

“Signed, Sealed, Delivered”

Ephesians 1:11-14



In.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

In.

“sealed”- ἐσφραγίσθητε (esphragisthēte)-to seal up or secure by putting the mark of a seal upon

“guarantee or deposit” (1:14). Arrabon is a word from the world of trade that means a down payment, guaranteeing the seller will ultimately receive the full price of goods contracted for. The Spirit is our guarantee of resurrection.

In.

The “Seal”: General Details.

- 1. A sign/mark of identification or ownership**
- 2. Technical term that signified and accomplished transaction**
- 3. Something that gave validity to documents to guarantee the genuineness of the articles sealed.**
- 4. Also called a signet. Ge 38:18,25.**
- 5. Usually made with precious stones set in gold.**

In.

Seals were widely used throughout the ancient Near East from the fourth millennium b.c. through the Roman period because they provided both identification and prestige to the owner. The majority of seals from the OT period identify the owner and often these have a title and an emblem or engraved scene as well.

In.

6. Generally worn as rings or bracelets.

Jer 22:24.

7. Impression of the seal were made in clay or wax.

Job 38:14.

8. Used for security.

Da 6:17; Mt 27:66.

9. Attached to all royal decrees.

1Ki 21:8; Es 3:12; 8:8.

10. Attached to covenants.

Ne 9:38; 10:1.

11. Attached to lease and transfers of property.

Jer 32:9-12,44.

In.

12. Set upon treasures.

De 32:34.

13. Were given by kings as a badge of authority.

Ge 41:41,42.

14. Metaphorically used to describe:

a. Circumcision. Ro 4:11.

b. Converts. 1Co 9:2.

c. What is dear or valued. Song 8:6; Jer 22:24; Hag 2:23.

d. Secrecy. Da 12:4; Re 5:1; 10:4.

e. Security. Song 4:12; 2Ti 2:19; Re 7:2-8; 20:3.

f. Full approval by God. John 3:33.

g. The Holy Spirit's indwelling. 2Co 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30.

h. Restraint. Job 9:7; 37:7; Re 20:3.

In.

Remarkable References To the “seal” in Scripture:

Old Testament:

- 1. The names of the tribes of Israel were engraved on stones worn by the high priest**

Exod. 28:11-12 “Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings and fasten them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to bear the names on his shoulders as a memorial before the LORD.”

Exod. 28:21 “There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.”

In.

2. "Holy to the Lord" worn as a seal on the forehead

Exod. 28:36-38 "Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: **HOLY TO THE LORD**. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban. It will be on Aaron's forehead, and he will bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be. It will be on Aaron's forehead continually so that they will be acceptable to the LORD.

Exod. 39:30 They made the plate, the sacred diadem, out of pure gold and engraved on it, like an inscription on a seal: **HOLY TO THE LORD**. Then they fastened a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban, as the LORD commanded Moses.

In.

3. The covenant was sealed by an oath

Deut. 29:12-13 You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Isa. 8:16-17 Bind up the testimony and seal up the law among my disciples. I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob. I will put my trust in him.

In.

Sealing in the NT

1. Christ has the seal on Him.

John 6:27-“Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

2. Christians receive the seal.

Authenticating Us

2Co 1:21-22-“ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee”

- Securing Us

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Eph 4:30-“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

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3. The church at Corinth was a validation seal of Paul's Apostleship.

1Cor. 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

4. Non-Christians do not receive the seal.

Re 9:4

5. In the last days judgment is suspended until all saints receive the seal on their forehead.

Re 7:3.

In.

6. Circumcision was the sign of the seal of the righteousness God gave him.

Ro 4:11-“He (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well,”

In.

Application: Because You Are Sealed By God

- 1. Protection: Demonic spirits somehow know and acknowledge this seal.**
- 2. Illumination: The Holy Spirit now dwells within you revealing who God is.**
- 3. Intervention: The Holy Spirit provides assistance in prayer (Eph. 6:18)**
- 4. Identification: A “seal” was a sign of identifying ownership: So, you can walk in joy with God because you have been marked by Him as your owner.**

In.

5. Authentication: A seal gave validity to documents to guarantee the genuineness of the articles sealed. So, you have been validated by God himself and your identity is based on God not you.

6. Confirmation: Remember “sealing” is a technical term that signified and accomplished transaction. Therefore, you can walk confidently knowing that God has secured you.

7. Infiltration: He put the “seal’ IN you. Now, you can live in CONSTANT awareness of the presence of God.

8. Emancipation: you have been empowered to live a godly life of worship.

In.



THE SANCTUARY

In.