



THE PEARLSEEKER'S
GUIDE TO
SCRIPTURE MAPPING:

EPHESIANS

Chapter 1

www.thepearlseeker.com

What is scripture mapping?



Scripture mapping is a method of Bible study, but for me it is specifically **writing out the Bible by hand**. This approach helps me to think about or pay attention to the words in a new way. Sometimes my eyes can start skimming or, if I'm tired, I find myself rereading a paragraph without much understanding. Writing it out with pen and paper engages my body, mind, and soul all at once.

Recommendations:

- **Use a specific journal** only for scripture mapping so that you can follow your progress and notice connections through your entries. You may be surprised how meaningful and encouraging this can be!
- **The key to making this a regular practice is to keep it easy and enjoyable.** I like to focus on no more than one chapter per week so that my hand doesn't get tired and so I really consider what that chapter had to say. If you run, for example, you know it's important you find your own pace and rhythm with breathing as well as your feet on the pavement. The process is more important than the finish line.
- **Optional online tools** like www.biblegateway.com provides passages in different translations of the Bible, such as the NLT or NRSV. Other optional in-depth tools are online Bible concordance (for deeper word origin/meanings) or a Bible dictionary (defines Biblical terms). But again, these are **optional**. Don't stress it!
- **Get artsy!** I use a black pen, but I like to use size, shapes, arrows, and underlining as well as creating different fonts to bring my attention to certain words or sentences. Sometimes I even write the words in a shape. You can use multiple colored pens, stickers, etc!
- **I enjoy pausing to pray or to write a note** if something stands out to me. I just label it so I know it's a personal note when returning back to read through it. These journals are a gift that keeps on giving!

Here is an example (but typed...and I highly recommend that you write it out by hand!):

Ephesians 1

A letter from Paul

chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Jesus

to:

God's holy people in Ephesus who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

All praise to God who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms **because we are united with Christ.**

repeated words
or structure
emphasize
something
important

Even before he made the world

God loved us

and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family

by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

So we praise God for the **glorious grace** he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

He **purchased our freedom** with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

He has **showered his kindness on us**, along with all wisdom and understanding.

He has now **revealed to us** his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan.

God is so rich in kindness and grace that:



And this is the plan:

At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

Furthermore,

because

we have received an inheritance from God,

A conjunction is a word that is used to connect words, phrases, and clauses. Some common ones include *and*, *or*, *but*, *because*, *for*, *if*, and *when*.



for

he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

and

he makes everything work out according to his plan.

My note: There is a lot in this chapter about God's PLAN, the nature of our relationship with God, and how Christ is essential to both.

God's purpose:

that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you.

My note:

In Christ there is no Jew/Gentile distinction, but rather the Holy Spirit identifies those who are Christ's.

And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.



The Spirit

is God's guarantee that:

- He will give us the inheritance he promised
- He has purchased us to be his own people.

He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped **thanking God for you.**

I pray for you constantly asking God

to give you spiritual wisdom & insight

so that you might grow in your knowledge of God

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light

so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called— his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand
**the incredible greatness of God's power for us
who believe him.**

**This is the same
mighty power
that raised Christ from
the dead and seated him
in the place of honor at
God's right hand in the
heavenly realms.**



**Jesus
is far
above:**

any ruler
any authority
any power
any leader
anything else.

not only in this world but
also in the world to come.

**God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has
made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.**

And the church
is his body;
it is made full and complete
by Christ,
who fills
all things
everywhere
with himself.

Questions for further reflection...

What does Ephesians 1 tell us about God?

What does Ephesians 1 tell us about ourselves?

What are some ways that we can pray for others based on Ephesians 1?

Is there a word or sentence which stands out to you or prompts an emotional response from you? Why do you think that might be?