

### **Ephesians 1:3 - 14**

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he<sup>o</sup> predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—<sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup>And he<sup>o</sup> made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

<sup>11</sup>In him we were also chosen,<sup>o</sup> having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup>in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

## 2 Samuel 6:1-19

<sup>1</sup>David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. <sup>2</sup>He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah<sup>o</sup> to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name,<sup>o</sup> the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark. <sup>3</sup>They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart <sup>4</sup>with the ark of God on it,<sup>o</sup> and Ahio was walking in front of it. <sup>5</sup>David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs<sup>o</sup> and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.

<sup>6</sup>When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. <sup>7</sup>The LORD'S anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

<sup>8</sup>Then David was angry because the LORD'S wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.<sup>o</sup>

<sup>9</sup>David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?" <sup>10</sup>He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

<sup>11</sup>The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.

<sup>12</sup>Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of

## **2 Samuel 6:1-19 (cont.)**

God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. <sup>13</sup>When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

<sup>14</sup>David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, <sup>15</sup>while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

<sup>16</sup>As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

<sup>17</sup>They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings<sup>o</sup> before the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. <sup>19</sup>Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

**Mark 6:14 - 29**

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, <sup>o</sup> "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

<sup>15</sup>Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

<sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup>For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup>because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled<sup>o</sup>; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup>Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." <sup>23</sup>And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"  
"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

**Mark 6:14 – 29 (cont.)**

<sup>25</sup>At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

<sup>26</sup>The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup>and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>On hearing of this, John’s disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.