

Sha'ul of Tarsus & His Letters ~ Part 182

Ephesians – Part 2

Note: To examine the graphics in this series, click on them for a pop-up version.

Revelation of God's Mystery

In personal study and devotion time, you might struggle with understanding how deeply **God** loves you and what it means to be that **God raised us up with the Messiah Yeshua and seated us with Him in heaven places** (Ephesians 2:6). This week, create a visual reminder of your identity in **Yeshua**—an art piece or a journal entry that encapsulates what **Ephesians** says about you. Reflect on phrases that resonate with you daily and pray over them. This can significantly enhance your self-image and help you resist negative self-talk.

Yeshua's Power and Position

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your trust in the Lord Yeshua and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you. In my prayers, I keep asking ¹⁷ the God of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, the glorious Father, to give you a Ruach of wisdom and revelation, so that you will have full knowledge of him.

Wisdom and Revelation: Sha'ul wanted the **Ephesian Believers** to understand what great spiritual resources were there in **Yeshua**. **Revelation** refers to the insight and discernment that the **Ruach will give you, full knowledge of him. God has given Believers wisdom** (Ephesians 1:8–9), **but Sha'ul prayed for the church not only to understand but to experience these blessings.**

¹⁸ I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts, so that you will understand the hope to which he has called you, what rich glories there are in the inheritance he has promised his people,

When you are adopted into **God's** family, your life has a customized purpose. What is your calling?

¹⁹ and how surpassingly great is his power working in us who trust him. It works with the same mighty strength He used.

The surpassing greatness of His power: God's power alone can bring **Believers** safely to the riches of the final glory that will be made available in **Heaven**. The extraordinary divine power by which **Yeshua** was raised from the dead is the same power at work in and through **Believers**.

²⁰ when he worked in the Messiah to raise Him from the dead and seat Him at his right hand in heaven,

He is the ultimate Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Jesus is above all. Every part of your life and mind is to be connected, plugged into, and in sync with Jesus Christ. How is the revelation of God from Heaven to bear on our lives on earth. What Jesus says, goes. At least, that's how it should be. We tend to go to Him only when we need Him to bail us out in the messy middle. But that's not why He came. Jesus came so we might have life to full capacity from the beginning to the end (John 10:10).

~ Tony Evans
Transformed by the Trinity

²¹ In other words, you, who at one time were separated from God and had a hostile attitude towards Him because of your wicked deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in the Son's physical body through his death; in order to present you holy and without defect or reproach before himself—²³ provided, of course, that you continue in your trusting, grounded and steady, and don't let yourselves be moved away from the hope offered in the Good News you heard.

Yeshua's resurrection was the driving force in **Sha'ul's** life. In raising **Yeshua** from the dead, **God** did not merely reverse the natural process of decay but transcended it. He raised **Yeshua** to an entirely new life, giving **Him** a resurrection body. Not only was **Yeshua** raised, but He was also seated at **God's** right hand, the place of authority from which **Yeshua** now reigns. **Yeshua** is above all, indicating that He is infinitely superior. The ascension and exaltation completed the resurrection event, providing hope for **Believers** as **Yeshua** became the first fruit for His people.

Sha'ul claimed the **Kehilah** exists and functions only because of its vital relationship to its **Head, Yeshua**. As the resurrected and exalted **Yeshua**, He is without need and is independent of anything. Yet as Head, He is incomplete without the body, which is the **Kehilah** that fills up **Yeshua**. So, the body and the **Head** are one in the truest sense.

Raised from Spiritual Death

² ¹ You used to be dead because of your sins and acts of disobedience. ² You walked in the ways of the 'olam hazeh and obeyed the Ruler of the Powers of the Air (Satan), who is still at work among the disobedient. ³ Indeed, we all once lived this way, followed the passions of our old nature, obeyed the wishes of our old nature, and our own thoughts. In our natural condition, we were headed for God's wrath, just like everyone else.

He begins with the Coroner's Report. Every person outside of **Yeshua** is spiritually dead, separated from **God**. We all once lived this way. Thus, **Sha'ul** introduces the topic of how **Jews** and **Gentiles** have been joined together into a single people of **God** through the **Messiah**. This discussion dominates chapters 2–3, having been hinted at already through referring to **God's** "secret plan" (Ephesians 1:9). Earlier, in his letter to the **Romans**, which occupies itself with the same topic, **Sha'ul** in turn singled out for special attention both **Jews** (Romans 2:17ff.) and **Gentiles** (Romans 11:13ff.).

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy and loves us with such intense love

Sha'ul introduces two words that change everything: **But God**. They remind us that salvation came at **God's** initiative. **God** is rich in mercy, and because of **His** great love that **He** had for us.

⁵ that, even when we were dead because of our acts of disobedience, he brought us to life along with the Messiah—it is by grace that you have been delivered. ⁶ That is, God raised us up with the Messiah Yeshua and seated us with him in heaven, ⁷ in order to exhibit in the ages to come how infinitely rich is his grace, how great is his kindness toward us who are united with the Messiah Yeshua. ¹

Compare **Romans** 5:6–8; 6:3–5, 11. Through being in union with the **Messiah**, **Believers** share His position and so are **seated ... with him in heaven "at the right hand of God"** (Ephesians 1:20).

In our next post, we continue to examine **Sha'ul's Letter to the Ephesians**.

¹ Ephesians 1:15-2:7.