closely at what God's work of redemption reveals about Him.

As you study, keep asking the question that guides *The Big Picture*:

**What does this reveal about God?**

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## Day 1: Look at What God Has Done

### Read Ephesians 1:3-14

Read the passage slowly. This time, pay particular attention to everything God does.

1. Make a list of the actions attributed to God in this passage. What has He done, what is He doing, and what has He promised?
2. Notice how often Paul uses phrases such as “**in Christ**,” “**in him**,” or “**in the Beloved**.” What do these phrases tell you about the place of Christ in God's work of redemption?
3. According to verses 5, 9, and 11, what words does Paul use to describe God's will and purpose?
4. Verse 4 takes us back to “**before the foundation of the world**.” What does that tell you about God's purpose in redemption?
5. After looking closely at the passage, answer our *Big Picture* question:

**What does Ephesians 1:3-14 reveal about God?**

### For Reflection:

When you think about salvation, do you tend to begin with what *you receive* or with what *God has done*? How might Ephesians 1 change where you place your attention?

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## Day 2: Redemption Through His Blood

Read Ephesians 1:7-8 and 1 Peter 1:18-21

Ephesians 1:7 tells us:

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

1. According to Ephesians 1:7, where is redemption found?
2. What did our redemption require?
3. According to 1 Peter 1:18-19, what could **not** redeem us? What did?
4. Peter describes Christ's blood as “**precious.**” What does the cost of redemption teach you about the seriousness of sin?
5. What does the giving of Christ teach you about the grace and love of God?

### Look Again:

Read Ephesians 1:7 once more. Notice how much this single verse tells us about God: His grace, His provision, His forgiveness, and the gift of His Son.

### For Reflection:

We sometimes treat forgiveness casually because it is freely offered to us. How does remembering the cost of our redemption deepen your understanding of God's grace?

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## Day 3: But He Gives More Grace

Read James 4:1-10 and Ephesians 1:7-8

In *Glory Exchanged*, we saw desires turned away from God toward the world. But James does not leave us there.

1. According to James 4:4, where had the people's affections turned?
2. What five words change the direction of the passage in verse 6? “**But he gives more grace.**”
3. What does James call people to do in verses 7-10?
4. Now return to Ephesians 1:7-8. How does Paul describe God's grace?

5. Put these two passages together. What do they reveal about God's response to sinful people who need redemption?

**For Reflection:**

Where are you most aware of your need for God's grace right now?

Spend some time thanking God that His grace does not excuse sin or pretend that it does not matter. His grace provided what sinners could never provide for themselves through Jesus Christ.

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## **Day 4: Glory Exchanged, Glory Praised**

**Read Romans 1:18-25 and Ephesians 1:3-14**

These passages give us an important contrast.

In Romans 1, look for these words and ideas: **glory - exchanged - Creator - worship**

Then return to Ephesians 1 and look for: **grace - Christ - redemption - praise - glory**

1. According to Romans 1:21-23, what did humanity fail to give God?
2. What happened to God's glory in verse 23?
3. What happened to worship in verse 25?
4. Now look at Ephesians 1:6, 12, and 14. What phrase or idea appears repeatedly?
5. What contrast do you see between Romans 1 and Ephesians 1?

Think about the movement: **God's glory revealed → God's glory exchanged → God's glory praised**

6. What has made that reversal possible?

**For Reflection:**

Is there anything in your life receiving devotion, attention, affection, or service that rightly belongs to God?

Ask God to help you live in a way that is **“to the praise of his glory.”**

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# Day 5: God's Purpose Is Bigger Than Us

Read Ephesians 1:9-14 and Colossians 1:15-20

Ephesians 1:10 tells us that God's purpose in Christ reaches toward “**all things...things in heaven and things on earth.**”

1. According to Ephesians 1:9-10, what is God's plan for the fullness of time?
2. Now read Colossians 1:15-20. Make a list of everything this passage tells you about Jesus Christ.
3. According to Colossians 1:16, for whom were all things created?
4. According to verse 20, what is God accomplishing through Christ?
5. How does this connect **Creation** and **Redemption**?
6. Return to Ephesians 1:13-14. What has God given believers as the guarantee of our inheritance?
7. What does the presence of the Holy Spirit tell us about where God's story is heading?

## Step Back and See the Big Picture

We have now followed three movements:

**Creation: God's glory revealed.**

**Fall: God's glory exchanged.**

**Redemption: God's glory praised.**

Write a few sentences answering: **What has Redemption taught you about God that you do not want to forget?**

Then finish your study by reading Ephesians 1:3-14 one more time. This time, don't read primarily looking for something to learn about yourself.

**Look first at God.** What do you see? And how should what you see lead you to worship?

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## This Week's Truth to Remember

**The blessings are ours. The glory is His.**