

## INTRODUCTION:

General nature of Book of Ephesians.

## I. The Meaning of the Expression:

"The Climax of the Ages"

A. This is the translation of Charles Williams.

The RSV has "A plan for the fullness of time"

J.W. Shephard has "the fullness of the  
(historical) ages."B. It refers to the time when everything in heaven  
and on earth should be unified through Christ.

C. This is God's ultimate plan and purpose.

D. Universal history will not reach its climax  
and completion until this happens.

E. "All things", physical and spiritual,

earthly and heavenly,  
are embraced in the universal redemptive work  
of Christ.That "all things" are to be unified in Him is  
the underlying thought of the whole epistle.II. The Essence of this Expression is God's Provision  
of Redemption - (vs 3-14)

A. The Work of the Father, vs 3-6

1. God has blessed us, vs 3-6

a. In every spiritual blessing

b. In the heavenlies

c. In Christ

2. God Elects: He chose us

a. In Him

b. Before the foundation of the world

c. To be holy &amp; blameless before Him

(1) This is the purpose of election

(2) The goal of election is not only Heaven  
at last, but it is a new life in this world.

### 3. God Foreordains

- a. In love
- b. Unto adoption as sons
- c. Through Jesus Christ
- d. Unto Himself
- e. According to the good pleasure of His will.

### B. The Work of the Son, vs. 7-12

#### 1. The Son is Redeemer

- a. We have redemption through His blood.

(rescued from sin's bondage and

brought up by Him from the slave market of sin  
through the payment of the ransom price  
of His own blood)

- b. This redemption consists of forgiveness  
of sins. (to dismiss, send away)

- c. In proportion to the riches of God's grace--  
not in proportion to human merit.

- d. "Lavish" means "overflow", like the Nile  
overflowing its banks.

#### 2. The Son is Lord.

- a. God's purpose is that ultimately,

- when the time is right,  
at the climax of the ages,

God will "head up all things in Christ."

This is a military term for bringing  
under one head or officer all the forces  
which have been scattered or divided.

### C. The Work of the Spirit, vs 13-14

- #### 1. The Holy Spirit puts on the believer the possessive seal of God, identifying one as belonging to God.

- #### 2. The sealing Spirit comes to be the "earnest" of the believer's inheritance looking to the ultimate redemption of God's precious possession.

The word translated "earnest" was used to  
refer to an initial payment in guarantee that  
the full contract would be carried out.