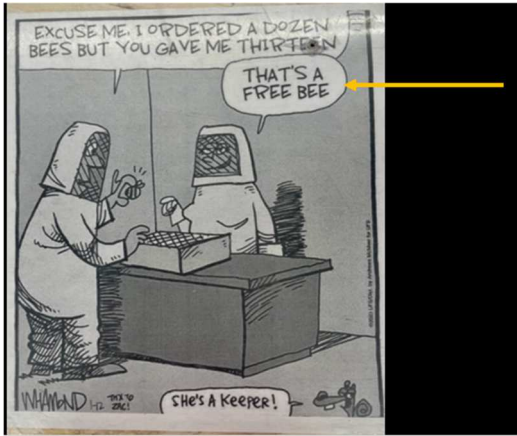


June 10, 2023  
Ephesians 1.1-6  
He chose us in Love



from Luann Ridgeway

Last week I showed pictures of the riot during the May 28 prayer at the Southern steps of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

פלר חסן נחום Fleur Hassan-Nahoum  
Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem

Proud Zionist and Feminist Israel Advocate, London born, grew up Gibraltar, fluent in Spanish and English, made aliyah at age 28, British Lawyer, member of the Likud party.



“Jerusalem is a city that sanctifies freedom of religion so when I received complaints about Christians being harassed in the old city we took action. Pleased the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem has sent out a public letter to clarify that this is against Jewish Law and should stop.”

[[https://twitter.com/FleurHassanN/status/1665795396432539651?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1665795396432539651%7Ctwgr%5E623d8890653c43e85852a80197b16eee2c990ff4%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.charismanews.com%2Fopinion%2Fstanding-with-israel%2F92455-jerusalem-chief-rabbi-condemns-harassment-of-christians-in-jerusalem](https://twitter.com/FleurHassanN/status/1665795396432539651?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1665795396432539651%7Ctwgr%5E623d8890653c43e85852a80197b16eee2c990ff4%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.charismanews.com%2Fopinion%2Fstanding-with-israel%2F92455-jerusalem-chief-rabbi-condemns-harassment-of-christians-in-jerusalem)]



Shlomo Moshe Amar  
Rishon Lezion  
Chief Rabbi Of Jerusalem



שלמה משה עמאר  
הראשון לציון  
הרב הראשי לירושלים

ב'תת"ט"ו, Tuesday 25 Iyar 5783

Public Statement

We were sorry to hear from non-Jewish clerics that a number of young Jews and some who pretend to be G-d-fearing, persecute them with curses, blasphemies and more, as they walk the streets of the city. No doubt, irresponsible people who are not at all observant of the Torah and its ways did this. We announce that such behavior is strictly forbidden. We are not

Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem Shlomo Amar and a portion of his statement

[<https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/standing-with-israel/92455-jerusalem-chief-rabbi-condemns-harassment-of-christians-in-jerusalem>]

*This is the good side. On the other hand ...*



Ron Cantor

Ron Cantor: "I prayed a lot and talked to Elana before posting this. I don't want people to think we are sensationalizing this. Elana does not like being in the spotlight. It was not a pleasant experience for her; and not being there to protect her, plagues me. Oh, how I wish it was me and not her! But after prayer, we felt the Lord wanted us to share it, particularly with those of you who have been praying for her all week."

"Yeshua stood with me" Elana shares account o...



"Yeshua stood with me:" 4-minute personal account by Elana Cantor of how she was beaten for being a follower of Yeshua, but survived. <https://youtu.be/fPWSwH0H1cU>

Chose Us  
In Love

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

June 3, 2023 | 21st of Sivan, 5783  
כ"א בסיון תשפ"ג

OR HAOLAM  
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

I'm starting a new series, on the Letter to the Ephesians.  
Previously ...

- series on Matityahu  
October 2015 to Jan. 2020
- Series on Messianic Jews / Hebrews  
Jan 2020 to Mar 2023

*[With breaks for holidays and special occasions.*

*Both those Messianic Scriptures/New Covenant but commentators say written to Jewish believers.  
This one, written to?]*

He chose us in love, Eph 1.1 - 1.6

**1. Introduction to the Letter**

2. Opening of the letter

3. Passion of the letter

Some introductory insights, before we get into the content.

Written primarily to non-Jews

Eph 2.11 Therefore, remember your former state: **you Gentiles** by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised

Eph 3.1 It is a consequence of this that I, Sha’ul, am a prisoner of the Messiah Yeshua on behalf of **you Gentiles** ...

Eph 4.17 Therefore I say this — indeed, in union with the Lord I insist on it: do not live **any longer as the pagans live**, with their sterile ways of thinking.

*[Matthew, Messianic Jews written to Jewish people, but applies to all. Ephesians written to non-Jewish, Gentile people, but applies to Jews.]*

What is the location of the addressees?

Eph 1.1-2 **Shaul/Paul, an emissary of Messiah Yeshua by God’s will, To the kedoshim in Ephesus**—those trusting in Messiah Yeshua: Grace and shalom to you, from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah!

**Introduction**

Tois	hagiois	tois	ousin	en	Ephesō
Τοῖς	ἁγίοις	τοῖς	οὔσιν	ἐν	Ἐφέσῳ
To the	saints	-	being	in	Ephesus

In some important ancient manuscripts these words are missing.

Paul seems a little distant from addressees

Eph 1.15 For this reason, ever since **I heard about your trust** in the Lord Yeshua and your love for all God’s people

Paul was in Ephesus

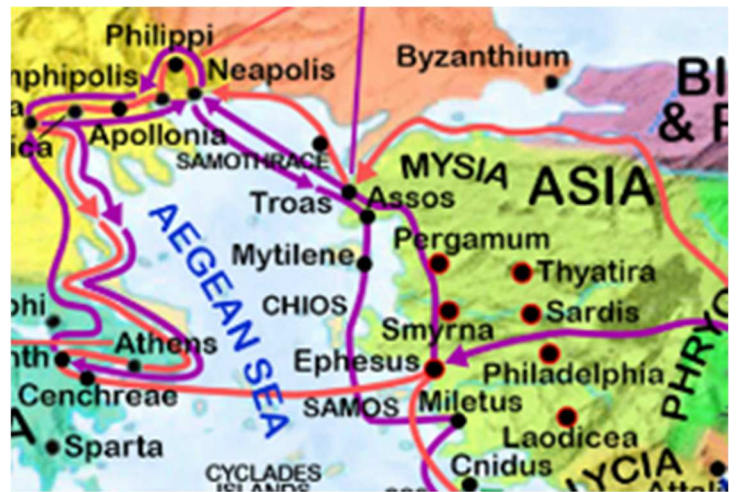
- Acts 18.19-21 a week?
- Acts 19.1 to 19:41, 52-55 AD, 3 years , Lecture Hall of Tyrannus

About 200,000 to 300,000 population

Commercial center of province of Asia (Turkey)

*[Seems he would have been warmer, not just “I heard”]*





[<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/11/99/35/119935887b6337f9339354333aede716.png>] Acts 19.1 to 19:41, 52-55 AD, 3 years



**Street scene at the archeological excavations at Ephesus.**



The 'terrace houses' at Ephesus, showing how the wealthy lived during the Roman period.

[[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c8/Ephesus\\_Terrace\\_Houses.jpg/1280px-Ephesus\\_Terrace\\_Houses.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c8/Ephesus_Terrace_Houses.jpg/1280px-Ephesus_Terrace_Houses.jpg)]

**The Theatre of Ephesus with harbor street.**



**Façade of the Celsus library, in Ephesus**



[[https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fupload.wikimedia.org%2Fwikipedia%2Fcommons%2Fthumb%2F7%2F79%2FArtemis\\_Temple\\_Pan\\_2\\_touched.jpg%2F1200px-Artemis\\_Temple\\_Pan\\_2\\_touched.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=aed2ea453e1ed066428c788d0d327e5095b42d075be39d05ebc8a98586c062e9&ipo=images](https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fupload.wikimedia.org%2Fwikipedia%2Fcommons%2Fthumb%2F7%2F79%2FArtemis_Temple_Pan_2_touched.jpg%2F1200px-Artemis_Temple_Pan_2_touched.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=aed2ea453e1ed066428c788d0d327e5095b42d075be39d05ebc8a98586c062e9&ipo=images)]



## Ruins of the Temple of Artemis



*[343x164 ft more than 100 columns*

*Built on swampy ground to be earthquake proof*

*14 steps to platform*

*Inner shrine image of the goddess Artemis, mummy like figure with many breasts, symbol of fertility.*

*Behind the shrine the treasury, bank of Asia (Turkey)*

*<https://external->*

*[content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Ftse1.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DOIP.vlirqJA5qWcJUwO\\_eD8S0QHaEW%26pid%3DApi&f=1&ipt=aa862bc201d77600ca1b98b40ddcb37b420778b0574d492fccf720882f395aad&ipo=images](https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Ftse1.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DOIP.vlirqJA5qWcJUwO_eD8S0QHaEW%26pid%3DApi&f=1&ipt=aa862bc201d77600ca1b98b40ddcb37b420778b0574d492fccf720882f395aad&ipo=images)*

Likely, it was a circular letter, that included Ephesus, but not the exclusive audience.

<sup>Col 4.16</sup> When this letter has been read among you, make sure that it is also read in Messiah's community of Laodicea. In turn, you should read my letter coming from Laodicea.

*[We'll follow standard practice, and call the letter Ephesians, though that city may have not been the main addressee.]*

No particular heresy or crisis.

Similar to Colossians

- Colossian exposition of Messiah in the universe.
- Ephesians cosmic significance of believers in fulfilling work of Messiah
- Colossians letter has emphasis on reconciliation of men to G-d through the atonement of Yeshua
- Ephesians letter has emphasis on reconciliation of men to one another

Shaul was a prisoner when writing.

<sup>3.1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, am a prisoner of Messiah Yeshua for the sake of you Gentiles.

<sup>4.1</sup> Therefore I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you were called—

<sup>6.19-20</sup> And pray for me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the Good News, for which I am an ambassador in chains.

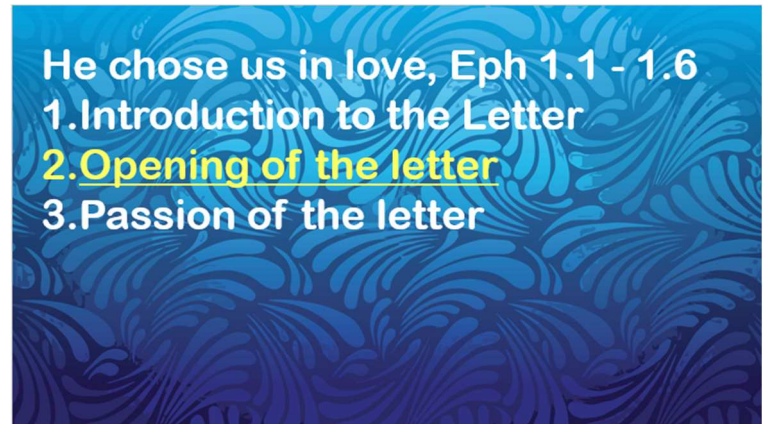
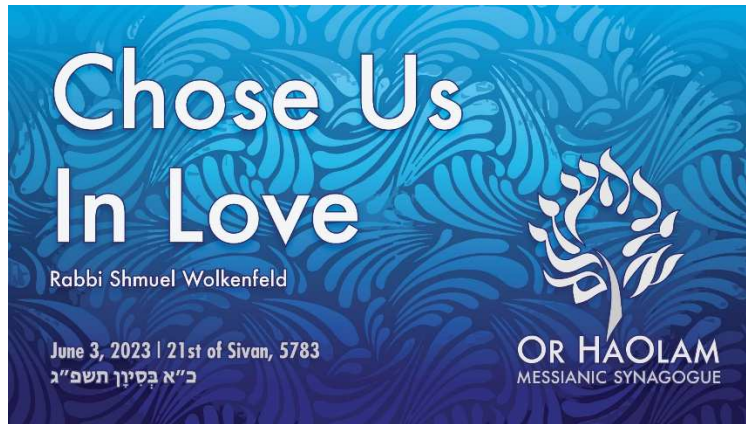
David Stern summary

- Ch 1–3 Who G-d is and how to relate Him as individuals and group
- Ch 4-6 *Halakhah*: practical applications

Key issue according to Stern:

- **Gentile identity 2.12** “You had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra’el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God’s promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.
- **Solution in Messiah 2.13-14** “But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah’s blood. For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m’chitzah which divided us.”

*[But, what does that mean? Are all Gentiles now Jews? Are Jews now Gentiles?]*



Ephesians 1.1-1.6 text in blue to distinguish it from many supporting or explanatory scriptures

**Eph 1.1-2 Shaul/Paul, an emissary of Messiah Yeshua by God’s will,**

Shaul’s authority by direct encounter with the Messiah. Not any human endeavor. I have ordination from the IAMCS, but that is really of no ultimate consequence.

**Gal 1.1 From: Sha’ul, an emissary — I received my commission not from human beings or through human mediation but through Yeshua the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead — also from all the brothers with me.**

Me too.

**Acts 9.1-6** Now Saul, still breathing out threats and murder against the Lord’s disciples, went to the *kohen gadol*. He requested letters of introduction from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he might bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

*[Why so angry??]*

Acts 9.1-6 As he was traveling, approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” “Who are You, Lord?” Saul said.

Acts 9.1-6 “I am Yeshua — whom you are persecuting. So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

**Eph 1.1-2 Shaul/Paul, an emissary of Messiah Yeshua by God’s will,**

Important to say to non-Jewish, pagan audience used to hearing “fate” or the universe [still on movies] or karma. If you are in ministry, need to know that you are CALLED. No other way to survive.

1 Cor 1.1-2 Paul, called as an emissary of Messiah Yeshua by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to God’s community in Corinth—having been made holy in Messiah Yeshua, called as kedoshim

Phil 1.1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Messiah Yeshua, to all the kedoshim in Messiah Yeshua who are in Philippi with the overseers and servant-leaders:

This is the signature community definition of Israel:

Shmot/Ex 19.5-6 Now then, if you listen closely to My voice, and keep My covenant, then you will be My own treasure from among all people, for all the earth is Mine. So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation.’

Vayikra/Lev 11.44 “For I am Adoni your God. Therefore, sanctify yourselves, and be holy, for I am holy. You are not to defile yourselves with any kind of creeping thing that moves on the earth. For I am Adoni who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. Therefore, you shall be holy, for I am holy.

*[Why is holiness affiliated with food? Build an ambience. Holy means pure, clean, wholesome. Don’t eat creeping things.*

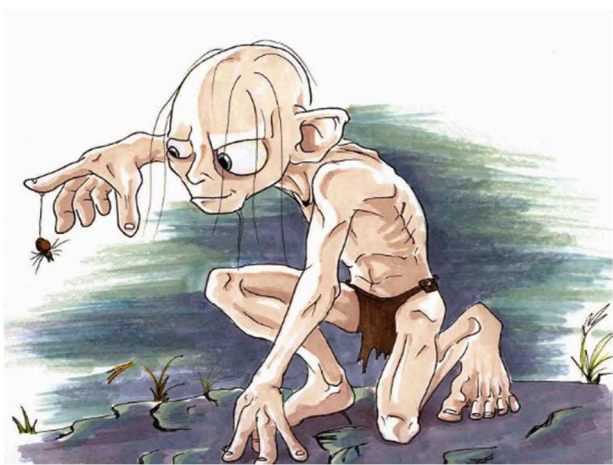
*Epitome of disgust in movie imagery is Gollum ...]*

**Eph 1.1-2 Shaul/Paul, an emissary of Messiah Yeshua by God’s will, To the kedoshim in Ephesus.**

**Kedoshim קְדוֹשִׁים holy ones  
Term Shaul frequently uses;  
Tanakhic designation of G-d’s  
people:**

So, YOU and I are G-d’s kedoshim, holy ones. Think of yourself, those around you ... holy ones, kedoshim.





Holy is the opposite.

[<https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-FEKfofIYV0o/XABsTQBFS4I/AAAAAAAAADqs/RwSOIxJisXgvxQOvKxIZpkU61SSdPnd9ACLcBGAs/s1600/raw%2Bfish%2Bgollum.gif>]

[<https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-FEKfofIYV0o/XABsTQBFS4I/AAAAAAAAADqs/RwSOIxJisXgvxQOvKxIZpkU61SSdPnd9ACLcBGAs/s1600/raw%2Bfish%2Bgollum.gif>]

Vayikra/Lev 19.2 Adoni said to Moshe, “Speak to the entire community of Isra’el; tell them, ‘You people are to be holy because I, Adoni your God, am holy.

Vayikra/Lev 20.26 You are to be holy to Me, for I, Adoni, am holy, and have set you apart from the peoples, so that you would be Mine.

*[First above followed by honoring parents, keeping Shabbat. More elegant holiness associations than just creepy food.*

*Second associated with food, and witchcraft.*

*Holiness was the motif of the group I came to faith in. Simplicity, Shabbat [Sunday], modesty, purity. Don’t touch a woman ANYWHERE. Note: I didn’t mean to give a carte blanche last week to shoulder touching. Just IF you do touch, with permission, limit yourself to her shoulder. Or she may limit herself to your cheek.*

*Do you want to be associated with that holy crowd?*

*Do you want to be associated with that unholy crowd?]*

1 Thes 5. 23-24 Now may the God of shalom Himself **make you completely holy**; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept complete, blameless at the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. Faithful is the One who calls you—and He will make it happen!

In the Tanakh, places, things, times, the nation was to be holy.

In Messiah, individuals are called to be holy. Like Yeshua, by trusting in Him, in His power!

*[Invitation now, and at end]*

**Eph 1.1-2 Shaul/Paul, an emissary of Messiah Yeshua by God’s will, To the kedoshim in Ephesus—those trusting in Messiah Yeshua: Grace and shalom to you, from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah!**

Extended from normal Greek greeting. Hebrew greeting Shalom שלום standard.


Moreover, greeting in two divine titles. Lord = Kurios is the Greek LXX equivalent of the YHVH!



# Chose Us In Love

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

June 3, 2023 | 21st of Sivan, 5783  
כ"א בסיון תשפ"ג



OR HAOLAM  
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

He chose us in love, Eph 1.1 - 1.6

1. Introduction to the Letter
2. Opening of the letter
3. Passion of the letter

Eph 1.3-6 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven.**

**Blessing is a common Hebraic practice. You've heard me rail on 100 blessings as a contrived commandment, but the principle...**

T'hilim Ps 14.14 **Blessed be Adoni the God of Isra'el from eternity past to eternity future.**

T'hilim Ps 66.20 **Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor turned His lovingkindness from me.**

T'hilim Ps 72.18 **Blessed be Adoni Elohim, God of Israel, who alone does wonders.**

שְׁמוֹנֵה עֶשְׂרֵה  
Sh'moneh Esray  
[Eighteen Blessings]



Traditional, Public Domain

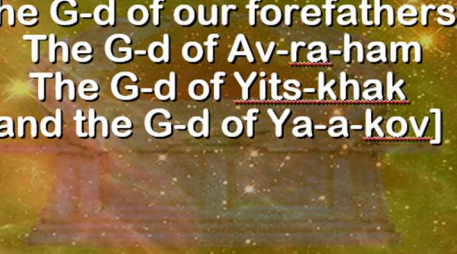
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ  
[בְּרוּךְ הוּא וּבְרוּךְ שְׁמוֹ]  
Ba-ruk a-tah Ah-do-ni  
[Ba-ruk hu u-ba-ruk sh'mo]



אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
E-lo-hay-nu  
vay-lo-hay avo-tay-nu  
אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק  
וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב  
Eh-lo-hay Av-rah-am  
Eh-lo-hay Yits-khak  
Vay-lo-hay Ya-a-kov



Blessed are You ADONI our G-d  
the G-d of our forefathers  
The G-d of Av-ra-ham  
The G-d of Yits-khak  
and the G-d of Ya-a-kov]



Eph 1.3-6 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven. In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.**

Eph 1.3-6 **He determined in advance that through Yeshua the Messiah we would be his sons — in keeping with his pleasure and purpose — so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One.**

### Two ways of reading this.

In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.

1. He chose us individually.
2. He chose our destiny.

In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.

*[G-d chooses individuals for calling, I personally don't believe He chooses individuals for salvation.]*

Ber/Gen 25.23 **Adoni said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from your body will be separated. One people will be stronger than the other people, but the older will serve the younger.”** *[Yaakov and Esav, Jacob and Esau. Not chosen for salvation, but destiny. Covenant destiny. One was to be the covenant son, progenitor of the covenant nation. Proof: the elder Esav never served the younger Yaakov. The Nation of Esav or Edom did serve the nation of Yaakov.]*

<sup>1</sup>Chron 18.12-13 **Abishai son of Zeruah struck down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. Then he put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became vassals to David. So Adoni gave David victory wherever he went.**

A prophecy, the word of Adoni to Isra'el through Mal'akhi: “I love you,” says Adoni. But you ask, “How do you show us your love?” Adoni answers, “Esav was Ya'akov's brother. Yet I loved Ya'akov but hated 'Esav.

*[G-d didn't hate the individuals, but Yaakov Jacob was the covenant people.]*

Ro 9.14-18 **So are we to say, “It is unjust for God to do this”? Heaven forbid! For to Moshe he says, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will pity whom I pity.” Thus it doesn't depend on human desires or efforts, but on God, who has mercy. For the Tanakh says to Pharaoh,**

<sup>Ro 9.14-18</sup> **“It is for this very reason that I raised you up, so that in connection with you I might demonstrate my power, so that my name might be known throughout the world.” So then, he has mercy on whom he wants, and he hardens whom he wants.**



Eph 1.3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven. In the Messiah **he chose us in love** before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.

*[Chose us in LOVE in Messiah ...]*

Eph 1.3-6 He determined in advance that through Yeshua the Messiah we would be his sons — in keeping with his pleasure and purpose — so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One.

Yn 1.10-14 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him; but the world did not know Him. He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God. They were born not of a bloodline, nor of human desire, nor of man's will, but of God. And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Eph 1.3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven. In the Messiah **he chose us in love** before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence.

Eph 1.3-6 He determined in advance that through Yeshua the Messiah we would be his sons — in keeping with his pleasure and purpose — so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One.

Have you and I chose to let Him work in our lives to be the holy people He has called us to be?

1. Received Him as our atonement for salvation?
2. Received His power into the dark places of our lives? Fear, unforgiveness, lust, greed.



A few days ago, some of us were discussing tandem skydiving. The statistics say that I have a greater chance of winning the lottery than of getting hurt in a tandem skydive. Salvation is like that. I'm strapped to Yeshua. He jumps out of the plane with me. I don't fight it.

Instead, I enjoy soaring, feeling the wind on my body, and confident the One who holds me isn't foolishly attempting to disobey the very gravity He helped to create.


He knows when to pull the ripcord and land us safely on the earth.

This is because only he sees the Biggest Picture and into the hidden places in you, them, me, and the heart of God. I choose to give up control (which I only thought I had) and let Him fly my plane with me fully present and conscious.

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- Have you and I chose to let Him work in our lives to be the holy people He has called us to be?
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