

Heaven & Earth #1

“Bringing all Things Together in Christ!”

Ephesians 1:9-10 *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation 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.*

1. All things that are created in heaven and on earth have been created by, through, and for Jesus Christ! It is the pleasure of the Father that in Him (Christ) all the fullness should dwell and that all things in heaven and on earth should be reconciled by Him (Christ). In the consummation of all things Jesus will in turn render all back to the Father as all things have always been rightly destined to be. From creation to consummation it is all about Jesus Christ!

Colossians 1:16-20 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

1 Corinthians 15:28 *Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

2. The earth was made by and for Christ and for the man who lives by and for Christ everything is a gift and a privilege from God. While God is Maker and Owner He has made the earth with an eternal purpose in which Jesus is Alpha and Omega.

Isaiah 45:18 *For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other."*

Mark 2:27-28 *And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. 28 Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."*

3. In the first mention of the creation of man, and indeed the first words of God to man, there is direct indication of God's intended purpose for man to rule over the earth while in relationship and agreement with heaven. This is to say that earth was meant to be directed by man who himself was to be directed by God in voluntary love and total obedience.

Genesis 1:26-28 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

4. Paul speaks here of the mystery of the Father's will which He has purposed in Himself to accomplish and which is His good pleasure to perfectly perform. This supreme mystery is described as the bringing together of all things (lit. to sum up into the main point) in Christ both in Heaven and on earth.

Ephesians 1:9-10 *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation 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.*

5. The term mystery is used six times in the letter to the Ephesians by Paul and is fundamental to understanding the complete nature of the gospel and the nature of the mysteries within the mystery.

Ephesians 1:9-10 *...the mystery of His will... gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.*

Ephesians 3:3-4 *how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),*

Ephesians 3:9-11 *and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,*

Ephesians 5:32 *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

Ephesians 6:19 ...that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the **mystery of the gospel**,

6. All of creation is eagerly anticipating the unveiling of two events that are described as actions of the love of God that restore everything back to God's original plan for the universe, they are: First, the appearing (unveiling) from heaven of the God/Man Himself as the King and Savior of all!

Titus 3:4-7 *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of **regeneration** and **renewing** of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

1. Regeneration: (Lit. Re-Genesis) Restoration; New Renovation; Rebirth

2. Renewal: To be made new and superior in spirit and mind

7. The second part of the Father's perfect plan is the return of Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge of all to receive His resurrected bride and to reign with Him in the restoration (renovation) of all things.

Romans 8:21-22 *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

Acts 3:19-21 *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Matthew 19:27-30 *Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*

8. God's ultimate eternal purpose for creation is to provide a family for Himself that includes faithful children for Himself and an equally yoked Bride for Jesus as His eternal companion. God promised to give Jesus an inheritance consisting of a people whom He fully possesses in love.

Psa 2:8 *I (the Father) will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

1. Mandatory obedience: God will cause all creation to obey Jesus (Phil. 2:9-11)

2. Voluntary love: God will raise up people who voluntarily choose to love Him

9. Equally yoked as a bride in love with the Bridegroom: God wants us to love Him with all of our heart and mind because He loves us with all of His heart and mind. Jesus wants us to love Him in the way He loves us.

Matthew 22:37-38 *Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the **first** and **great** commandment.*

10. God's purpose is to select and train a Bride who would be prepared by voluntary love to reign with Jesus. The First Commandment will be in first place in the Church when Jesus returns.

Revelation 19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*