

# GOD'S PERFECT HARMONY IN CHRIST JESUS

## Ephesians Chapter 1 PART 10

Last week we saw that **the Eternal Will of the Father** was established **before time began** ... We saw, it travels through time, affecting all generations, and will be completed **at the end of all time** as we know it.

We see it came about **FROM the Father** ... It is contained in the Son ... It is administered BY the Holy Spirit (V13-14) **BUT IT VERY MUCH ABOUT US**.  
**WE ARE THE MAJOR OBJECT OF THE FATHER'S REDEMPTION.**

*Whoever wrote that song, 'It's all about YOU Jesus ...' (it's not about me ...) might have been reacting to the self-centeredness of Christianity today but they didn't understand **THE OBJECT OF SALVATION / REDEMPTION** ...*

**WE ARE THE OBJECT OF THE FATHER'S REDEMPTION / OF JESUS SACRIFICE.**

In this first chapter of Ephesians the pronoun '**US**' is used 7 times.

(v3) He has blessed **us**

(v4) He has chosen **us**

(v5) He has predestined **us**

(v6) He has made **us** accepted

(v7-8) The riches of His grace were imparted into **us**

(v9) He made His will known to **us**

(v19) His power is toward **us**

**THE ETERNAL WILL OF THE FATHER INVOLVES US** in the Great Plan of Redemption for all mankind (Verse 7 – *'In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood ...'*)

*'Before the World Began, YOU WERE ON HIS MIND' (Russell Fragar)*

**BUT WE SEE THAT THIS ETERNAL WILL OF GOD HAS A DEFINITE END GOAL**

IT INVOLVES ALL ASPECTS OF THE REDEMPTION OF US & ALL CREATED THINGS WHICH HE WILL EVENTUALLY BRING **together in one** in Christ ...

Let's look at our text -

Ephesians 1:10 **SLIDE**

*That in the [concluding] of the fulness of the times [which God has already decreed] **He might gather together in one**, all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

#### IT IS A DIVINE UNITY

*I look at the nations ... they are divided beyond repair - Russia, China and Iran all opposed to the West.*

*We just went through the pain of Brexit ...*

*Nation against nation ... political parties against each other ...*

*People divided on moral issues / economic issues / personal issues / race issues / ecological issues / gender issues / medical issues ...*

**THEY WILL NEVER ACHIEVE ANY UNITY IN ADAM ...**

**YET GOD DECLARES ...**

**HE WILL DO IT IN THE END**

Look at our text in the Message Bible ...

**Ephesians 1:10** The Message Bible **SLIDE**

He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

#### **YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THIS ETERNAL PLAN OF DIVINE UNITY**

**IT IS GOOD FOR US TO KNOW WE ARE A PART OF GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN ...**

**THAT IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT ME HERE & NOW ...**

Things may not be going well for you here and now ... But 'He ain't finished with you yet'.

He has the most glorious outcome that extends way past today and indeed beyond your lifetime. God's plan for you doesn't die when you do – you just move into the next phase.

**SO IN THIS TEXT WE ARE TOLD WHEN  
THIS FINAL GOAL OF GOD WILL COME TO PASS**

**IT IS AT HIS APPOINTED TIME  
– THE WINDING UP OF HIS TIME-FRAME  
WHEN GOD SAYS. 'DONE!'**

**Ephesians 1:10** **SLIDE**

That in *the [concluding] of the fullness of the times* [which God has already decreed] He might gather together in one, all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

**IT WILL COME TO PASS AT THE END OF GOD'S DESIGNATED TIME ... AFTER WHICH NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME.**

## **THE END OF TIME**

When you consider the term 'The End of Days' what do you think of? I guarantee you envisage the 'End of Days' as destruction ... the world disintegrating ... fire ... explosions ... etc

Or do you think of the movie - **SLIDE** *Arnold Schwarzenegger 'The End of Days'*?

**BUT HERE'S SOMETHING HE SHOWED ME FOR THE BELIEVER:**  
**THIS TIME SPOKEN ABOUT HERE FOR THE BELIEVER IS NOT DESTRUCTION AT ALL ...**  
**IN FACT, IT'S THE OPPOSITE ...**

*I was walking through the house singing in my heart that song,  
'One Sweet Day' by Mariah Carey, Boyz II Men  
I had been thinking about the day we will all be reunited with our  
loved ones and friends who have died ... which is what this song is  
about.*

*I was singing the chorus*

*'And I know you're shining down on me from Heaven,  
Like so many friends we've lost along the way.  
And I know eventually we'll be together ...*

**One sweet day'**

*I felt like the Holy Spirit said, 'That's it'.*

***It's not a gloomy day ...***

**IT'S A GLORIOUS DAY FOR ALL BELIEVERS. A SWEET DAY.**

*It will be a glorious day ... when all things are reunited at the  
culmination of all time.*

*Full of Joy and Gladness.*

Matthew 13:43 ESV **SLIDE**

*Then the Righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their  
Father. He who has ear, let Him hear.*

## THINK OF IT LIKE THE GRADUATION OF ALL TIME

*... like a massive university graduation day ...*

*See the elation ... caps thrown in the air ... shouts and cheers ...*

*Because this is what we've been working toward.*

**THIS IS THE GRADUATION OF ALL TIME ...**

**THE CULMINATION OF ALL TIME ...**

**THE END GOAL OF GOD'S GLORIOUS WILL.**

## THE RETURN OF JESUS

*There is a day coming when Jesus will come back for us and we are taken to be with Him.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 Berean Study Bible

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will be the first to rise. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are alive and remain will be caught up **together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.*

BUT THAT IS NOT THIS DAY - '**THE FULLNESS OF TIME**' ...

**NB: THE FULLNESS OF TIME IS NOT THE DAY WHEN JESUS COMES BACK FOR US.** *There is another day coming after that which is called 'the End of Days' – '**THE FULLNESS OF TIME**'.*

This is a time when we who are already with Him, and we who are already in heaven, will enter into ...

## **SLIDE** **THE ETERNAL ONENESS OF ALL THINGS**

Ephesians 1:10 **SLIDE**

*That in the [concluding] of the fullness of the times He might **gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

### ➤ THE REUNITING

**NB** The words 'Gather Together' should be, '**Gather again**'

**‘AGAIN’** has been left out in our translations.

(*anakephalaiōsasthai*)

**Ana** = again, and **kephalaion** = to head up or gather together

So - to gather together again

*The word expresses the Divine purpose - what God was to restore in Christ, a lost unity, to bring together disunited elements*

*(Pulpit Commentary – Bible Hub)*

### ➤ THE REUNITING UNDER ONE HEAD

#### **THIS IS THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS UNDER CHRIST**

‘To gather together’ (*anakephalaion*) also means a ‘Heading up’ ... So now we see this verse as saying,

God is going to ‘Head Up Again’ all things in Christ ...

*The full meaning of this expression is **"to gather again under one head" things which had been originally one, but had since been separated.*** (Ellicott – Bible Hub)

### JESUS CHRIST RULED OVER IT ALL BEFORE TIME

Colossians 1:15-16 NLT **SLIDE**

**Christ** is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and **is supreme over all creation**,<sup>16</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world ...

### ➤ THE REUNITING OF ETERNAL ONENESS

WHEN GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH THERE WAS PERFECT ONENESS & PERFECT HARMONY

**AT CREATION:** The Hebrew of Genesis 1:2 gives us the picture of the Spirit of God hovering over a mass of disconnected matter and wooing it into perfect harmony (like a giant mother bird).

WE ALSO READ IN JOB 38:7 of ‘When *the morning stars sang together* and all the sons of God (angels) shouted for joy.’ - There was perfect unity and harmony

**IN EDEN** there was perfect harmony e.g. the animals came to Adam and he named them.

**BUT BECAUSE OF ADAM'S SIN, HARMONY WAS LOST & WE CAN NOW NEVER AGAIN BE ONE IN ADAM ...**

Disunity is a travesty and (if I may say, metaphorically) 'it breaks God's heart'.

Since then, we've become used to division. We suffer from it. We guard ourselves against it. We live on the defense. We don't trust people easily. We are suspicious of people.

And we don't realise how much this affects us.

**PEOPLE WILL LET YOU DOWN ...**

*Carol King*

*'Hey ain't it good to know that you've got a friend when people can be so cold ...*

*They'll hurt ... they'll desert you ...*

*They'll take your soul if you let them ...*

*But don't you let them!'*

**YET THE WORLD CRAVES FOR THE ORIGINAL ONENESS**

**THE WORLD NOW CRAVES TO HAVE THIS ETERNAL ONENESS BUT CAN NEVER ACHIEVE IT.**

Imagine all the people ...

Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer ...

But I'm not the only one.

I hope someday you'll join us

And **the world will be as one**

**JOHN LENNON**

**ORIGINAL ONENESS WAS IN GOD HIMSELF**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

***Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!***

**Echad** (ek-awd) = The numeral one... Not the Pronoun as in, 'The One'

- Means more than **THE ONLY ONE** and none other!
- **Means a unity unique to God Himself... INDIVISIBLE**

*'This is far more than a mere declaration of the unity of God against polytheism ... but His unity in Himself.'* (Barnes)

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown says -

*The basis of [Israel's] religion was an acknowledgment of the unity of God.*

It is a character trait... It is akin to 'God is Love' ...

So also, 'God is One'

THIS IS THE ONENESS THAT WILL BE RESTORED TO US ...  
ON THAT DAY

Acts 3:21 NLT SLIDE

*For He [Jesus] must remain in heaven until the time [chronon] for the final restoration of all things [panton], as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.*

WHAT ARE THE ALL THINGS THAT WILL BE REUNITED UNDER  
CHRIST?

Ephesians 1:10 SLIDE

*That in the [concluding] of the fullness of the times He might gather [again] together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

~~NOT UNIVERSALISM~~ ... WHERE EVEN THE DEVIL WILL BE SAVED.

This reuniting is only for those who are IN Christ ... Everyone else will be destroyed.

~~NOT JEWS & GENTILES~~ ... THERE IS NO JEW OR GENTILE IN CHRIST (Galatians 3:28) We are all one in Him.

WHAT ARE THE 'THINGS IN HEAVEN'?

THE GOOD ANGELS

'THINGS IN HEAVEN' INCLUDES THE GOOD ANGELIC REALM

Hebrews 12:22-23 SLIDE

*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels<sup>22</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who*

*are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

### WHAT ARE THE 'THINGS ON EARTH'?

Could they be God's people who have not yet died but remain upon the earth?

**At this stage - at the 'completion of time' - it is after the rapture when all the redeemed are with the Lord Jesus.**

At this stage – at the end of time – all who are going to be redeemed are redeemed and are already with Him.

### WHAT ARE THE THINGS ON EARTH?

'ALL THINGS' INCLUDES CREATION ITSELF

Ephesians 1:10 Good News **SLIDE**

*This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.*

### CREATION NEVER SINNED THEREFORE IT'S NOT UNDER GOD'S JUDGEMENT

It was made subject to man, its ruler ... So that when man fell ... it fell ...

But it remains in hope of this very day of the restoration of all things. (Romans 8:20)

It knows when the new-born sons of God are revealed God will redeem it, too -

Romans 8:21 **SLIDE**

*... The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

### **AT THIS 'FULLNESS OF TIME', GOD WILL REUNITE ALL ANGELS, SAINTS AND EVERY CREATURE ON THE EARTH**

Isaiah 11:6-9 **SLIDE**

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like*

*the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play by the hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

*Isaiah 65:25 KJV*

*The wolf [lion] and the lamb shall feed together and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

*Hosea 2:18 KJV*

*And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.*

**YOUR LOVED ANIMALS WILL BE SAFE ... REDEEMED ... REUNITED**

*Isaiah 62:4 Berean Study Bible*

*No longer will you be called Forsaken, nor your land named Desolate; but you will be called Hephzibah [My delight is in her] and your land Beulah [married] for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be His bride.*

**THERE WILL BE ONE VOICE OF ALL CREATURES IN HEAVEN &  
ON EARTH UNITED IN CHRIST IN ULTIMATE PRAISE TO HIM**

*Revelation 5:11-13*

*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures and the elders and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup>And every creature which is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

**NB EVERY CREATURE**

**Hurt ... abuse ... rejection ... criticism ... harsh judgment ... WILL  
BE NO LONGER.**

**LEGALISTS WILL FALL AT YOUR FEET & WEEP ... AND  
FORGIVENESS WILL FLOW**

**AND WE WILL ALL BE BROUGHT AGAIN INTO GOD'S  
PERFECT HARMONY.**