

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

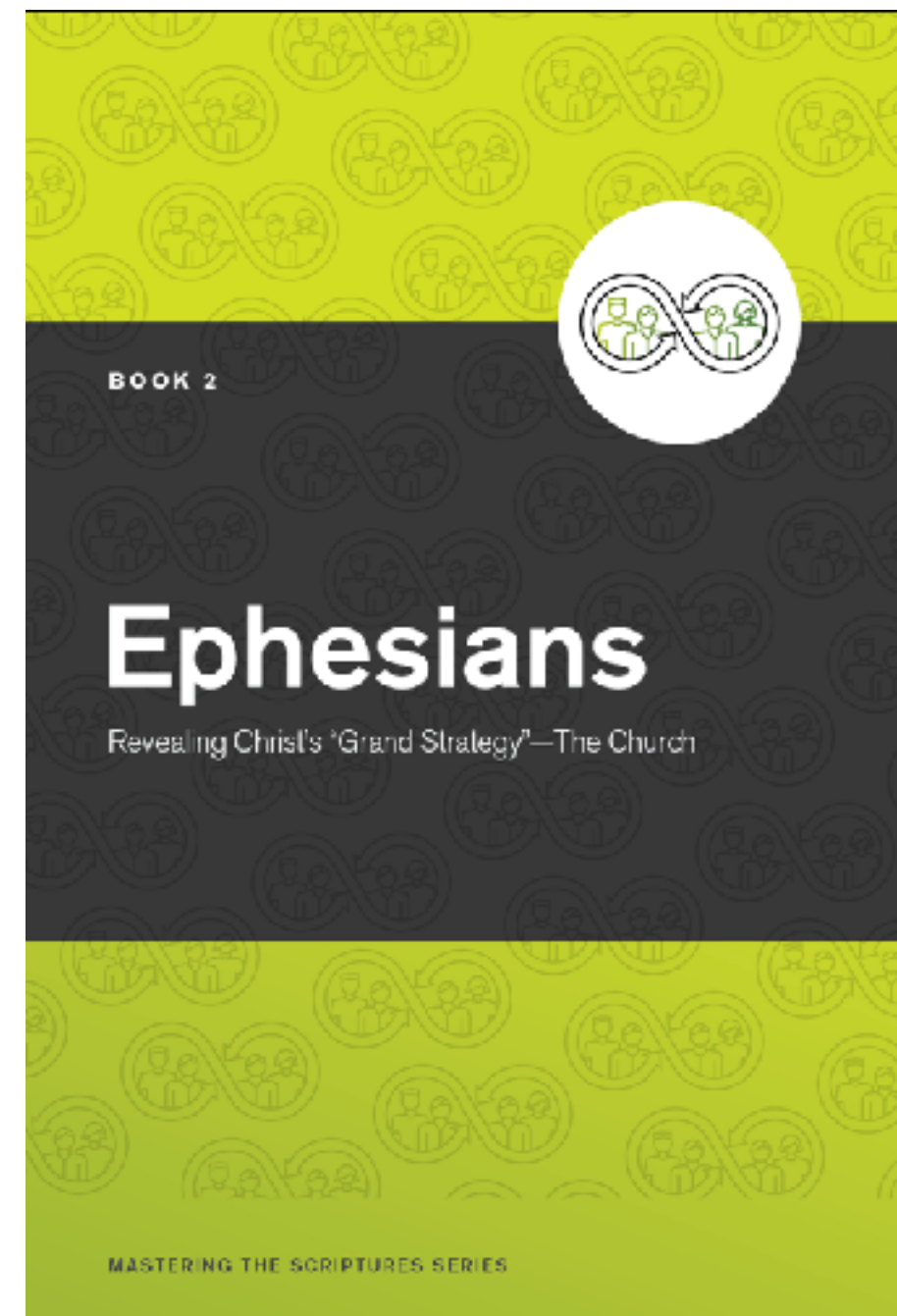
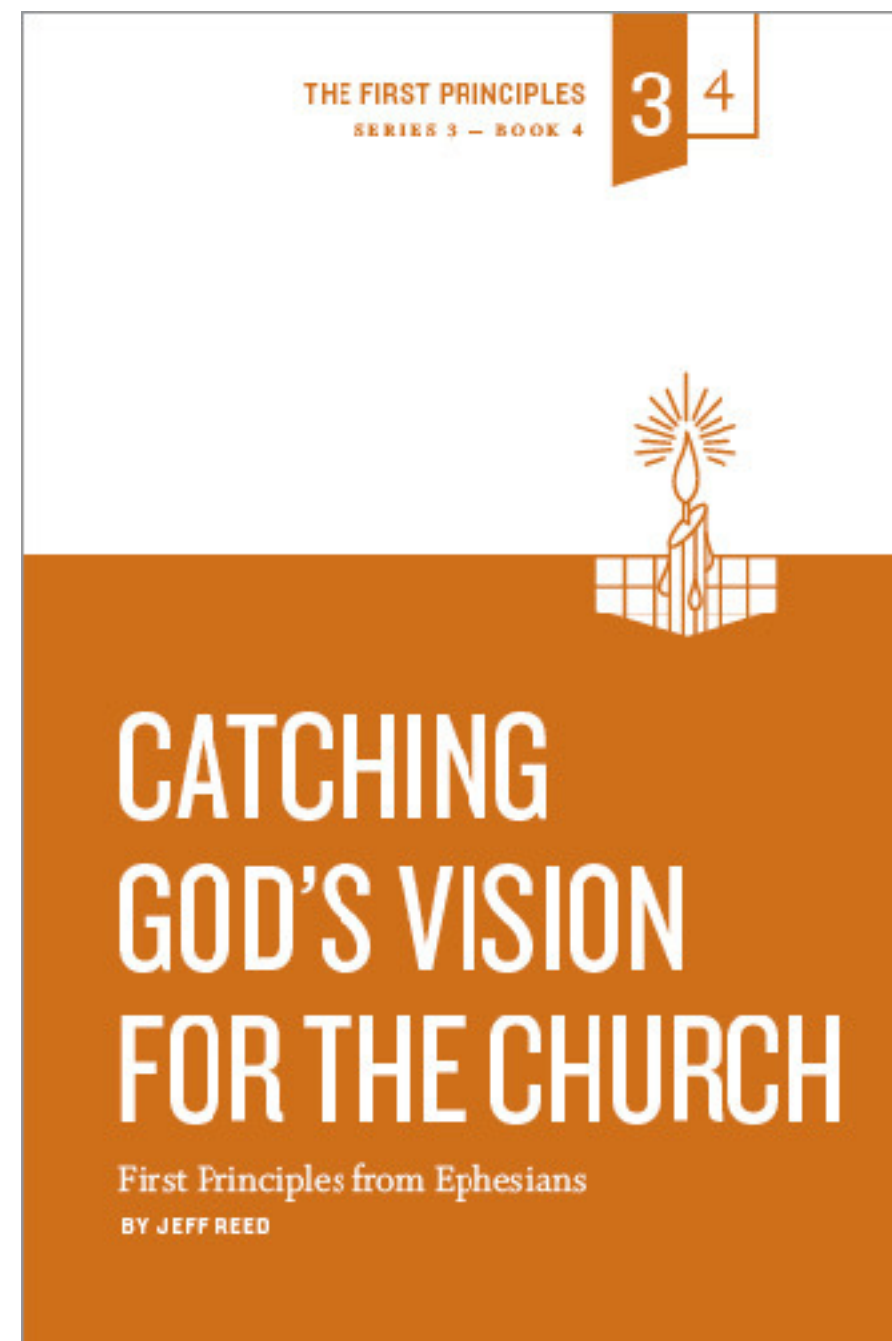
## Putting on the Armor of God

Paul finishes his letter with this big metaphor of putting on the armor of God—probably looking at one of the soldiers guarding him?

It is a metaphor that, in Paul's mind, pulls together everything he has been writing in his letter. But very few understand it.

It is key to them experiencing the power Paul was praying for in his two large prayers earlier in the letter.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians



I have said before, this book, especially Ephesians 4:1–16, set my whole philosophy in 1972 with Ray Stedman's book *Body Life* on Ephesians 4:1–16.

Now, once again, we turn to it.

If you pay careful attention to Ephesians in The First Principles series and this booklet in the Mastering the Scriptures series, you will see that this booklet builds on the first one.



# Ephesians

Revealing Christ's "Grand Strategy" — the Church



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Issue: Putting on the Full Armor of God

Questions:

1. In the context of this letter to the Ephesian churches, what does it mean to be strong in the Lord by *putting on the armor of God*?
2. Is putting on the armor of God primarily addressed to individuals or the churches? Is it primarily a collective or individual exercise?
3. How does Ephesians 3:8–10 inform our interpretation of 6:10–23?
4. Why do you think Paul ended the letter the way he did with all his personal comments?



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10–12

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:13–17

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Ephesians 6:18–20

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

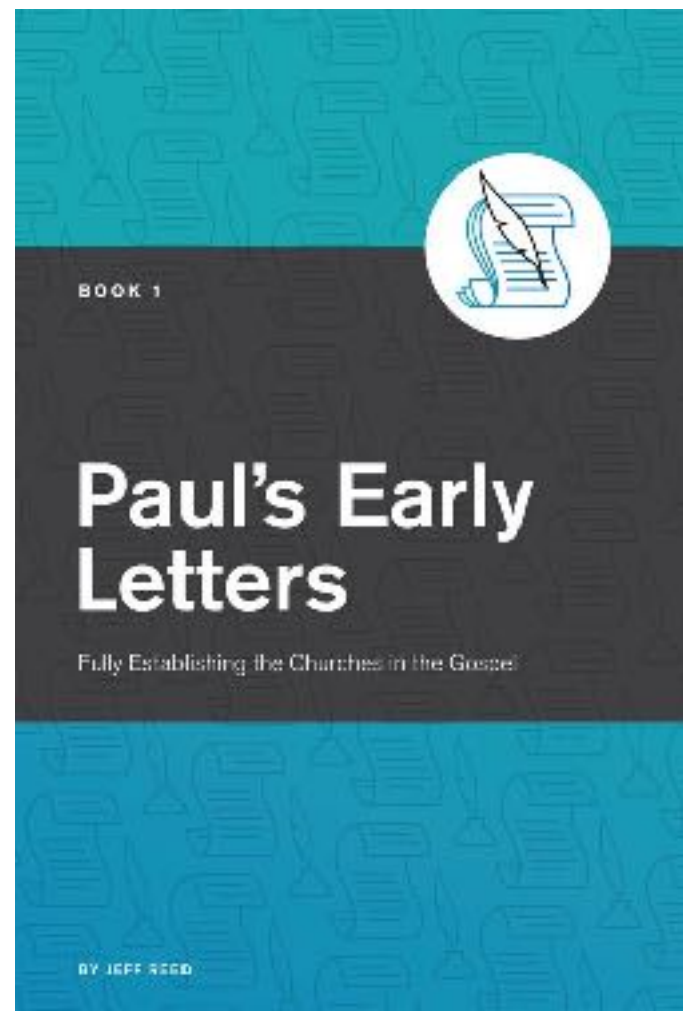
## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>21</sup> So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a dear brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts. <sup>23</sup> Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

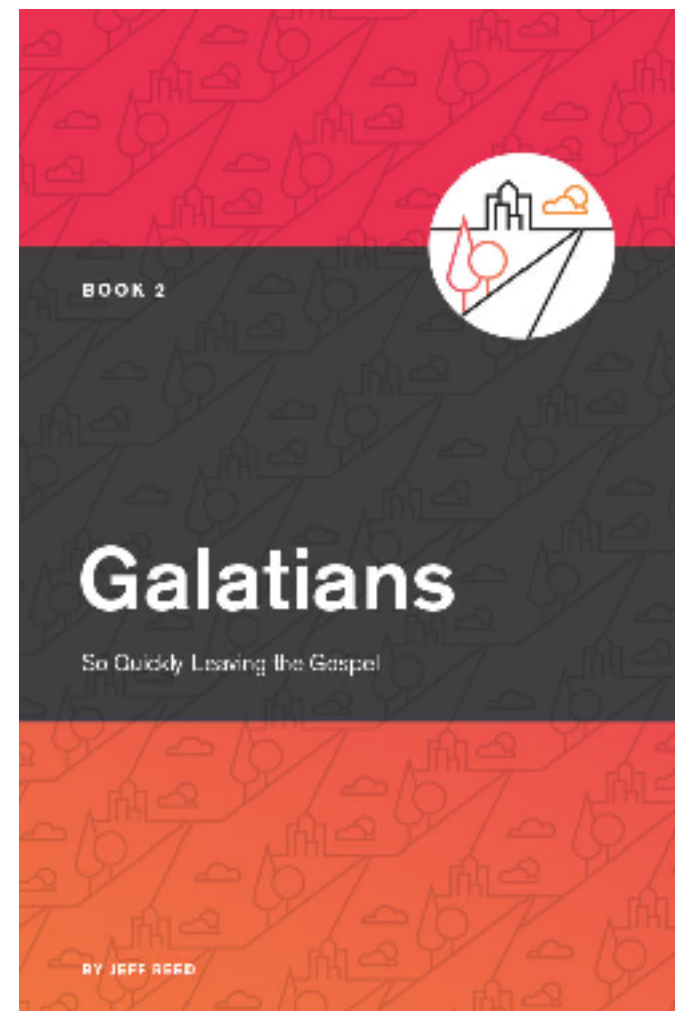
Ephesians 6:21–24



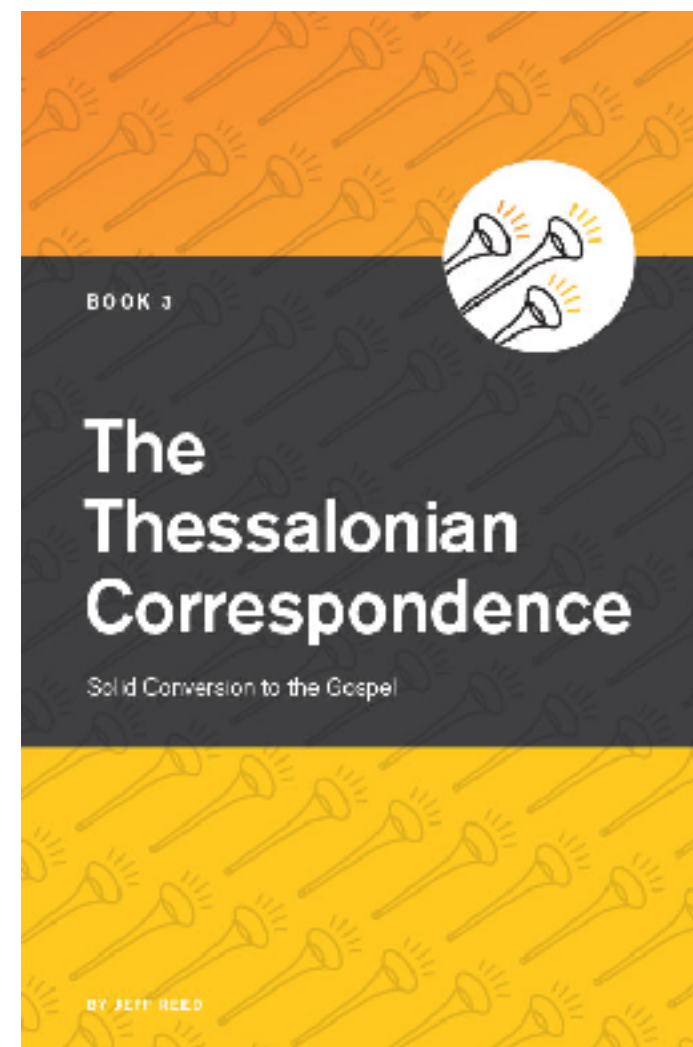
# Paul's Early Letters



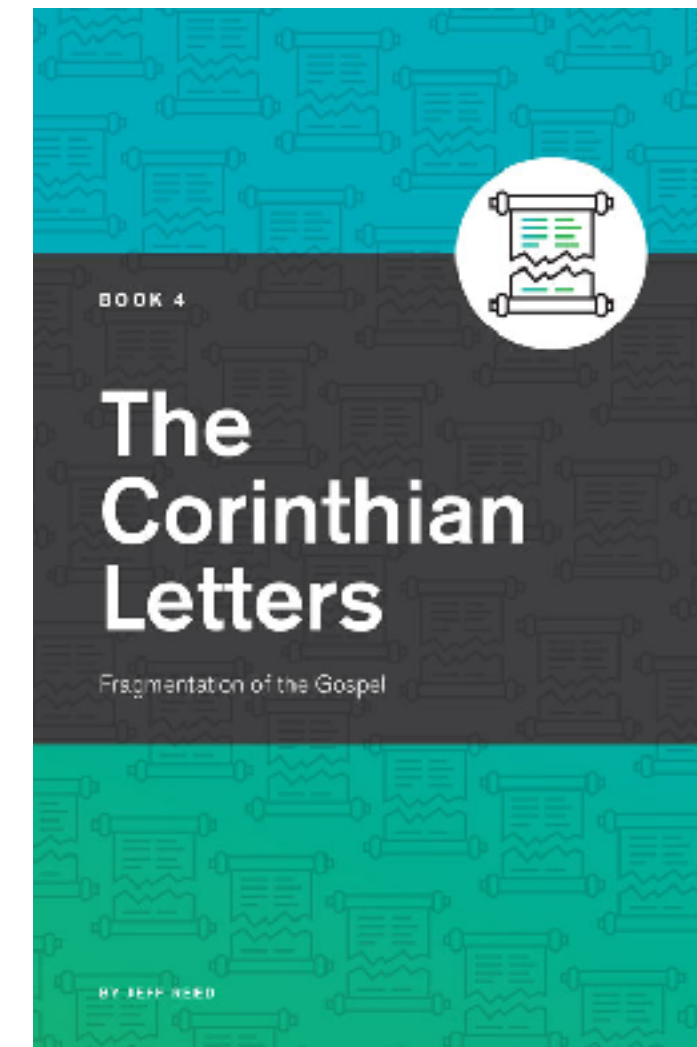
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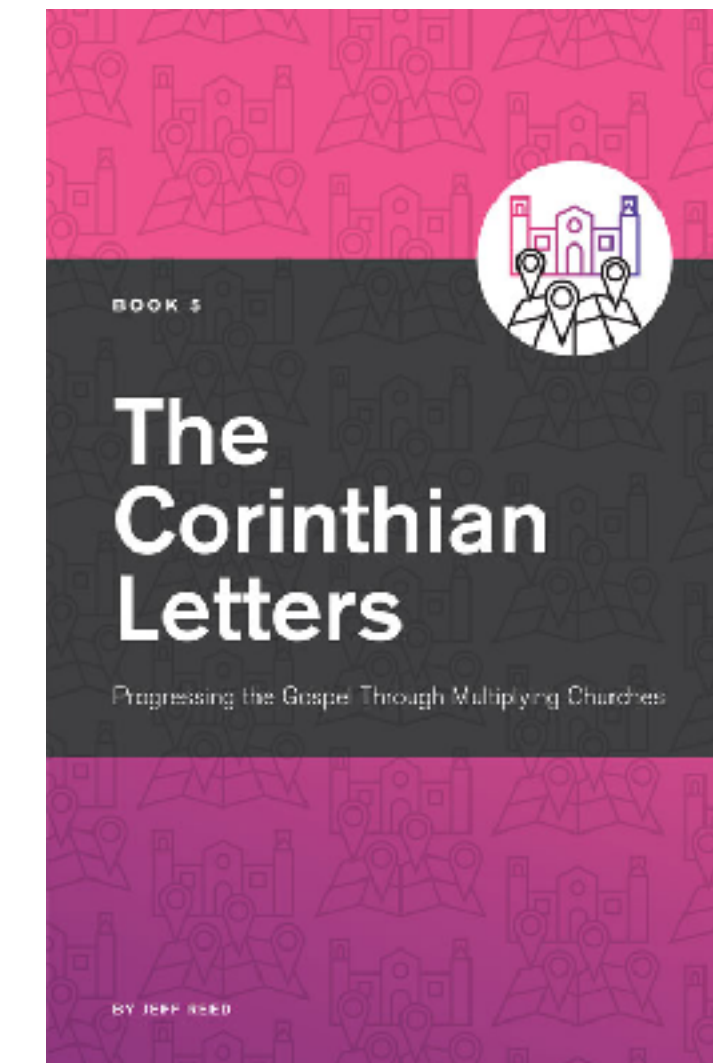
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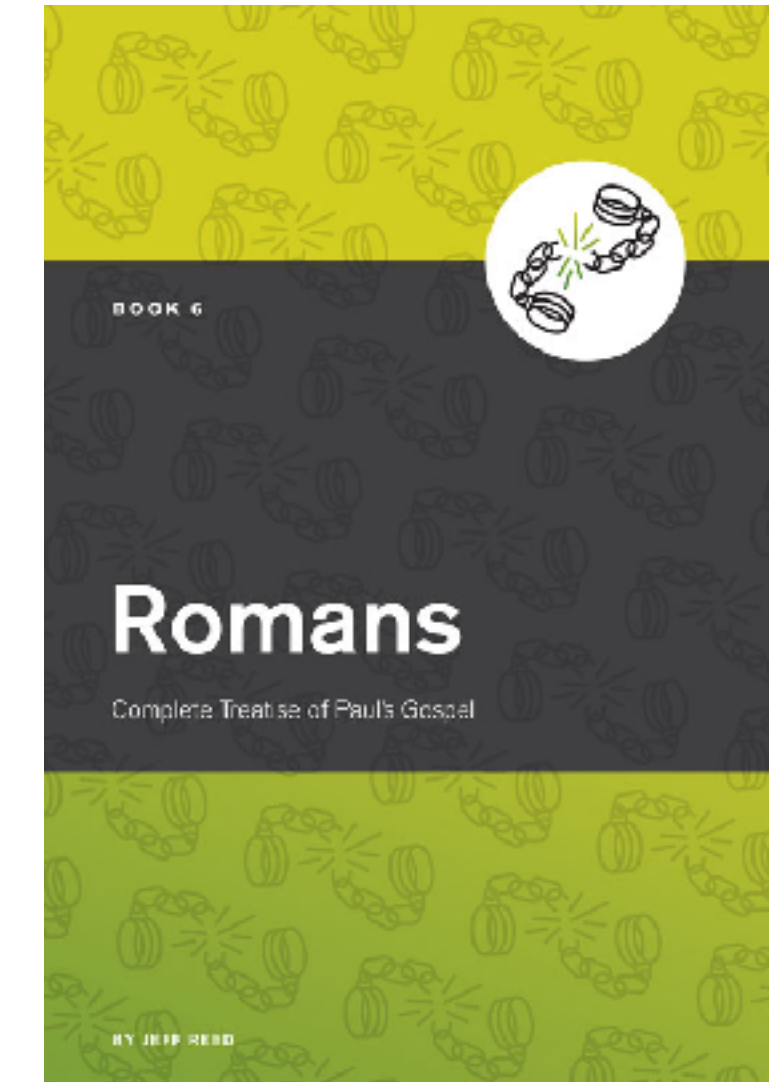
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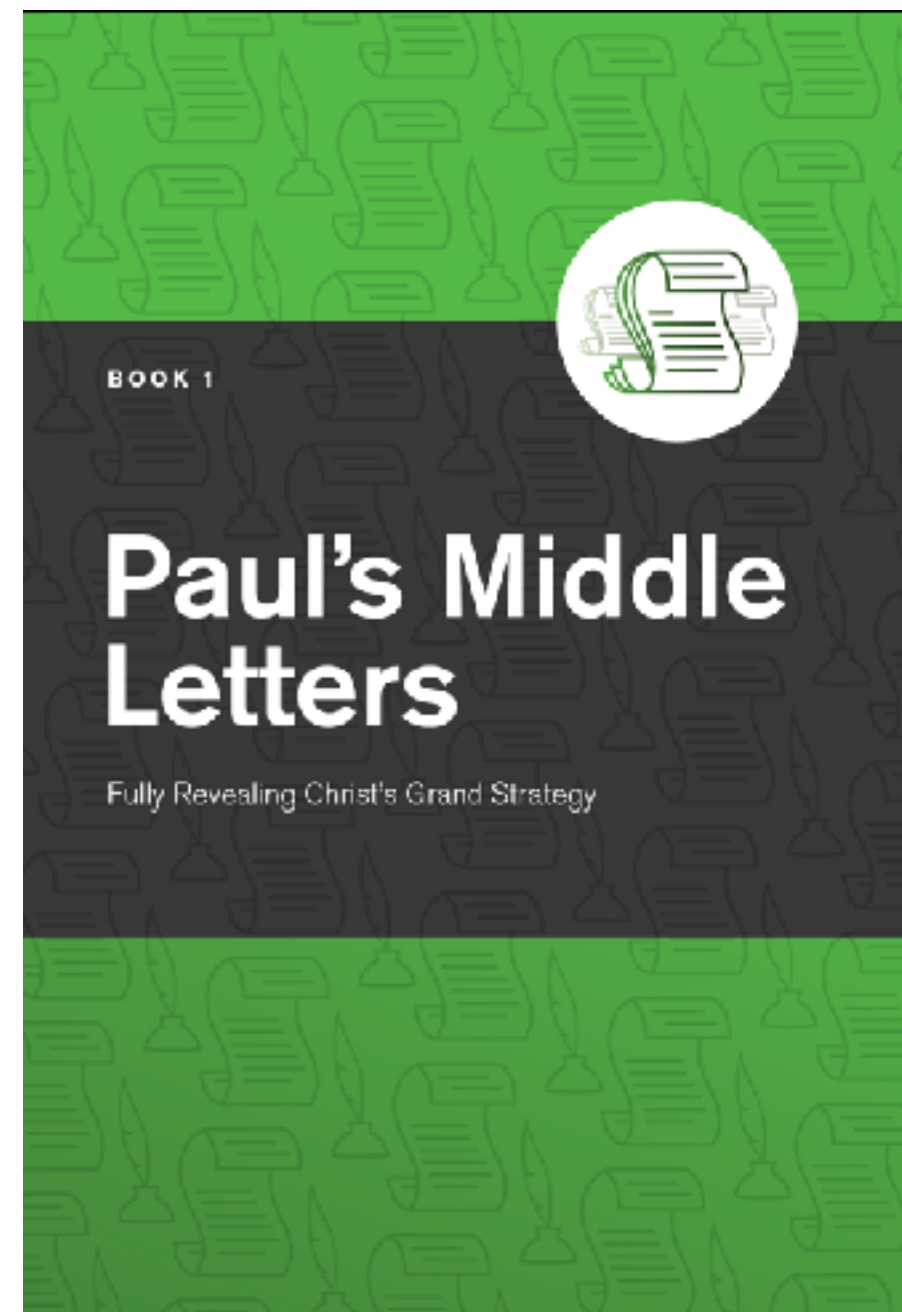


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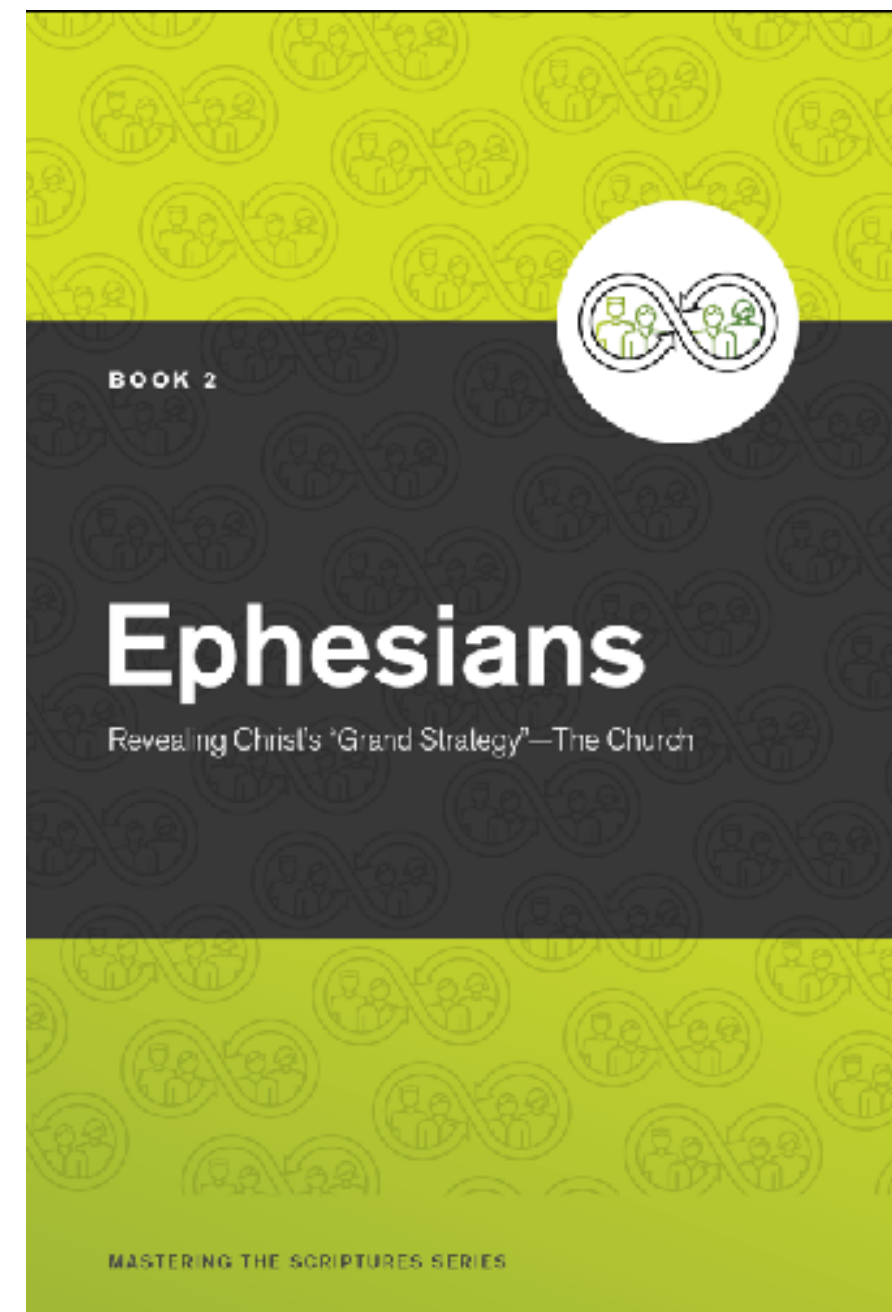




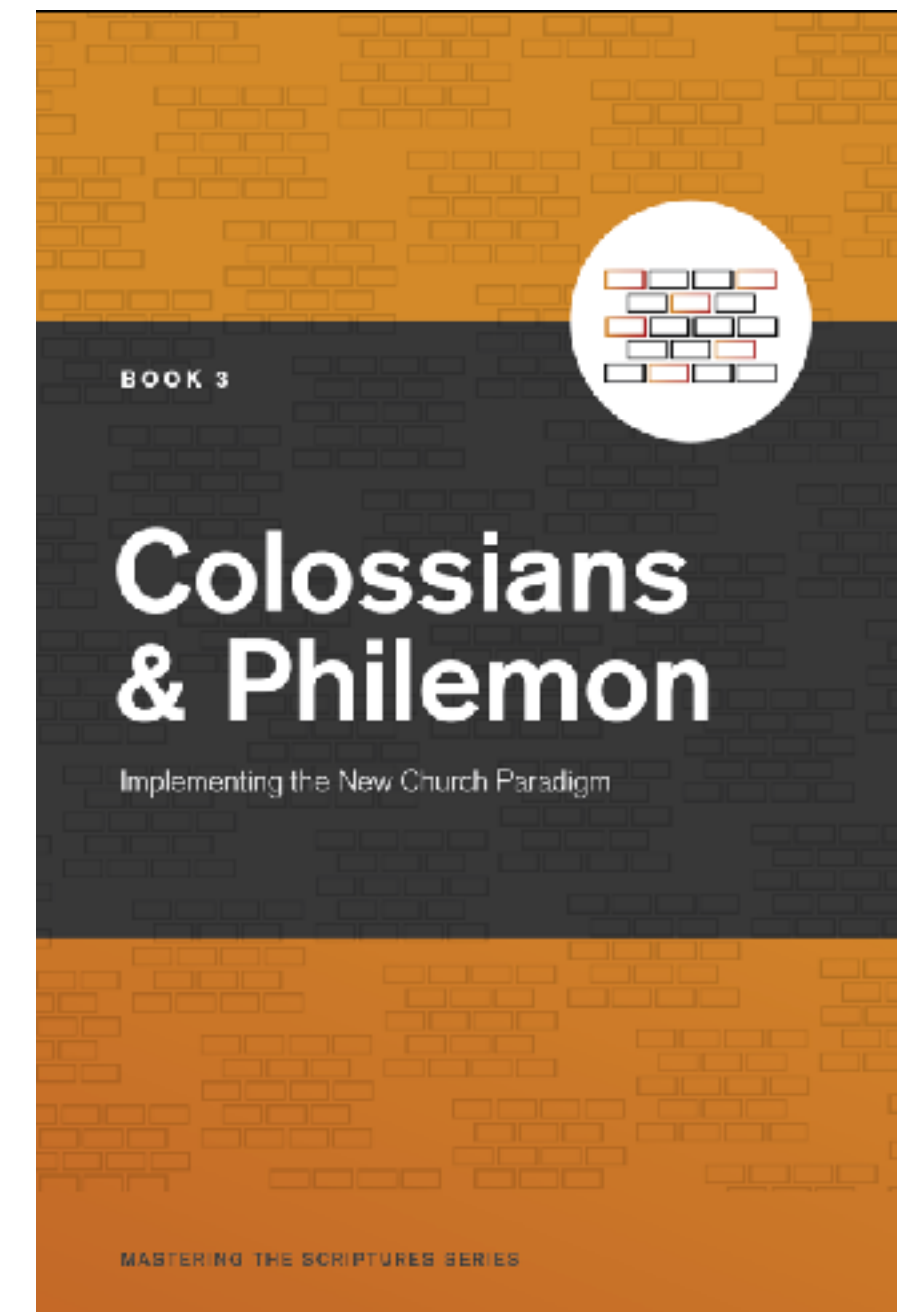
# Paul's Middle Letters



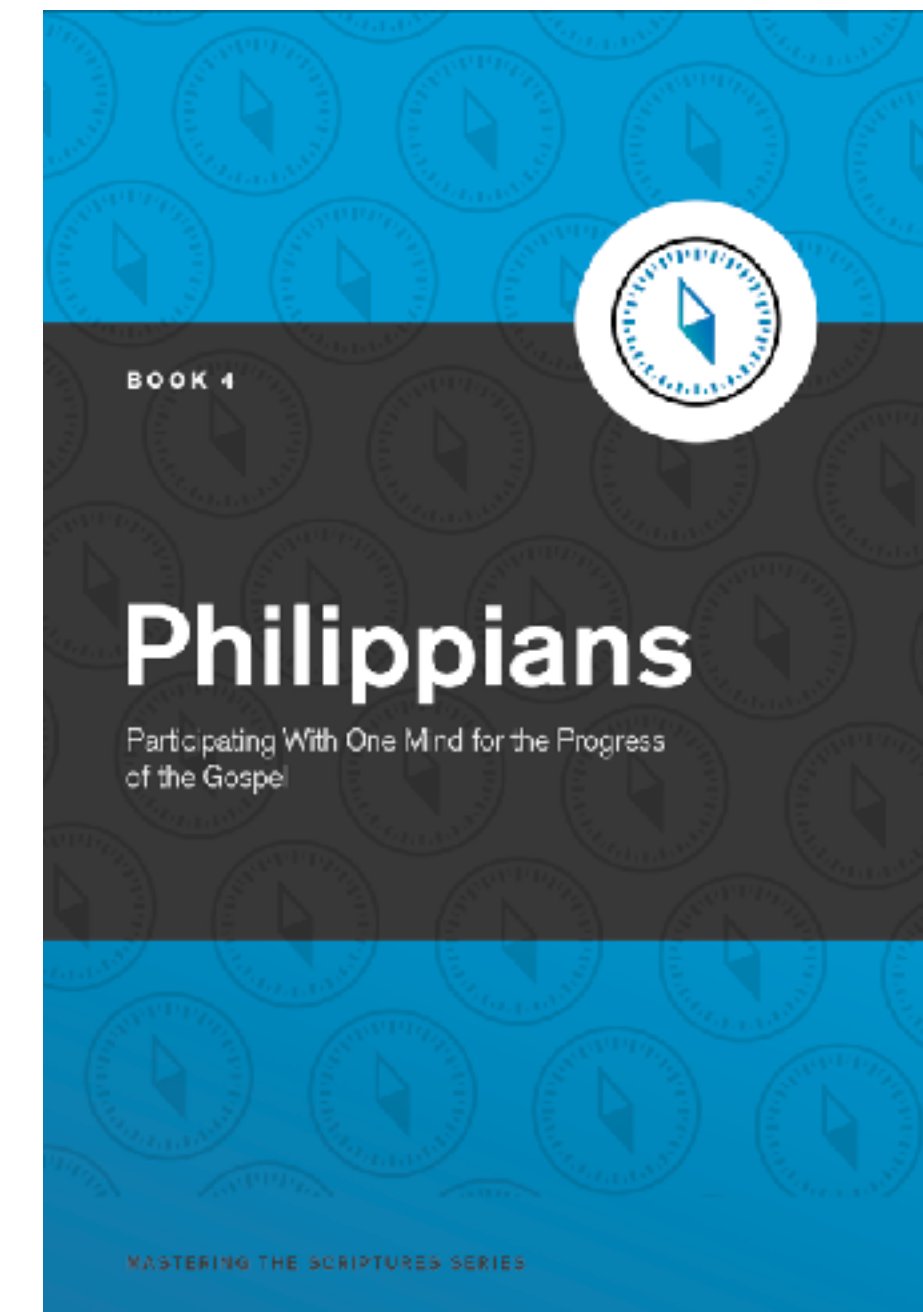
Feb, 60 to March, 62



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Spring, 62

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Ephesians — Hub Churches

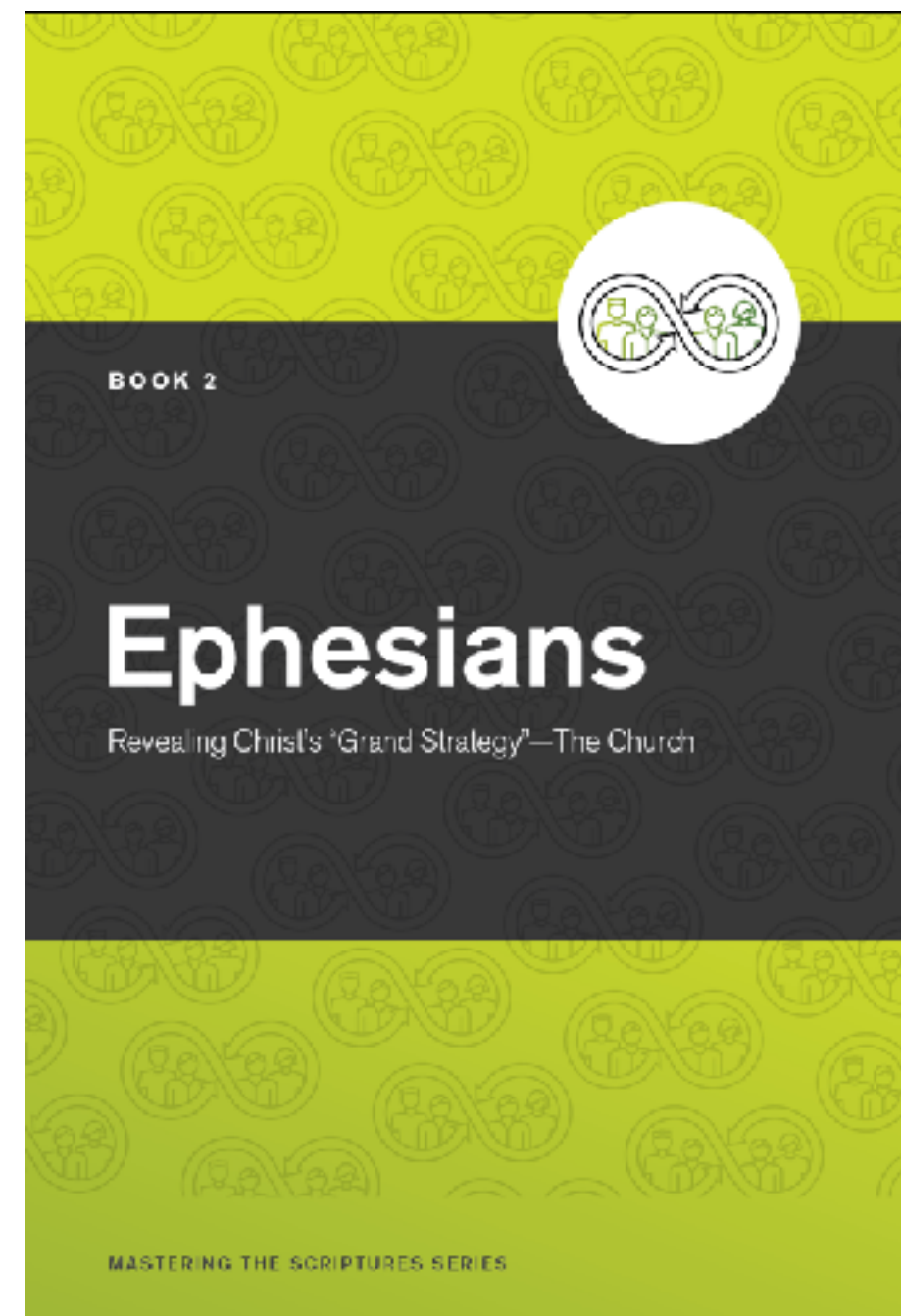
We began the second book in the series — Ephesians — in May 2019.

It is very strategic — both in Paul's strategy and in these Middle Letters. It is the first of the four and contains the organizing center for the theology of the four together.





# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians



Session 1: Fully Grasping the  
“Grand Strategy”

Session 2: Understanding Our  
Calling (Our Stewardship)

Session 3: Building the  
Framework of the Global Church

Session 4: The Work of the  
Ministry

Session 5: Unleashing the Power  
of the Churches

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Ephesians — Hub Churches

Ephesians: A manifesto revealing Christ's "grand strategy" — the Church — to his key "hub" churches in Ephesus, with a special challenge for the Ephesian churches to fully grasp the significance of their calling and to fully carry out all God intends for them.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

This letter is strategic in this collection of Paul's four middle letters. In this passage, we see that the Church is the center of Christ's plan—His grand strategy after inaugurating the kingdom.

The organizing center of these letters:

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:7–10



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Paul lays out his job description very clearly.

Paul's 2-fold job description:

1. Preach the gospel to the Gentiles (a 10-year battle for the gospel)
2. Fully reveal the heart of Christ's grand strategy—the Church

It is Christ's strategy for progressing the gospel. It will be the heart of His unfolding kingdom, and it will stun the rulers and authorities even in the heavenly places. It was a mystery (hidden) until this time.

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

Then we looked at Paul's two large, similar prayers that almost bookend the first major section of the letter—1:3–3:21. Then we revisited that section and looked at both the big picture of our calling and the core elements.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

First Prayer: 1:15–23

Main idea: To be fully enlightened to truly know our calling and the power available to Christ and His church to accomplish God's purposes.

Second Prayer: 3:14–21

Main idea: To have the power to comprehend God's plan (Christ and His Church), that God might be glorified in the Church and in Christ.



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

We saw the whole argument go like this:

- God developed a plan in Christ and His Church to accomplish His eternal purposes. 1:3–7
- God put His power to work in Christ, raising Him from the dead, putting Him over His coming kingdom and as head over the Church, which is now where God's power to accomplish His purposes resides. 1:15–23
- We are created for good works, as we become part of Christ and His Church. 2:1–10
- We are now members of God's household with one foundation laid by the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the cornerstone, and the whole structure of a global Church being built upon that foundation. 2:11–22

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

The whole argument goes like this:

- This mystery—of Christ and His Church as God's secret plan—has been hidden until now. But God chose Paul to make this plan clear, that through Christ and His Church God's wisdom would become clear to everyone—even the rulers and authorities in heavenly places. 3:1–13
- It is necessary for the Ephesians churches to fully understand this mystery—of Christ and His Church being central to God's plan—for the power to be unleashed in their churches and lives and for God to be glorified in the Church and in Christ Jesus. 3:14–21

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Paul's whole point then is this:

The Ephesian churches must fully understand Christ and His plan, which is the Church, in the context of God's plan empowering Christ (inaugurated through His resurrection and appointment as head of the Church), if they are going to experience this power in their churches.

This has huge implications for the Ephesian churches and for all churches built on this one foundation.



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Now we are going to visit the section— 1:3–3:21 from the perspective of the big picture of our calling.

How do we know this should all be treated as one section?

1. Ephesians 4:1 treats it that way.
2. Structurally (literary design), Paul strategically frames the section with the two prayers.

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

Key to Paul's first section—1:3–3:21

4:1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

With the “therefore,” Paul is saying “in light of everything I just said in 1:3–3:21.”

So 1:3–3:21, in essence, is “the calling to which you have been called.”

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

So what is the big picture of our calling, and what are its key elements?

What is our role, our station in life, our status or position in life, vocation?

Remember, fully realizing this big picture and these core elements is key to His power being unleashed in our churches.

We looked at a few key passages in this section to identify these core elements.



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

Elements of our calling (our role, our station in life, our status or position in life, vocation)

1. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing—adoption as His children, forgiveness of our sins, made known to us His plans for the world, and giving us an incredible eternal inheritance, of which the down payment is the Spirit. 1:3–14
2. He has made us alive in Christ and seated us with Him (with our sins forgiven by grace), and He has specific works for us to do (collectively as churches and individually). 2:1–10
3. We are now the central part of this plan God has been unfolding (part of the “covenants of promise,” God’s big story) and are members of His household (the foundation being laid by the Apostles and prophets; Christ as the cornerstone)—the place where God dwells at this time. 2:19–22

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Elements of our calling (our role, our station in life, our status or position in life, vocation)

4. We are now part of God's plan (previously a mystery)—that is, part of Christ and His church—revealed through the Apostles and prophets through the Spirit, sharers in the promise of Christ (“covenants of promise”), members of one body. 3:1–6
5. In the church, we are now part of Christ's “grand strategy” to accomplish God's plan. It is a plan so amazing that not only nations but rulers and authorities in heavenly places will be amazed—part of progressing the gospel worldwide in powerful and abundant accomplishments. 3:7–10, 20, 21

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

The “big picture” of our calling (our role, our station in life, our status or position in life, vocation)

We are central to the fulfillment of God's unfolding plan (i.e. the “covenants of promise”) — now revealed as being accomplished through Christ and His “grand strategy” the Church — and He will accomplish His eternal purposes in a powerful way through us. Therefore, we need to fully understand and invest our lives in Christ and His “grand strategy.”



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Implications of our calling (our role, our station in life, our status or position in life, vocation): This is part of being “enlightened” — fully understanding.

1. We have been given an incredible, eternal inheritance by being adopted— far more than an orphan into a rich family. We have been adopted into God's family with an inheritance of unlimited value, in this life and the life to come. Therefore, we need to see this as our core identity that shapes our life planning.
2. Each one of us has a special role to play and work to do. This has huge implications for our life planning (i.e.—Life<sup>n</sup> and for shaping our identity).
3. In this confusing world, we are given the privilege and confidence of knowing God's plan, Christ's “grand strategy.” This has huge implications for understanding the political world in which we live and the choices we all need to make as citizens in that environment.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Implications of our calling (our role, our station in life, our status or position in life, vocation): This is part of being “enlightened” — fully understanding.

4. Before we were not part of the “covenants of promise.” But now we are central to that plan and need to master the plan and play our part, as our lifetime stewardship.
5. We should expect God to demonstrate incredible power in our midst, far more than we could ever ask or expect.

# Paul's Middle Letters – Ephesians

Then we looked carefully at Ephesians 4:1–16  
and built on that foundation.



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Carefully laying the foundation and building the framework

4:1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1–6

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

The goal is to maintain unity of the Spirit on a carefully laid foundation.

Carefully laying the foundation

- One body and one Spirit—It is the Spirit's job to actually empower the Church as we follow Christ's plan.
- One hope—We have a future in Christ's kingdom when He returns to reign, the Spirit is the down payment.
- One Lord—Christ is head of the Church and everything is under His administration, His rule.
- One faith—There is one body of teaching: the faith, the deposit, the sound doctrine, the teaching.
- One baptism—Everyone identifies with Christ and His community of faith—the Church.
- One God and Father of all—It is God's overall plan and purpose, He integrates every part.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Building the framework on the one foundation

Two key points — simple formula:

He gave key leaders — apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors and teachers

To equip the believers for the work of ministry



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Building the framework on the one foundation

Now let's think carefully through these two points.

Who are these leaders? And in what sense are they to equip the believers? What does this really mean?

Obviously, Paul and his team were working hard at ministry. We saw this in 2 Corinthians: conflicts without, fears within, sleepless nights, etc.

What did he and his team do?



# Paul's Middle Letters – Ephesians

Building the framework on the one foundation

What did he and his team do?

They evangelized strategic cities

Formed the believers into churches

Entrusted them to leaders

Then they worked with the churches until they were mature.

Key churches served them as a base for expansion: Antioch, Ephesus, Philippi.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Building the framework on the one foundation

Let's take Titus for example

1. Paul left him on the island of Crete to “set in order what remains” —fully establish the churches —first, senior elders who have a firm grasp of the teaching can teach and can refute those who try to upset the churches.
2. Set in order the “family of families” —older men, older women, younger women, younger men —intergenerational households.
3. Then engage in good occupations and meet pressing needs, so the gospel is adorned and churches locally multiply —the work of the ministry.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Building the framework on the one foundation

Key points of Ephesians 4:11–16

1. The apostolic team (5-fold gifts) equips the saints for the ongoing work of the ministry — good occupations; pressing needs in community; local, spontaneous expansion of churches.
2. The apostolic team continues to build a “complex apostolic network” — giving local churches opportunity for global participation.
3. Key apostolic teams hub in key cities/churches for ongoing equipping and to solve problems/correct local leaders as needed.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

Now within the framework, let's broaden our understanding of the “work of the ministry” that we are all to do.

My thesis is that this entire section—4:17–6:9, his core teaching that we refer to as the Didache—is a big part of the work of this ministry that every member is to be fully engaged in.

We only have time here to look into a few key passage from the entire section



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## The work of the ministry

1. Develop your new identity and renew your mind so that you think like Christ in everything—becoming fully established in your faith.
2. Build up other believers with your attitudes, honest conversation, and willingness to forgive other believers at every turn.
3. Labor and work honestly so you are able to give to the needy.
4. Understand God's plan and work it out in all of your life choices, carefully planning your time and investing it in God's plan and purposes—that is the Church.
5. Do not waste your time on partying, but gather together in community with believers, filling your time with what the Spirit wants for our lives—a whole different lifestyle and priorities.

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## The work of the ministry

6. Men, lead your households skillfully—loving your wife and helping her become all that God desires for her to become, shaping the lives of your children around the teaching. Wives, help him accomplish that leadership, supporting him in every way you can.
7. Parents, carefully train your children—both the teaching and lifestyle around that teaching—again a heavy investment of time.
8. Understand that our occupations are part of “doing the will of God.” So even if those in authority over us are unreasonable, our work is part of the work of the ministry; we should realize we are serving Christ in our occupations.
9. Those in authority must also see those under their authority as “in ministry” and have the same worth and value in their work as in their own.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10–12

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

Paul finishes his letter with this big metaphor of putting on the armor of God—probably looking at one of the soldiers guarding him?

It is a metaphor that, in Paul's mind, pulls together everything he has been writing in this letter. But very few understand it.

It is key to them experiencing the power Paul was praying for in his two large prayers earlier in the letter.



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power”

This takes us back to Paul's two prayers

First Prayer: 1:15–23

Second Prayer: 3:14–21

He wanted them to fully understand what Christ had done for them and that Christ has a grand strategy—the church, which He has fully empowered to accomplish His purposes. If they fully comprehend this, the Spirit will empower them.

So part of putting on the armor of God is to fully comprehend Christ's grand strategy.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

Then Paul goes back to the same observations he commented on earlier.

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 6:12

<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 3:10

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

Combine these 2 ideas:

1. Through the Church, Christ is going to demonstrate the wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places.
2. Our struggle is against evil rulers and authorities in heavenly places.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

So Paul is telling the Ephesian church to put on the armor of God and stand firm against those forces, because the church will be under attack at strategic times.

But as we comprehend and carry out Christ's plan, standing firm, the Spirit will empower us to accomplish more than we ever imagined. But it will be a battle.

We know he is addressing the church in how he ends the letter.



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>21</sup> So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus will tell you everything. He is a dear brother and a faithful minister in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, to let you know how we are, and to encourage your hearts. <sup>23</sup> Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:21–24

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Ephesians 6:18–20

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

Paul addresses “the whole community” — probably all the churches in Ephesus and immediately around Ephesus.

Remember, they are a hub church in his network; he wants to keep them updated, to pray diligently for him in his difficulties as an “ambassador in chains.”

So what does it really mean for these churches to put on the armor of God?

Let's look at the metaphor itself.



# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:13–17



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

As Paul looks at one of his guards armor pieces, what words does he choose?

belt of truth

breastplate of righteousness

shoes—ready to proclaim the gospel

shield of faith—protect against specific attacks

helmet of salvation

sword of the Spirit—word of God

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Putting on the Full Armor of God

I think the essence of what Paul is saying is this

I am praying that you, Ephesians, will be churches that operate at “full power”: fully grasping Christ and His grand strategy, fully engaged in the work of the ministry.

To remain “full power churches,” you are going to have to dress yourselves in the truths of this manifesto letter. And especially at times of attack, you must guard your churches by comprehending your calling, being committed to progressing the gospel, and using the word skillfully, so you do not lose ground and power.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Insights into Paul's Network Strategy

1. Paul invested 3 years with the Ephesian elders, teaching them the whole counsel of God, even in their homes, because Ephesus was so strategic.
2. Paul prayed they would fully grasp Christ's grand strategy, which he revealed to them, and become a powerful hub participating with him in the progress of the gospel.
3. He knew they had to stand firm, or there would be a huge hole in his "complex apostolic network." So he challenged them to prepare for major conflict by being clothed in this teaching, like a soldier preparing for battle.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

## Insights into Paul's Network Strategy

4. Paul went out of his way to keep them up to date on his situation and progress in the gospel. He asked them to pray fervently for him, again reinforcing the key nature of these churches.



# Significance of Ephesians

Issue: Becoming churches operating at full power

Questions:

1. What does it look like, today, for our churches to be operating at full power—the kind of power Paul was praying for these Ephesian churches to experience?
2. What kinds of things do leaders need to be doing to prepare churches to operate at full power? Do families and individuals contribute to our churches operating at full power?
3. Drawing on the armor of the soldier guarding him, how does Paul add to shaping the purpose of our churches in Christ's grand strategy?
4. What do Paul's personal comments at the end of the letter tell us about what it means for churches to be operating at full power?

# Paul's Middle Letters – Ephesians

So what does it mean for our churches to be operating at full power?

Paul's main argument:

Generally, our churches must fully comprehend what Christ has done for us and His grand strategy to experience the Spirit's power in accomplishing all Christ has for us; and leaders must be very focused on “equipping the saints” for the work of the ministry.

# Paul's Middle Letters – Ephesians

What do leaders need to do to prepare our churches to operate at full power? to be battle ready?

Here are just a few observations:

1. Leaders, themselves, must have a firm grasp of this teaching, fully comprehending everything in this manifesto letter, for example. (Paul spent 3 years with the Ephesian elders.)
2. The 5-fold gifted leaders, especially, must focus on equipping the believers in the churches for the work of the ministry.

# Paul's Middle Letters – Ephesians

What do families and individuals need to do to contribute to our churches operating at full power? to be battle ready?

Here are just a few observations:

1. Everyone in our churches must work hard at grasping Christ's grand strategy, asking the Spirit to give us the ability to fully comprehend it.
2. Each believer must be fully involved in the "work of the ministry" in order for our churches to operate at "fully power."
3. It will not be easy; we can expect spiritual forces of evil to attack from many directions.



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

**It's not going to be easy to hold our ground, to keep operating at “full power” in our churches.**

We have to put these concepts into our churches like each of us putting on armor for battle. We are going to experience attacks as individuals, families, and churches—especially leaders.

Example of recent battle: A lot of conflict. But we put the armor on, thinking things through in the month of December.

Battles can be smaller: in individual churches, in our families—marriages, children, etc.—all are power reducing if we do not put on the spiritual armor Paul gives us in this letter.

# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

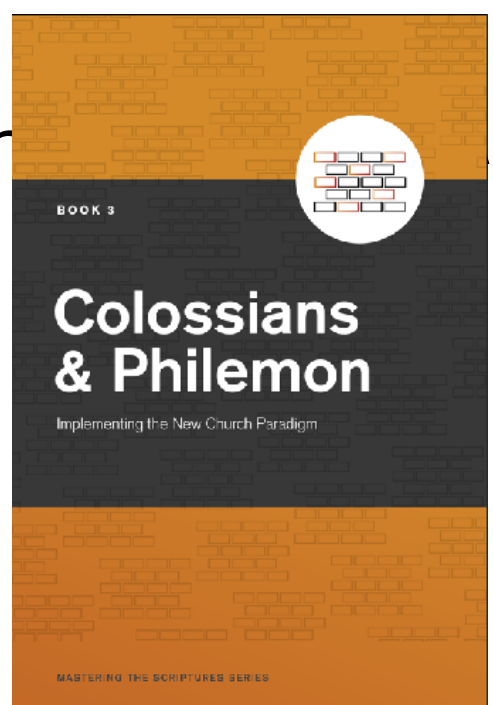
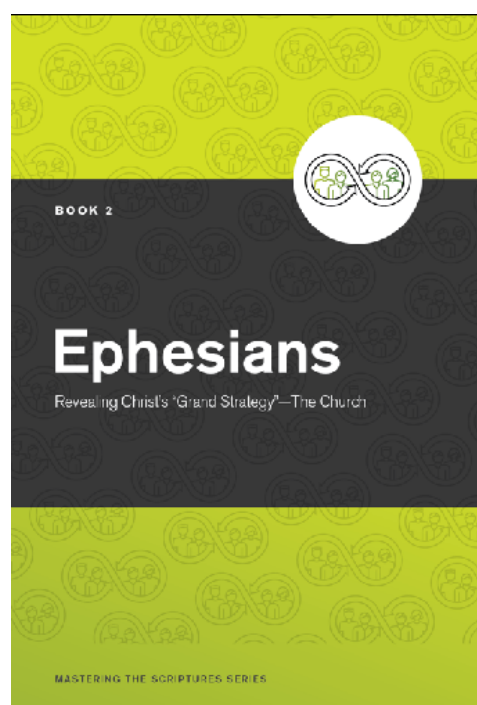
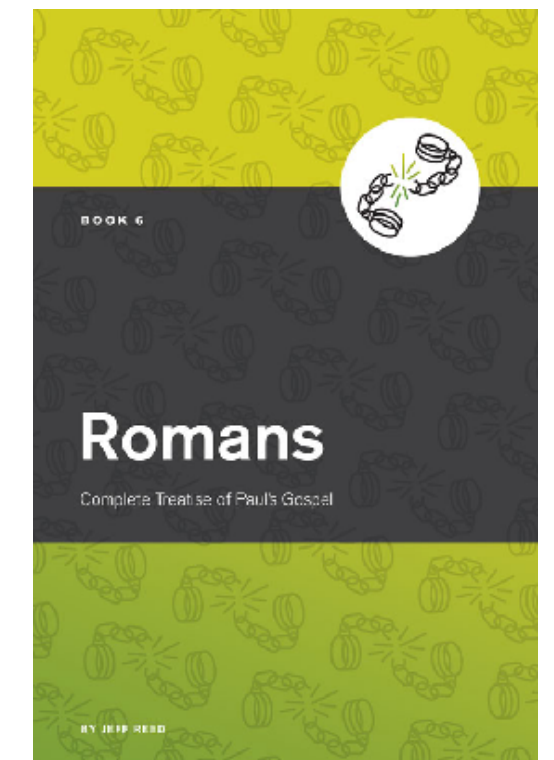
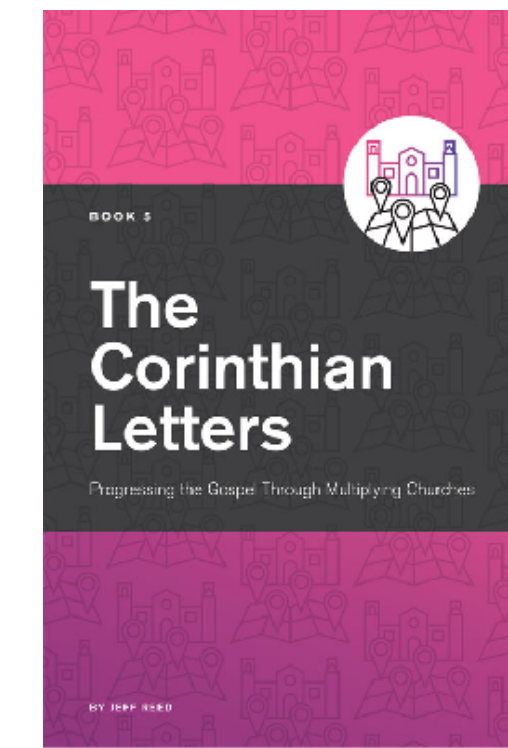
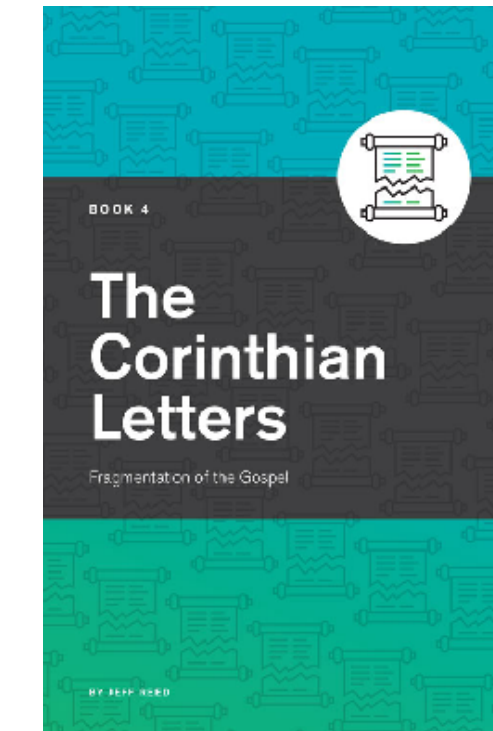
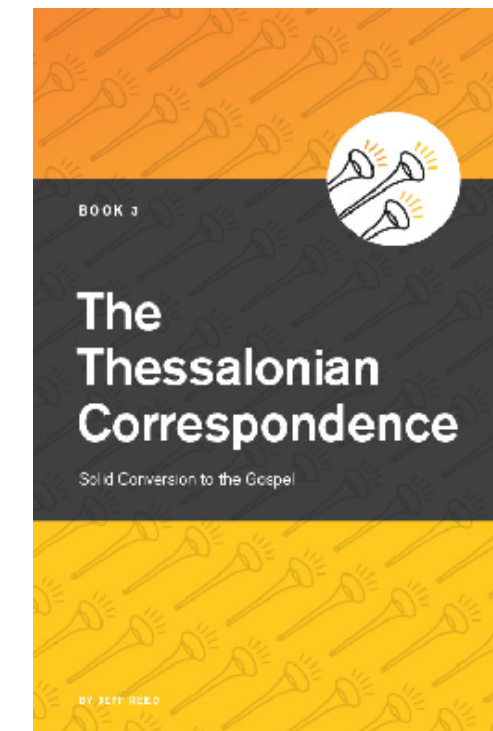
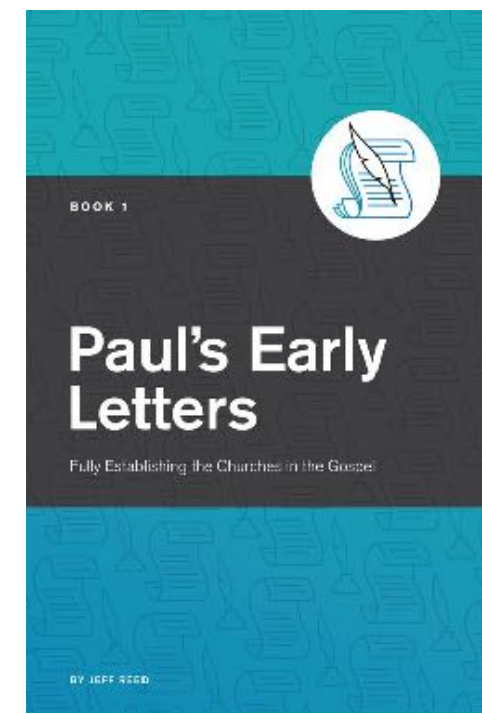
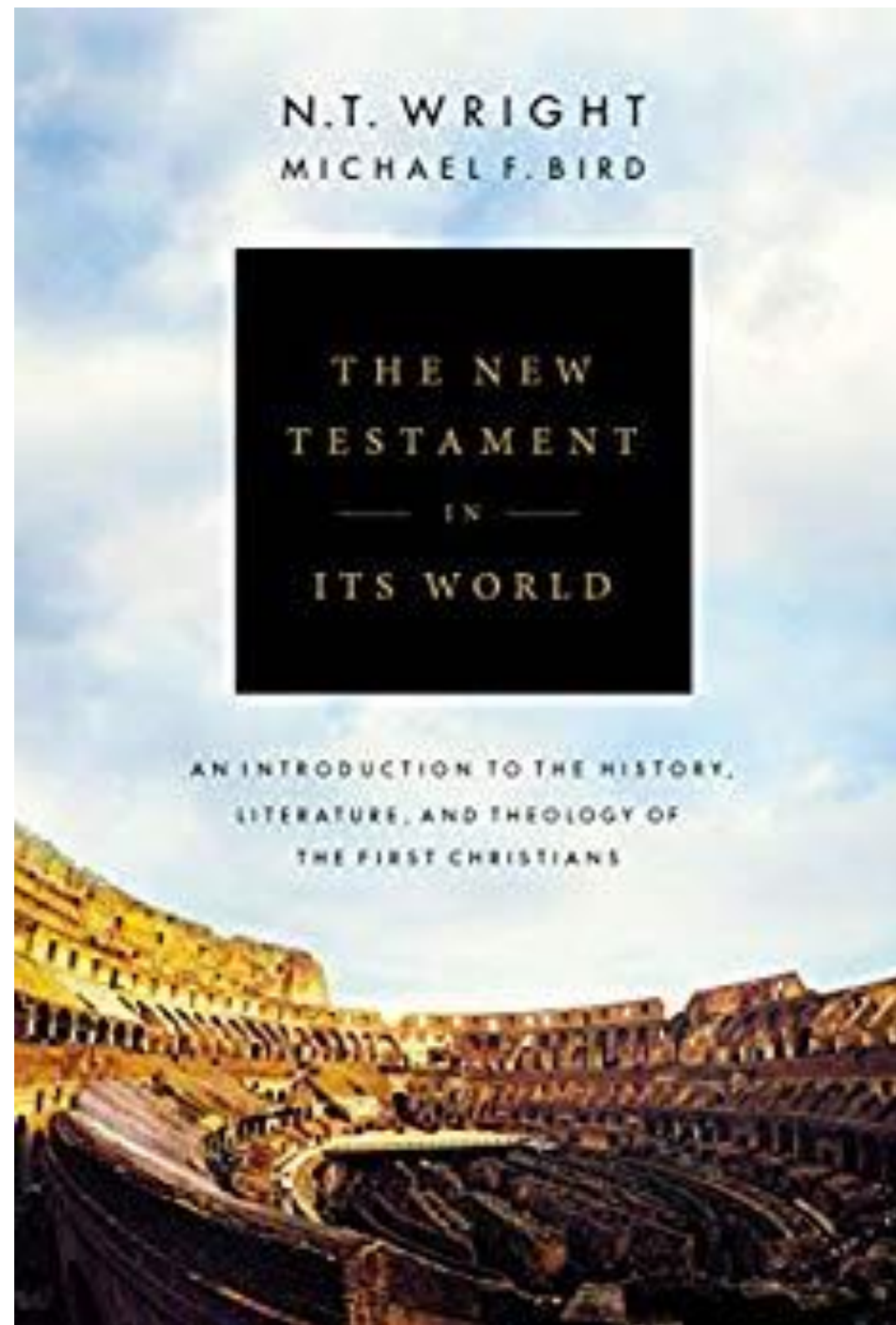
## A final project for our churches

Eventually, we will have Ephesians available in the Mastering the Scriptures Series.

But for now, take just this session and review each of the summary principles and teaching. Discuss them together to see what questions remain. Do it as churches or as families.



# Paul's Middle Letters – Ephesians



Feb 60 to March 60

Autumn 60

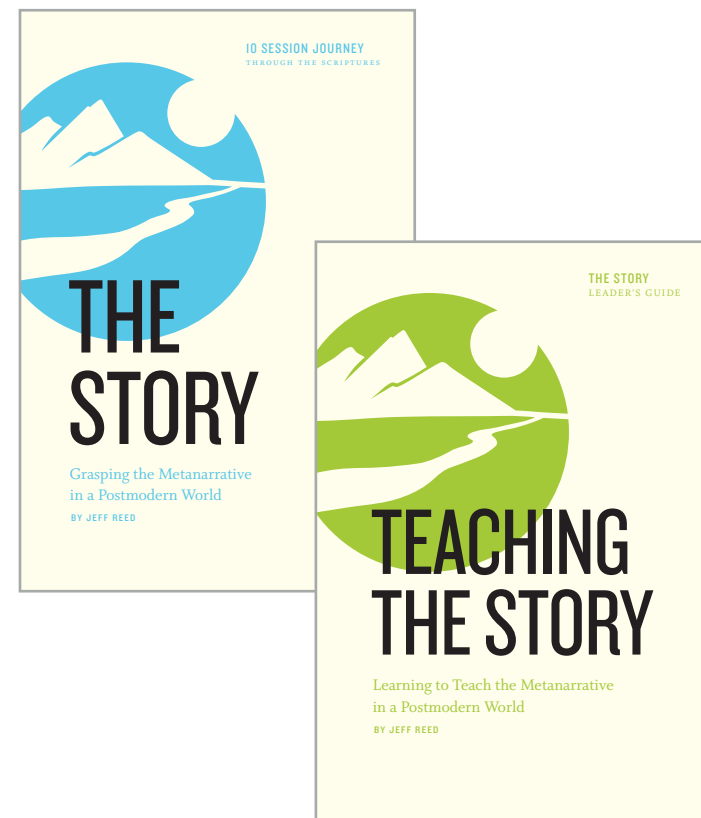
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# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians





# Paul's Middle Letters — Ephesians

**Mastering the Scriptures Series (parallels both my spheres and white papers)**

Apostolic Letters

Paul's Early Letters — 2020

Paul's Middle Letters — 2022

Paul's Later Letters — 2022

Peter's Jewish Encyclicals — 2023

Johannine Literature — 2024

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## The White Papers: Mapping the Progress of the Gospel in the 21st Century—the New Christendom

Paper 1: Grand Strategy and the 9 Civilizations (may be 1st paper) —2020  
AEA—both Asia and Africa  
India and China

Paper 2: Paul and Strategic Global Cities—2021  
Little Rock (who would have guessed)  
Mumbai and Chennai

Paper 3: Peter and the Jewish Diaspora—2022  
Albanian diaspora  
China diaspora

Paper 4: John and Small Networks—2023  
NA CityChurch Network  
North India network (the capital is moving)

Paper 5: The Grand Strategy: Small Worlds Preserve Global Networks—2024  
Small world networks globally  
Network of networks—massive impact

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Wisdom Literature and the Family in the Global Church

Life<sup>n</sup> (with 22 marriage/family supplements)

Parenting with a Plan —1

Parenting with a Plan —2

Artisanship and the Lifelong Pursuit of Wisdom

KidStories–KidStudies

# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## 5–7 Year Challenge

- NextGen—Need critical foundations; you will have huge battles ahead.
- This whole experience/training (MTS, White Papers, Marriage/Family) = putting on more armor.
- Michael—Think of John 17, Ephesians 3.
- Michael's C-BTE Global Network—We all need to fully understand it, but especially key 35–45 year old NextGens, if you are going to operate as “full power” churches for the next 40 years, understand the issues fully.



# Paul's Middle Letters—Ephesians

## Reality of the Battle

When I finished this session, I experienced some fear.

Michael made a comment when we were meeting last Monday: “We need to build carefully in my generation, or our lamp stand could be removed.”

When I think of evil days we have had—a half dozen of them—and the constant battles with churches, families, and individuals, it motivates me to really challenge you NextGens to take full advantage of the next 5–7 year process.