

# NBBC Ephesians Background Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. How many sons of Sceva attempted to exorcise demons using the name of Jesus?**
  - A. Three**
  - B. Five**
  - C. Seven**
  - D. Nine**
  
- 2. What is the 'dividing wall of hostility' that is torn down in Ephesians 2:14-18?**
  - A. The barrier between Jews and Gentiles created by the Law**
  - B. The barrier between rich and poor in society**
  - C. The barrier between believers and non-believers**
  - D. The barrier between heaven and earth**
  
- 3. Which decree's purpose was to establish the churches in the faith and increase their numbers?**
  - A. To unify Gentiles under one law.**
  - B. To fund missionary work.**
  - C. To settle a doctrinal dispute.**
  - D. To establish the churches in the faith and increase their numbers.**
  
- 4. Who stirred up opposition against Paul in Ephesus?**
  - A. Demetrius, a silversmith who made shrines for Diana**
  - B. Alexander, who attempted to defend Paul**
  - C. Aquila, Paul's coworker**
  - D. Gamaliel, a Jewish elder**
  
- 5. Which exhibitions were held in the theatre of Ephesus?**
  - A. Gladiator fights**
  - B. Fights of wild beasts and of men with beasts**
  - C. Public debates**
  - D. Musical performances**

- 6. Which temple was noted as a major shrine dedicated to Artemis according to the text?**
- A. The Temple of Zeus**
  - B. The Temple of Apollo**
  - C. The Temple of Athena**
  - D. The Temple of Artemis**
- 7. Ephesus was principally colonized from which city, by arrangement in this set?**
- A. Rome**
  - B. Alexandria**
  - C. Corinth**
  - D. Athens**
- 8. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach about salvation?**
- A. By faith through grace, not by works**
  - B. By grace through faith, not by works**
  - C. By baptism and faith**
  - D. By keeping the law**
- 9. How did Saul describe his own early character?**
- A. A Devout Unbeliever with No Moral Shift**
  - B. A Righteous and Faithful Servant of God**
  - C. A Reformed Sinner Seeking Peace**
  - D. Persecutor, Blasphemer, Injurer, Unbeliever, and the Chief of Sinners**
- 10. What does Ephesians 1:7-8 say about redemption and grace?**
- A. Redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace.**
  - B. Redemption through human effort, with partial forgiveness.**
  - C. Forgiveness is earned by law-keeping.**
  - D. Grace is only for the first century.**

## Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. D
7. D
8. B
9. D
10. A

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## **Explanations**

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**1. How many sons of Sceva attempted to exorcise demons using the name of Jesus?**

- A. Three
- B. Five
- C. Seven**
- D. Nine

The main point here is the specific number given in the text: seven. In Acts 19, seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish exorcist, try to cast out a demon by invoking Jesus's name. The demon responds, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" and overpower them, causing them to flee naked and wounded. The passage explicitly identifies seven individuals, so seven is the correct count. This scene emphasizes that invoking Jesus's name carries real power only when it rests on genuine authority and faith in Jesus, not merely a verbal formula. There isn't any other count in this story, so the other numbers don't fit.

**2. What is the 'dividing wall of hostility' that is torn down in Ephesians 2:14-18?**

- A. The barrier between Jews and Gentiles created by the Law**
- B. The barrier between rich and poor in society
- C. The barrier between believers and non-believers
- D. The barrier between heaven and earth

The dividing wall of hostility refers to the barrier between Jews and Gentiles that was created by the Mosaic Law and its ceremonial distinctions. In the first-century world, those legal rules marked who could approach God and participate in worship, which fostered tension between the two groups. But through the cross, Christ abolished the law with its commands and regulations, creating one new humanity and reconciling both groups to God in one body. This unity gives both Jews and Gentiles equal access to the Father by the Spirit. So the wall isn't a physical barrier or a social class issue or a division between believers and non-believers; it's specifically the boundary that kept Jews and Gentiles apart under the old covenant, now torn down in Christ.

**3. Which decree's purpose was to establish the churches in the faith and increase their numbers?**

- A. To unify Gentiles under one law.
- B. To fund missionary work.
- C. To settle a doctrinal dispute.
- D. To establish the churches in the faith and increase their numbers.**

The key idea here is that the decree was meant to anchor believers in sound teaching while also removing obstacles that hinder church growth. In the early church, guidance like this often aimed to do two things at once: ensure that new churches are firmly built on the faith they've received, and create conditions that allow more people to join and be added to the number of followers. By clarifying what Gentile converts should observe (without imposing unnecessary barriers like circumcision), the decree protects doctrinal unity and makes it easier for churches to expand. So this aim—to establish the churches in the faith and increase their numbers—best captures the purpose of that decree.

#### 4. Who stirred up opposition against Paul in Ephesus?

- A. Demetrius, a silversmith who made shrines for Diana**
- B. Alexander, who attempted to defend Paul**
- C. Aquila, Paul's coworker**
- D. Gamaliel, a Jewish elder**

Demetrius the silversmith stirred up opposition in Ephesus. His guild's trade depended on Artemis' temples and idols, so when Paul announced that idols were powerless before the one true God, business suffered and the temple economy was threatened. Demetrius seized that fear, gathered the craftsmen, and organized a public uproar in the theater to defend Artemis' honor. The other figures—Alexander trying to defend Paul, Aquila and Priscilla as Paul's coworkers, and Gamaliel the Jewish elder—were not the ones who sparked the agitation in this situation. The decisive impulse came from Demetrius and those tied to the idol-making trades.

#### 5. Which exhibitions were held in the theatre of Ephesus?

- A. Gladiator fights**
- B. Fights of wild beasts and of men with beasts**
- C. Public debates**
- D. Musical performances**

Exhibitions in the theatre of Ephesus were public spectacles designed to draw a large crowd with dramatic, often sensational displays. Among the common forms of such displays in major public venues of the Roman world, fights of wild beasts and encounters between men and beasts stand out as the type of vivid, violent entertainment that could be staged in a theatre setting for a festival or imperial occasion. Gladiator fights are typically associated with amphitheaters rather than theatres, so they don't fit the venue as well. Public debates and musical performances happen in large venues too, but the term exhibitions here most naturally points to the spectacular animal-and-human combats. Therefore, the best match is the display of fights of wild beasts and of men with beasts.

#### 6. Which temple was noted as a major shrine dedicated to Artemis according to the text?

- A. The Temple of Zeus**
- B. The Temple of Apollo**
- C. The Temple of Athena**
- D. The Temple of Artemis**

The main idea is recognizing the famous sanctuary of Artemis in Ephesus. The text identifies a major shrine dedicated to Artemis located at Ephesus, known as the Artemision, which was renowned in the ancient world as the principal temple for Artemis. This makes it the best match because it directly ties Artemis to her principal sanctuary, distinguishing it from temples dedicated to Zeus, Apollo, or Athena. The temple in Ephesus stands out as the major Artemis shrine, rather than the other temples listed.

7. Ephesus was principally colonized from which city, by arrangement in this set?

- A. Rome
- B. Alexandria
- C. Corinth
- D. Athens**

This item tests the idea that Ephesus' early population was primarily founded by settlers from another Greek city, reflecting how colonization shaped the region. Ephesus was a major Ionian city on the western edge of Asia Minor, and in the NBBC Ephesus background, Athens is presented as the principal source of its colonists. This highlights Athens' broader influence in the Archaic Greek world and helps explain the cultural and religious backdrop—such as engagement with Greek cults and philosophical currents—that Paul encountered there. The other cities listed represent later powers or separate colonial traditions, not the main founding link emphasized in this context.

8. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach about salvation?

- A. By faith through grace, not by works
- B. By grace through faith, not by works**
- C. By baptism and faith
- D. By keeping the law

The main concept here is that salvation is a gift from God that we receive by faith, not something we earn by our own efforts. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that believers are saved “by grace” and that this salvation comes “through faith,” with the emphasis that it is “not by works.” The verse stresses that humans don't create or contribute to their salvation through good deeds or ritual; the source is God's unmerited grace, and the means of receiving it is faith in Christ. This sets up a crucial contrast: grace initiates salvation, and faith is the means by which it is received. Because salvation is a gift, no one can boast about earning it. The passage also clarifies that after salvation, believers are created for good works, but these works are the fruit of salvation, not the basis for obtaining it. In this context, the option stating salvation is by grace through faith, not by works best captures the message Paul presents in this passage.

9. How did Saul describe his own early character?

- A. A Devout Unbeliever with No Moral Shift
- B. A Righteous and Faithful Servant of God
- C. A Reformed Sinner Seeking Peace
- D. Persecutor, Blasphemer, Injurer, Unbeliever, and the Chief of Sinners**

The main idea here is that Saul viewed his pre-conversion life in full, not as a minor stumble but as a drastic and active opposition to Christ. He describes himself as a persecutor of the church who also blasphemed and harmed believers, a status he recognizes as being an unbeliever before faith. Above all, he calls himself the chief of sinners, underscoring the depth of his sin and the grace that transformed him. This combination of actions and self-assessment—persecutor, blasphemer, injurer, unbeliever, and foremost of sinners—best matches his own self-description in his letters, especially in 1 Timothy 1:15. The other options don't capture the breadth and severity of his pre-conversion identity or the emphasis on grace that follows his conversion.

**10. What does Ephesians 1:7-8 say about redemption and grace?**

**A. Redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace.**

**B. Redemption through human effort, with partial forgiveness.**

**C. Forgiveness is earned by law-keeping.**

**D. Grace is only for the first century.**

Redemption through Christ's sacrifice and the forgiveness of sins as a gracious gift is the central idea here. The phrase that redemption comes "through his blood" shows that deliverance from sin is accomplished by Jesus' sacrificial death, not by human effort. The forgiveness of sins follows from that, emphasizing reconciliation with God as the outcome of this redemptive act. Saying this is "according to the riches of God's grace" and that God "lavished" this grace on us highlights that forgiveness and rescue are abundant gifts, freely given, not earned by works. The "in him" part points to our union with Christ as the means by which these blessings come. In short, salvation is presented as a gracious, Christ-centered gift secured by his blood, available through faith, rather than something gained by human effort, tied to law-keeping, or confined to a past era.

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## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://nbbcephesiansbackground.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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