

*The Ascendant Descender
Flying through Ephesians*

Ephesians 4:7–11
INTRODUCTION

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Grace Chapel

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Review of the Exposition:

- 1:3–14 Gentile believers should praise the Father for what the Trinity did for Jews first
- 1:15–23 Paul [a Jewish believer] thankfully prays for the enlightened Ephesian Gentile believers that they would know their calling in hope, their rich inheritance, & how powerfully the Father works for believers w/ His power that raised & seated Christ
- 2:1–10 Despite Jews & Gentiles being dead, God made alive, raised, & seated them together w/ Christ (saving separated from God people by grace through faith) so they cannot boast but that His created Church would do the good works He prepared for it.
- 2:11–13 These now alive & near-to-God Gentiles are to remember their former alienation
- 2:14–22 Christ effected peace between alienated Jews & Gentiles when he made both one & broke down the dividing Law & He reconciled both to God, so Gentiles are no longer aliens, but fellow citizens with the saints, having been built (along w/ Jews) into a holy temple that is God's habitation—the Church.
- 3:1–7, 13 Paul [requests that they not lose heart at his imprisonment] on behalf of Gentiles, because he assumes that they know of the grace (spiritual gift) given to Paul, namely that God revealed the previously unrevealed mystery to apostles & NT prophets [e.g., that some Gentiles would be fellow heirs, of the same body, & fellow partakers (w/ some Jews)]
- 3:8–13 Paul received a grace (gift) to announce the Church's inheritance & the mystery dispensation—the Church—hidden from creation by the Creator— God's great eternal plan thru accomplished Christ. Thus, no one should lose heart over Paul's imprisonment, because (his message, that resulted in) imprisonment is their glory
- 3:14–19 In light of the union of Jews and Gentiles Paul prays to the Church's Father that He would strengthen the Ephesians that Christ might indwell their assembly in order that they (who were established in God's love) would know the extent and depth of Christ's love with the ultimate goal that they would manifest God's character in its fullness.
- 3: 20–21 Believers should praise the Father forever who works exceedingly [on behalf of the body of Christ] doing for it what we never could have imagined, let alone, asked for.
- 4:1–6 In light of God joining Jews and Gentiles in one body believers ought to live in a way appropriate to the fact that God has called them into His Church by humbly bearing with one another in love, that is, by preserving the unity that the Holy Spirit has effected through a jointly-bound peace [treaty, the peace-treaty that created the Church is because the one body corresponds to the fact that one triune God has called the church in one way

New Exposition

4:7 [In mild contrast with the unity that characterizes the Church] the Holy Spirit gave a spiritual gift to each believer in proportion to the number of gifted people Christ gave to the church

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift

Cross-Pollination approach to Interpreting this verse

(A) _____ gave (B) grace [a spiritual gift] to (C) each one of us

(X) Christ gave (Y) _____ to (Z) _____

Cross-pollenized answer (X) Christ gave (B) grace [a spiritual gift] to (C) each one of us

Test: Christ gave grace [a spiritual gift] to each one of us according to the measure by which Christ gave grace [a spiritual gift] to each one of us.

Solving the problems cross-pollination creates:

Ephesians 3:1,7-8; 4:7 use grace to mean _____

Who does the NT normally say gives these? _____

What is given in Ephesians 4:11? _____

Clue: Why is it that what is given is in the plural in Ephesians 4:11?

Who is the giver in Ephesians 4:11?

Who is the giver in Ephesians 4:7b?

4:8 The basis for Christ giving gifted people to the church is that the victor has the right to distribute booty to those who participate in victory

4:8 When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and **gave** gifts **to** men

Y68:18a You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have **received** gifts **among** men

Did Paul twist the passage from Psalms? No.

Paul was *not even trying* to quote the verse

The main point of the first part of Psalm 68 =
the victor ascended triumphantly and

The main point of the second part of Psalm 68 =

the victor then _____

The way that Ephesians 4:8 refers to Psalm 68 is that it _____ Psalm 68

4:9-10 Christ who ascended necessarily first descended to earth in the incarnation before returning to heaven to fulfill all things

Your Bible should contain the word *first* in Ephesians 4:9

What does *lower parts of the earth* mean?

Illustration: What does CITY OF NEW YORK mean?

_____ CITY OF NEW YORK (_____)

_____ CITY OF NEW YORK (_____)
When did Christ descend? When did He ascend? When did the Holy Spirit descend?

J + I Model:

Christ descended from _____ to _____

Christ ascended from _____ to _____ 40 days after Easter

The Spirit descended from _____ to _____ on Pentecost

Y + I Model

Christ descended from _____ to _____

Christ ascended from _____ to _____ 40 days after Easter

The Spirit descended from _____ to _____ on Pentecost

U + I Model

Christ descended from _____ to _____

Christ ascended from _____ to _____ 40 days after Easter

The Spirit descended from _____ to _____ on Pentecost

Validation: John 16:7

What is the point of Christ first descending and then ascending?

4:11 Christ Himself gave church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, & teachers
(APEPTS)

More on this verse next time

Conclusion and Application