

SATURATION BIBLE STUDY

APPENDIX SEVEN

Guided Observation Study

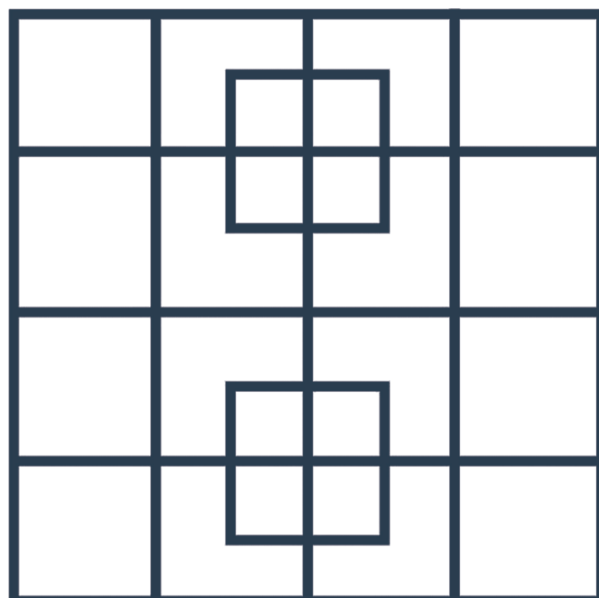
The one marvelous secret of a holy life lies not in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfections of Jesus manifest themselves in my mortal flesh. Sanctification is "Christ in you."... Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy; it is drawing from Jesus the holiness that was manifested in Him, and He manifests it in me.

Oswald Chambers

Welcome to your first guided study. These guided studies are designed to walk you step-by-step through the process of Bible study and help you practice the concepts throughout this book.

Since we spend the majority of our study time in the observation stage, where we peruse, pray, and ponder a passage, I want us to practically work through the process of observing a text. Again, the longer we spend time thinking and examining the passage, the more we will discover. Let me give you a classic example to show you what I mean.

Look at the following graphic. How many squares do you see?



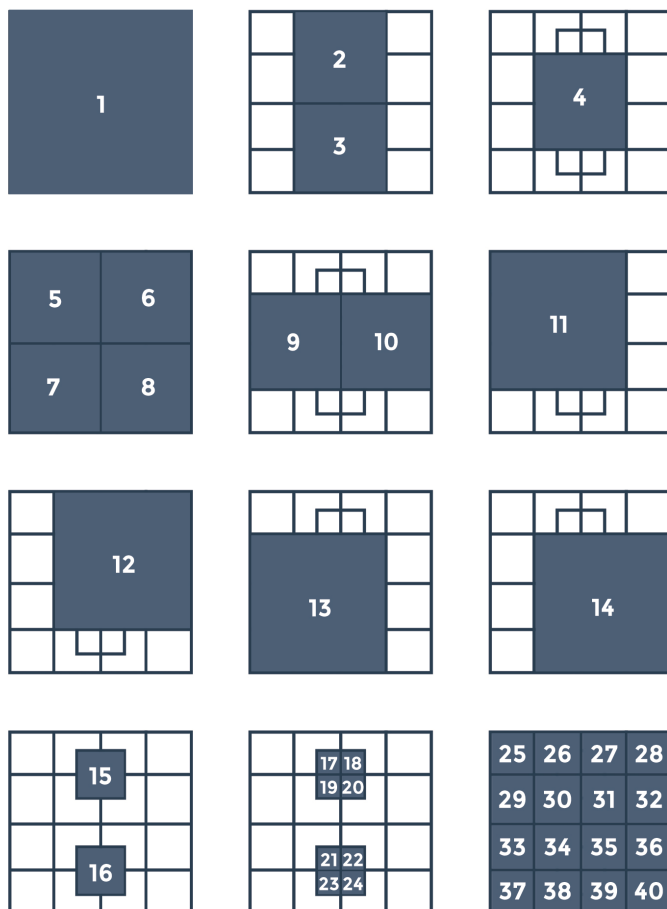
Did you find 18? More than 25?

Perhaps surprisingly, there are 40 squares hidden in the graphic.

It's an illuminating lesson; the more you observe, the more you discover. This is also true with Bible study.

Remember that though the observation stage takes the longest of the four steps, there is no hurry. The goal of Saturation is to know Jesus and be transformed by truth—and we do that all throughout the process—so there is no rush.

While you could work through this guided study in a single sitting, I encourage you to go through this observation process over the next seven days. If you rush through the practical exercises below, you will have a good understanding of how to observe a text but miss the importance of saturating in it. Like meat in a marinade or a good cup of French Press coffee, take the time to soak in the passage. Again, we are not in a rush.



FOCUS

We are going to examine Ephesians 1:4, within the context of Ephesians 1:3–14.

BEFORE EACH DAY

Before you begin each day, start with prayer. Ask God to prepare your heart and give you insight into His Word. Invite Him into the study and declare your desire to know (ginōskō) Him more and be transformed by truth.

DAY 1

When we observe a passage, the best place to start is reading and re-reading the passage. In your Bible, read Ephesians 1:1–14 a couple of times.

What is the “big picture” of what Paul is saying? What is a summary of these first fourteen verses of Ephesians?

Read Ephesians 1:4 in a variety of translations. As you read through each translation, note any similarities, differences, and initial insights you gleaned from the passage. Consider writing the verse down on a notecard (in your primary translation) and carry it with you throughout the day—pull it out, read the verse, and ponder what it says.

Today, don't worry about doing anything specific; just read and re-read the text below.

NASB – ... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ...

ESV – ... even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ...

NKJV – ... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love ...

NIV – For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ...

NLT – Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

LSB – ... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love ...

AMP – Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.

DAY 2

In the context of our passage (Ephesians 1:3–14), Paul gives an overview of the blessings we have in God. Every spiritual blessing is found in Christ Jesus because God is a blessed God who can't help but bless those He loves (see Ephesians 1:3).

After the general overview in verse three, Paul gets into the actual blessings in 1:4–14. While this is not a comprehensive list (there are many others listed throughout Scripture), Paul is explaining the “riches of His grace which He lavished on us” (1:7–8).

While I encourage you to eventually study all the blessings found in Ephesians 1, we want to focus on the first one Paul mentions in 1:4.

One of the aspects of Saturation is to continually keep a passage in mind and soak within it throughout the day. I encourage you to go back and read the entire section (Ephesians 1:3–14) in your Bible every day this week and focus specifically on verse four (read and reflect upon the verse over and over).

Examine Ephesians 1:4 and make a list of as many observations as you can find. Again, observations are anything you see in the text and key questions that help you dig deeper. Here are a few simple questions to get you started (consider using Appendix 5 for additional questions to ask):

- What are the main keywords in the passage?
- How would you summarize or write the passage in your own words?
- What is the key action in the passage? Who is doing the action (God, Paul, us, or someone else)?
- Where does the key action take place?
- Does Paul mention a time element for the main action (when it took place)?
- What is the purpose or result of the main action? Why is God doing the main action?

Take the passage with you throughout the day, reflect upon it, make observations, and ask God to give you wisdom and insight into it.

YOUR OBSERVATIONS OF EPHESIANS 1:4

DAY 3

One of the main keywords in the passage is the verb “chose.” Do a word study on what this word means in its original language (Greek). *For a video tutorial on how to do a word study, visit deeperChristian.com/saturationbook.*

YOUR WORD STUDY:

Here is a summary of the word study I did:

CHOSE

- Greek: **eklegomai**
- Parsing: Verb, Aorist, Middle, Indicative, 3rd Person, Singular
 - Aorist Tense: often translated in the past tense but typically signifies a focus on the action and less on “when” it took place. In other words, don’t worry about when it happened; focus on what happened.
 - Indicative: a simple statement of fact
- Etymology: from two root words: **ek** (from, out of) + **legō** (to say, speak, call)
- Biblical Usage: to pick out, choose, to pick or choose out for one’s self
- Occurs 22x in 20 verses in the NT
 - Key passages: Luke 6:13; 9:35; 14:7; John 15:16; Acts 1:2

Throughout the day, consider the concept of God choosing us. Reflect upon the word, its meaning, and look up key passages and see how the word is used in those other passages. What additional observations, insights, and thoughts do you have?

DAY 4

Yesterday we spent time pondering the concept of God choosing us. Let's continue the reflection by examining **where** it takes place.

Notice Paul says that God chose us IN Him, speaking of Jesus. We are chosen in Christ! Paul uses the phrase "in Christ" throughout His writing to discuss the Christian's position. Just in the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul uses a variety of that phrase thirty times (e.g., in Him, in Whom, in Christ).

We are not chosen apart from Christ—it is not because of who we are or what we have done (see Ephesians 2:8–10 and John 15:16). It is all because of Jesus, and we solely find our hope, salvation, security, joy, and life in Him. Our position is IN Christ.

There are so many promises and benefits of being IN Jesus! Though this is not a complete list, read through it and spend the day reflecting on what it means to be chosen IN Christ Jesus.

WHEN WE ARE IN CHRIST ...

- We will bear much fruit (John 15:5)
- We will be made alive to God (Romans 6:11; 1 Corinthians 15:31)
- There will be no more condemnation hanging over our lives (Romans 8:1)
- We will be made free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2)
- Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39)
- We will have access to the Wisdom, the Righteousness, the Sanctification, and the Redemption of God (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- All the Promises of God will be "Yes" and "Amen" to us (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- Our spiritual lives will be established and anointed (2 Corinthians 1:21)
- We will be led forth in triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- He will diffuse through our lives the fragrance of His knowledge in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- The veil that shrouds our spiritual sight will be taken away (2 Corinthians 3:14)
- We will become new creations; all things will become new (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- The complexities of life will be made simple (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- We will from henceforth live by the power of God (2 Corinthians 13:4, Ephesians 1:19-20)
- We will have an astounding liberty to now do that which is right (Galatians 2:4)
- We will become sons of God (Galatians 3:26)
- We will be blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3)
- We will be chosen to be holy and without blame (Ephesians 1:4)
- We will obtain an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)
- We will be made to sit with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)

- We will be made to know the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us (Ephesians 2:7)
- We will have works prepared beforehand for us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10)
- We will be brought intimately near into His very presence, and we will have boldness and confidence in our approach unto His Throne (Ephesians 2:13; 3:12)
- We will become the very temple of the Lord, the very dwelling place of God (Ephesians 2:21-21)
- We, the Gentiles, will become fellow heirs and partakers of the promises (Ephesians 3:6)
- We will know His Great Mystery that has been hidden for ages and generations (Ephesians 3:9-11; Colossians 1:26-27)
- We will have power to rejoice (Philippians 3:3)
- We will have a prize set before us of the upward call of God (Philippians 3:14)
- We will have access into all the fulness of God (Colossians 1:19; 2:9)
- We will be clothed in His Perfection (Colossians 1:28)
- All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge will be made available to us (Colossians 2:3)
- We will abound in thanksgiving (Colossians 2:7)
- We will be made complete (Colossians 2:10)
- We will be circumcised from the sins of the flesh (Colossians 2:11)
- We will have the promise of Life (2 Timothy 1:1)
- We will be given a holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9)
- We will be supplied an empowering grace (2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:1)
- We will have faith and love (2 Timothy 1:13)
- We will have salvation (2 Timothy 2:10)
- There will be no more darkness (1 John 1:5)
- The Love of God will be perfected in us (1 John 2:5)
- We will not be ashamed before Him at His coming (1 John 2:28)
- We will purify ourselves just as He is pure (1 John 3:3)
- We will not sin (1 John 3:6)
- Anything we ask according to His will, He will hear us (1 John 5:14)
- We will know Him (1 John 5:20)

DAY 5

We are chosen IN Christ! Let's continue the reflection by observing **when** it took place. Paul says that it happened "before the foundation of the world."

The Greek word for "foundation" is **katabolē** which gives the idea of "laying down" or creating a foundation. Interestingly, of the eleven times it is used in the New Testament, it is always used in reference to the world, except once in Hebrews 11:11 when it refers to Sarah being able to conceive by faith (**katabolē** is translated here as "conceive").

The Greek word for "world" is **kosmos** (where we get the English word "cosmos"). It has a few meanings like "world," "order," or could refer to humanity or world affairs. But every time it is used in conjunction with the word **katabolē** (foundation), the context specifically refers to the created world.

Throughout the day, make a list of observations and implications of what it means for God to choose you BEFORE the "foundation of the world."

To aid your reflection and observation, read Genesis 1:1–2:3; Jeremiah 1:4–5; Matthew 25:34; John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:13–20.

YOUR OBSERVATIONS:

DAY 6

Paul explains the reason why God chose us before the foundation of the world is so “that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”

Do a study on the words “holy” and “blameless.” Throughout the day, consider God’s desire for your life to be holy and blameless. What additional observations, biblical insights, and thoughts do you have on these two topics?

YOUR WORD STUDY ON “HOLY”:

YOUR WORD STUDY ON “BLAMELESS”:

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

Here is a summary of the word studies I did:

HOLY

- Greek: ***hagios***
- Etymology: comes from the idea of “pure, chaste, clear” and from the Hebrew concept of being set apart and unlike the world
- Biblical Usage: most holy thing; saint; used to describe the Spirit of God (i.e., Holy Spirit)
- Occurs 233x in the NT and 627x in the OT
 - Key passages: Exodus 3:5; 15:11; Luke 1:49; 2:23; Romans 12:1;
- Interesting to note that while Paul usually uses the word for the “Holy Spirit” and “saints,” he also describes as holy: Scripture (Romans 1:2), Law (Romans 7:12), root (Romans 11:16), kiss (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26), the sanctuary of God (1 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 2:21), children (1 Corinthians 7:14), unmarried women (1 Corinthians 7:34), the Christian (Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:22, 3:12), apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:5), the church (Ephesians 5:27), and God’s calling (2 Timothy 1:9).

BLAMELESS

- Greek: ***amōmos***
- Etymology: from two Greek words meaning ***a*** (without, no) + ***mōmos*** (blemish) – (i.e., without blemish)
- Biblical Usage: without blemish, faultless, blameless, without spot, unblameable
- Occurs 9x in the NT and 78x in OT
 - Passages: Ephesians 1:4, 5:27; Philippians 2:15; Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:19; Jude 1:24; Revelation 14:5, 18:13
- Important to note that this word is used of Jesus as the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 9:14 and 1 Peter 1:19) and used throughout the Old Testament for how animals had to be for sacrifice (see Exodus 12:5). Interesting to consider this concept in light of Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Acts 8:32–35; Romans 8:29; 1 John 4:17, etc.

DAY 7

Go back and read Ephesians 1:1–14 and consider the significance of verse four in light of all the blessings Paul mentions. Is there any significance for Paul placing this one first?

Read through all your observations from the last seven days and write a summary statement of the observations for what Paul is saying about being chosen by God.