

# War of the Worlds

*Studies in Ephesians*

## May Thee Force Be With You

Introduction to Ephesians 1:15-23

In Star Wars, Obe Wan Kenobe's advice to Luke was "may the force be with you". It was the master's way of telling the young Jedi knight to trust in a resource greater than himself to obtain victory. In Ephesians 1:15-23, a similar approach is encouraged—if we will access "Thee" force, God Himself, we will have daily victory in the "war of the worlds". There are two aspects of this to consider, the first being that God has provided incredible resources for us in this battle. However, the underlying assumption is that we have a vibrant faith in the Lord Jesus and a love for the saints (true believers), two elements that demonstrate our connection to Jesus—"Thee" source of these resources. Since the Ephesians gave these evidences that they were true believers, Paul

prayed that God would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, allowing their inner eyes to be enlightened. This would enable them to see the resources available, and be encouraged to access them in the battle. The first of these resources was "the hope of His calling", the assurance that things will get better and better until we end up in heaven. The second resource was the riches of the glorious inheritance that we have waiting for us in the aftermath of victory. Finally, we have the greatest power anywhere available to us—the power God demonstrated when He raised Jesus from the dead. These are the resources; however, the far more important aspect, is that Christ Himself is the source



**The war is on... are you ready?**

of these resources upon whom we must rely. He is seated at God's right hand, above every authority in the heavens or earth, and everything has been put under His feet. Moreover, He is the head of the church, which, by virtue of being His body, is the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way. With Jesus on our side, and with His resources, we have certain victory—He is Thee force that must be with us for victory.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for Ephesians 1:15-23

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| 1. Read 1:15-16. What 2 things did Paul know about the Ephesians (v15), and how did he know this (v15)? What do people "know" about you from what they have seen and heard?         |  |
| 2. From 1:16 how did Paul feel about the Ephesians, and why do you think he did? What did this lead him to do for them? How does gratitude and praying for someone go hand in hand? |  |
| 3. In 1:17 how is God described? What is the first thing Paul prays for the Ephesians, and what does this mean? Why is this important?  |  |

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## Ephesians 1:15-23 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 1:18-19 what 3 things did Paul want the Ephesians to know? How would this knowledge come to pass (v18), and, based on Paul's example, what part do other believers play in this (v18)?

5. Think about the 3 things in question 4. Why is it important to know (by experience) each of these 3 things to have success as a Christian?

6. From 1:19-20, where does the power for living the Christian life come from, and where was this power demonstrated (v20)? How can we experience this kind of power daily?

7. According 1:20 where did Christ go after His resurrection? Why is the place important from the standpoint of His authority? Since He is our leader what difference does this make for us?

8. Looking at 1:21, identify the various things that Christ is above. What do you think each of these things refers to? How should this truth impact our daily lives?

9. Read 1:22. In what sense are "all things in subjection" to Christ at this time? What is His special relationship with the church, and what do you think this truth means to us?

10. From 1:23 what is the church called, and why are we called that? In what sense does Christ "fill every thing in every way", and how is the church "the fullness" of Him?

11. In 1:15-23 what truths should we know about our resources (v17, 18, 19), and about Christ (v20-23)? How can each of these truths change your approach to life each day?

### Scripture to Remember

***"I keep asking that...the glorious Father may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better."***  
***Ephesians 1:17***

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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Imagine that a war was about to take place on American soil. What would you do to get ready for this war?
2. Several of you describe the spiritual war we are in. Why is it hard, on a daily basis, to remember we are in a battle for the souls of mankind (including ours)?
3. We were chosen to be in God's army, and adopted into His family. Why does this make us special? Why should it make us want to fight for Him?
4. Discuss what redemption really means—what we were released from, and what we were released to do. How does this lead to blessing in our lives?
5. Why is it good to know that our sins have been both paid for, and remitted (sent away)?
6. What is God's plan for the ages? How should the fact that God has let us in on His plan impact our lives? Be specific.