

# Praise *God!*



Ephesians  
1:3—6



**Eph.**  
**ch 1**  
**v 3**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms  
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”





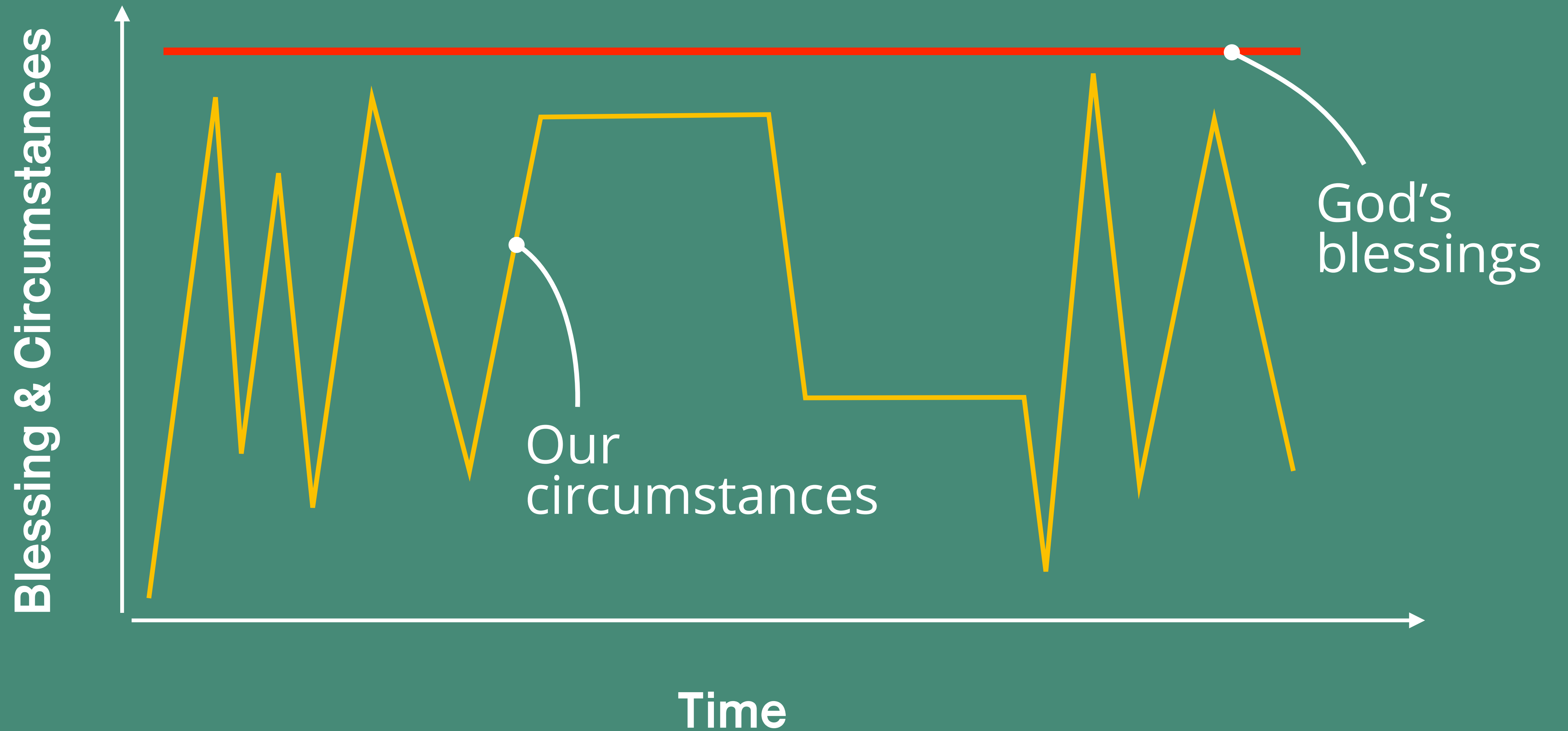
- ▶ **REPEATED 5 TIMES IN EPHESIANS**
- ▶ **THE INVISIBLE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION/ENVIRONMENT WHERE GOD AND ALL SPIRITUAL BEINGS/POWERS DWELL**
- ▶ **NOT ONLY HEAVEN**
- ▶ **NOT EARTH**
- ▶ **NOT ONLY THE FUTURE**



**Eph.**  
**ch 1**  
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# THE HEAVENLY REALM PERSPECTIVE OF GOD'S BLESSINGS





## OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accord with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”



**Eph.**  
**ch 1**  
**v 4-6**

# Chosen

## WHEN DID GOD CHOOSE US?

Before the world was created (4a)

## WHO DID GOD CHOOSE US TO BE IN?

Christ (4a)

## HOW DID GOD CHOOSE US?

- ▶ In love (4c)
- ▶ In accordance with his pleasure and will (5b)

## WHAT DID GOD CHOOSE US FOR?

- ▶ To be holy & blameless (4b)
- ▶ To be adopted (5a)
- ▶ To the praise of his grace (6)







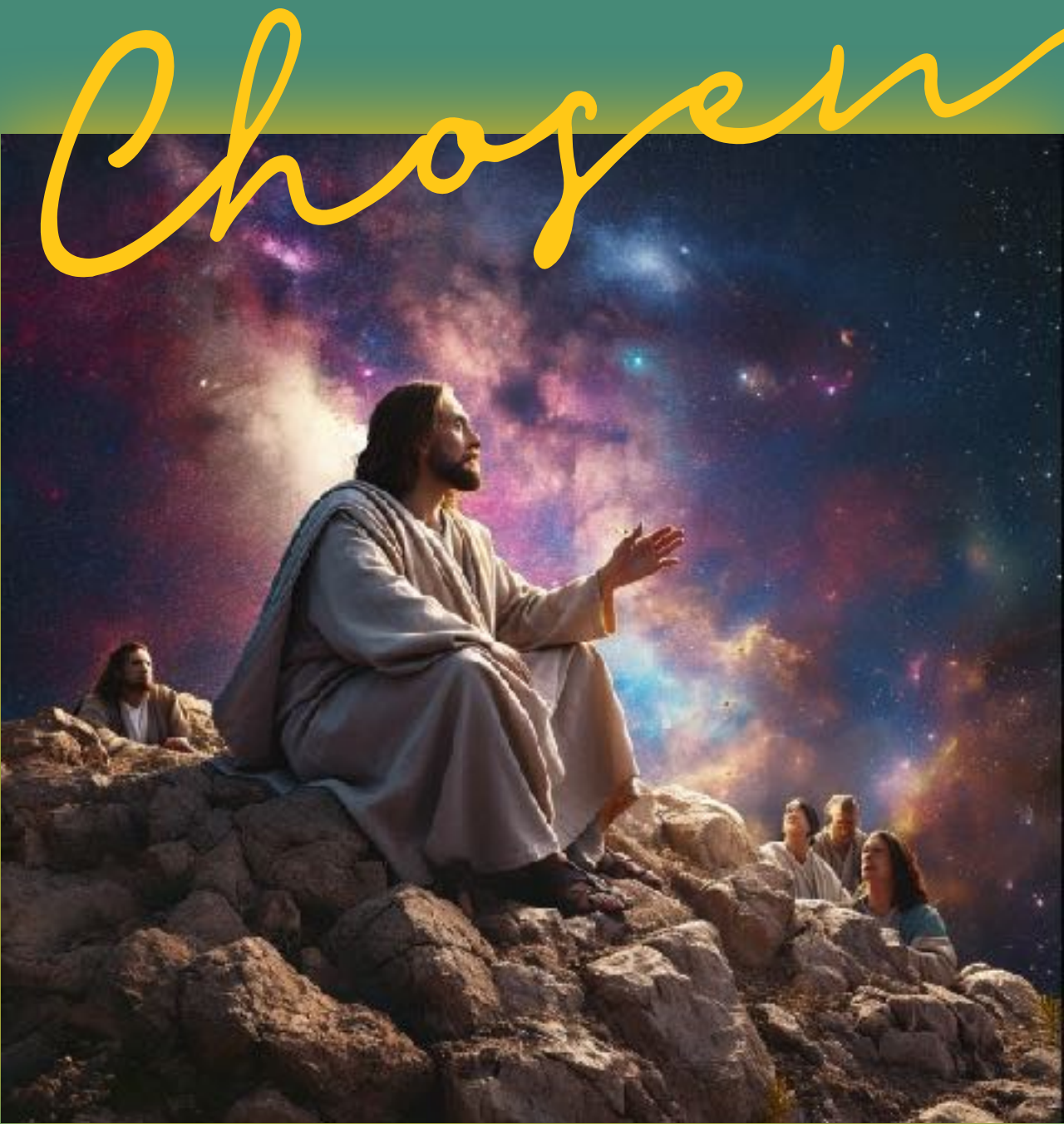
**WHEN DID GOD  
CHOOSE US?**  
Before the world  
was created

**“For he chose us in him before  
the creation of the world...”**

**Ephesians 1:4a**

- ▶ **Our faith rests on God’s free choice, not on ourselves**
- ▶ **Therefore we must not boast; we must praise God**





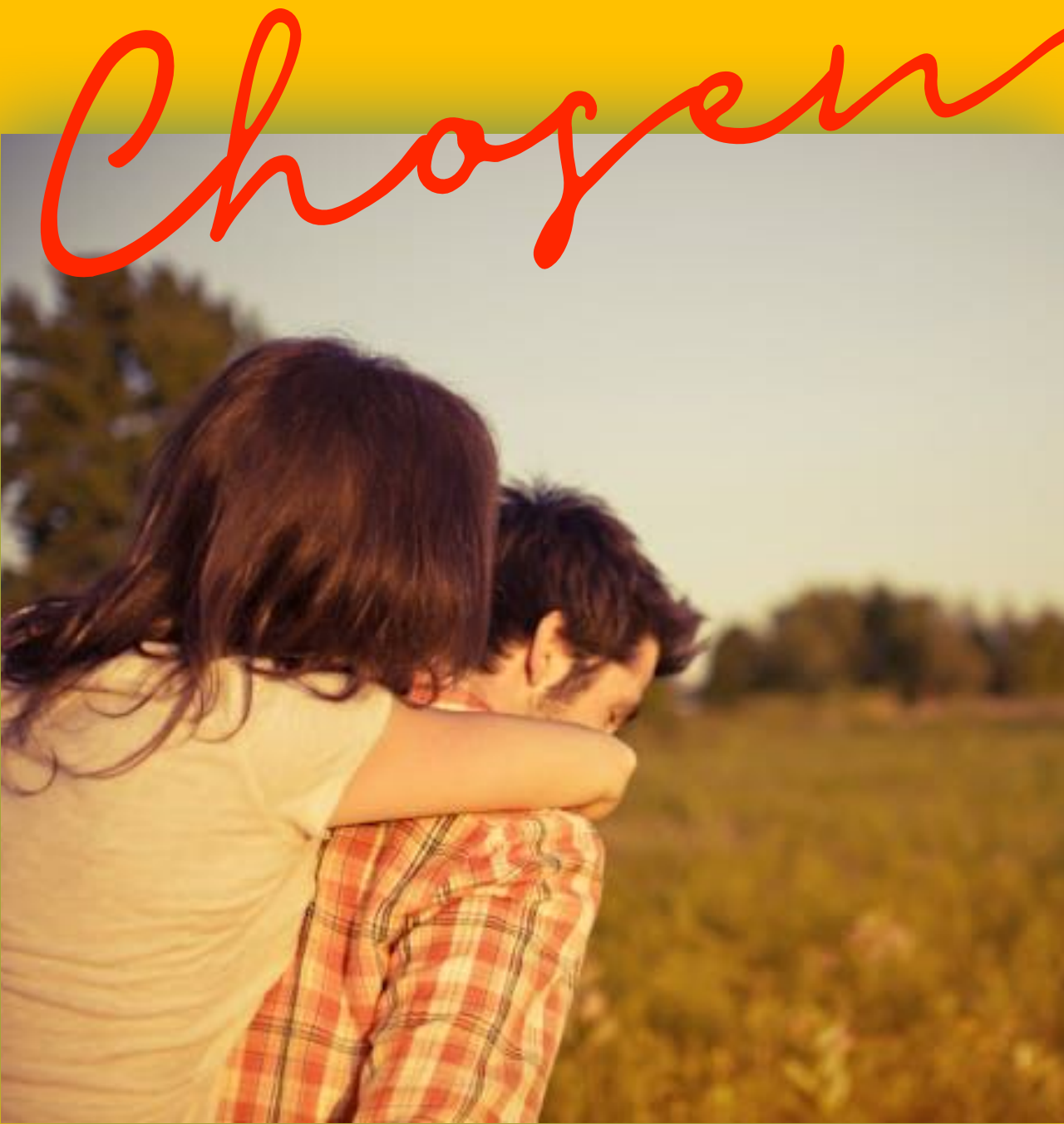
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BE IN?

Christ

“For he chose us in him before  
the creation of the world...”

Ephesians 1:4a

- ▶ God’s plan that Christians are joined to Christ
- ▶ In Him we receive His power and His life.



## HOW DID GOD CHOOSE US?

- ▶ In love (4c)
- ▶ In accordance with his pleasure and will (5b)

**In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...** Ephesians 1:4c—5





## WHAT DID GOD CHOOSE US FOR?

- ▶ To be holy & blameless (4b)
- ▶ To be adopted (5a)
- ▶ To the praise of his grace (6)

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” Ephesians 1:4c—6

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# Thinking about *Predestination*

- ▶ Bible teaches our free choice & God's predestination: a paradox
- ▶ Be thankful we are chosen
- ▶ Rejoice the gospel is open to all
- ▶ The Doorway / The train tracks
- ▶ Follow Paul's lead: praise!

