



Date: March 10, 2019

Scripture: Ephesians 4:7-16

Here's a basic outline of this section:

Building a New Humanity.

1. What Christ Did [vv 7-11]
2. What Christ's leaders do [vv 11-12]
3. What Christ's subjects do [vv 15-16]
4. What Christ's Goal for his subjects is [v 13]

A lot of Old Testament Background goes into understanding this passage.

Ephesians 4:8 is an indirect quote of Psalm 68

[Psalm 68](#) (ESV)

¹God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him!

³But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!

⁵Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

⁶God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,

⁷O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah

⁸the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

¹²“The kings of the armies—they flee, they flee!” The women at home divide the spoil—

¹⁸You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.

¹⁹Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah

³⁵Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!



In Psalm 68 the King conquers the enemy and gifts (booty) to his loyal subjects.

1 Samuel 29-30 is an example of a time when David did that.

- Who was David's enemy? What did they do? What did David do?
- Who was Christ's enemy? What did he do? What did Jesus do?ⁱ

How does Moses' ascent to the mountain relate to Christ's ascent?ⁱⁱ

Vs. 7 – What “Grace” [gift] has God given us (see chapter 1)?

How does that grace relate to the graces gifted to us in vs. 11?ⁱⁱⁱ

(vs 13) - What is the Goal of the work of the church?

What does that look like? (hint – see the next chapter)

Vv 9-10

Some people think that after Jesus died, he went to Hades.

A better interpretation however is to see Christ's descent as From Heaven to Earth (the highest of the highs...all the way down to depth of the earth). Another explanation of this is found in Philippians 2.

Many people take this descent to refer to Christ's entering Hades (specifically the saved portion of that unseen world) after His crucifixion to take saints to heaven when He rose from the dead. On the other hand, lower parts of the earth may also be translated “lower parts, the earth,” so as to refer to Christ's coming to our humble planet as a man. **This is the more likely meaning here** (Phil. 2:5–8).

Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary (Eph 4:9). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

See further - <https://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-go-to-hell.html>

On The Apostle's Creed - Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 585–594.



Application Questions:

How can we follow Christ's example and humble ourselves?

What does this look like in prayer?

What does this look like in service?

What does this look like in our human relationships?

What does this look like in the church?

How would this effect your decision as to whether or not to leave a church?



¹ Jesus' actions fulfilled this prophecy

[Isaiah 53:9–12](#) (ESV)

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and

he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

[Mark 3:26–27](#) (ESV)

²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.

²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

ii As Moses received the law and gave it to Israel, so Christ received the Spirit and gave him to his people in order to write God's law in their hearts

¹ John R. W. Stott, *God's New Society: The Message of Ephesians*, The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979), 157–158.

iii **Gift - Charisma - χάρις - grace**

For 'grace' is charis, and 'gifts' are charismata.

'**Saving grace**', the grace which saves sinners, is given to all who believe; but what might be termed

'**Service grace**', the grace which equips God's people to serve, is given in differing degrees according to the measure of Christ's gift (verse 7).

¹ John R. W. Stott, *God's New Society: The Message of Ephesians*, The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979), 155–156.