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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Isaiah 11.

(2015)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Isaiah 11.

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### Topics.

- There shall come a branch from the roots of Jesse who shall bear fruit.
- In righteousness the LORD shall judge the earth and kill the wicked.
- The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as waters cover the sea.
- God will gather the remnant of Israel from the four corners of the earth.
- Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.
- There will be a highway from Assyria for Israel as there was from Egypt.
- The Commonwealth of Israel and the spiritual temple God is building in Christ.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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**INTRODUCTION:** Isaiah is the exciting story of the Old Testament and the New Testament compacted into one book. It covers the wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy and echoes of the Lord Jesus Christ resound throughout Isaiah's visions and his messages. It teaches history as it affects God's people and constantly points to a future age when righteousness, justice, joy and peace will be established on earth. Isaiah prophesied about 740–700 B.C. He lived during the decline of Israel in the shadow of the powerful Assyrian Empire. He spoke the word of God to a people who were "deaf and blind" (Isaiah 6:10) who refused to listen to his warnings of looming disaster.

Isaiah warned the people of Judah's that their sin would bring God's judgment (i.e., seventy-years captivity) and declared that God is sovereign and would use Cyrus the Persian to return the people from exile. He spoke also of a servant and man of sorrows who would be wounded for our transgressions faithfully accomplishing God's purposes of salvation (Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12). The final chapters give a beautiful description of a new creation in which Christ will rule as King, judging the wicked and establishing God's Kingdom on earth. Following are four points that will help the reader understand the book of Isaiah as they travel through it: -

1. The history of Israel and Judah. At this time in the story Assyria has taken the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria into captivity and marched up to Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) to destroy it, but failed. Later in the story Babylon attacks Jerusalem and conquers the city and takes the people of Judah into captivity. After this victory Babylon conquers Assyria which resulted in Israel and Judah being brought under the submission of Babylonian rule and the tribes being brought together during the seventy year Babylonian captivity.
2. Many of Isaiah's visions are written as though they have already taken place, but a majority of these visions are predicting future events that are about to happen during Isaiah's generation while others will come to pass in a future age. Though these visions are of future events Isaiah speaks them in the present tense, because he spoke them as they came to his mind and as he saw the events unfolding before him. They are often spoken in this manner because of the certainty of it and because God had ordained them and revealed them to his prophets who spoke them to His people so they must come to pass, because God cannot lie.(Titus 1:2).
3. Though Isaiah is primarily speaking to Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) much of what he says applies to Israel (the ten tribes in Samaria) because both Judah and Israel are in the same corrupt spiritual condition.

4. All the promises to Israel are now in Christ. God's promises to Israel now include the Jews and the Gentiles. This is because under the New Covenant God is building an entirely new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles of which Christ is the head. In this new nation that God is creating in the Lord Jesus Christ Jews have no advantage over Gentiles since all are one in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote: Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (i.e., one nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph. 2:1-22). The practical application of what this means, is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel through Isaiah also apply to Gentiles who by faith belong to Christ.

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### **There shall come a Branch from the Roots of Jesse who shall Bear Fruit.**

Isaiah 11:1-3 ----- <sup>1</sup>there shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>and his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear.

Jesse was the father of David (Ruth 4:17) which means that the stump of Jesse refers to the house of David. It is referred to as a stump because Isaiah being a prophet is seeing in this vision the utter destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. This is a prophecy of hope for the people of Israel during their seventy years in captivity to Babylon since it predicts that from the House of David will come, Israel's Messiah and Saviour.

Paul while reciting Israel's history to the Jews said: -

- When God had removed Saul, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." (Acts 13:22).

This prophecy of Isaiah is stunning when it is considered that hundreds of years before Mary gave birth to Jesus and the angel Gabriel said to her: -

- Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:31-33).

Isaiah said: -

- The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope. (Rom. 15:12).

Isaiah predicted in amazing detail that these events would take place, it is as though he was seeing them played out like a movie in his mind in the vision that God was giving him. Isaiah goes on to say that, "The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him," (v2) this of course is prophetic of John the Baptist baptising Jesus spoken of in the following verses: -

- When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him (Matt. 3:16) (Mark 1:10) (Luke 3:22).
- John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. (John 1:32).

Some think that the Christian faith only began when Jesus died on the bloodstained cross of Calvary and rose again, but these verse shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that the Christian faith was in the eternal mind of God before time began.

**The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:** (v2) when God poured out His Spirit upon Jesus at his water baptism he had all the wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel might and power of his heavenly Father. In character, mind, plans and purposes and in love, compassion, mercy, wisdom and power Jesus was the perfect image (i.e., likeness) of his heavenly Father.

**The fear of the LORD shall rest upon him:** (v2) meaning Jesus has such high regard and reverence for his heavenly Fathers Holiness and awesome power it would never enter his mind to act in ways that would bring dishonour to God's name. The fear of the LORD concerning mankind has the following two aspects: -

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually (i.e., do-good and not harm). The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

**The fear of God and Christians:** those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise it is with the faithful who belong to the Lords global family.

- The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (Prov. 8:13).

**The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil:** it is having a hatred of everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually and having a strong dislike of anything that destroys the planet and of whoever treats animals cruelly. God loves humans He gave his only Son to die for them. The fear of the LORD is about protecting and preventing harm to other humans. It is about knowing we are all going to stand before Him one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right and good thing and treat others with respect.

**He shall not judge by what his eyes see:** (v3) means Jesus will show no one favour concerning judgment, it matters not whether a person is a royal king, a priest, born a Hebrew or a Gentile, saved or not saved, noble or lowly, rich or poor if they act wickedly and inflict harm upon others and oppress people for their own selfish gain they will be judged accordingly. Jesus will never twist or pervert justice to show favour to anyone not matter what their status might be.

**In Righteousness the LORD shall Judge the Earth and Kill the Wicked.**

Isaiah 11:4-5 ----- <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

These prophetic words of Isaiah refer to the Lord Jesus Christ returning in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and

his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

**The Earth will be full of the Knowledge of the LORD as Waters cover the Sea.**

Isaiah 11:6-9 ----- <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

If I was asked to pick my favourite group of verses these beautiful words of Isaiah would rate in the top ten. This glorious new age of Christ's millennial reign can be found in the promises to Abraham and David in the Psalms and many Scriptures throughout the Bible. It is the age the faithful have set their hope upon throughout all generations. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce (Isaiah 65:17-25). All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

## **God will gather the Remnant of Israel from the Four Corners of the Earth.**

Isaiah 11:12 ----- <sup>10</sup>in that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. <sup>11</sup>in that day the LORD will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from pathros, from cush, from Elam, from shinar, from hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. <sup>12</sup>he will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

In that day refers to the day there will be nothing on God's holy mountain that will hurt in any way. In that Day the Lord Jesus Christ will be ruling as King from Jerusalem.

Now here is the glorious wonder, instead of suicide bombers killing and suffering in the Gaza strip and the Middle East being rampant with wars nations will seek the counsel of Christ's and his government.

**In that day the LORD will extend his hand a second time to recover the remnant of his people:** (v11) the first time would refer to Christ coming to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, the second time refers to the prophetic words of the prophet Zechariah in which the LORD says: -

- I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. <sup>11</sup>On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great the priests will mourn by themselves and each family will morn by themselves (Zechariah 12:9-14).

It is certainly there is no other nation on earth that has history with their God as Israel does. Their history with the LORD their God goes back to the beginning of time no other nation or religion can claim such miracles and wonders or history no matter what god they may believe in.

Israel's love for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot be doubted even though it is true they never recognised their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ when he came. But at this present time they like the Gentiles must accept their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved to eternal life in the same was as everyone else does.

When Christ returns in glory both the Jews and the Gentiles will have the opportunity to accept his rule, government and authority or reject it however it does appear that the spiritual eyes of the Jews on that glorious day of his return will be opened and they will with great joy accept the one they pierced.

**The four corners of the earth:** (v12) the first nations mentioned are nations of the Middle East and then the focus shifts to the four corners of the earth. This does not necessarily mean that Jews from all nations will return to Jerusalem, but that they will accept their Messiah and submit to his rule in whatever nation they happen to be dwelling in. In this way the Gospel would be quickly spread amongst all nations.

## **Ephraim shall not be Jealous of Judah, and Judah shall Not Harass Ephraim.**

Isaiah 11:14 ----- <sup>13</sup>the jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. <sup>14</sup>but they shall swoop down (fly upon in KJV) on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder (spoil in KJV) the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the ammonites shall obey them.

**Ephraim and Judah:** at the time of Isaiah Ephraim referred to the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria while Judah referred to the two tribes of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Isaiah is saying that all the tribes of Israel will be in unity with each other and of one mind and one purpose there will no longer be divisions amongst their government and people.

**They shall swoop down:** (v14) (fly upon in KJV) on the shoulder carries the following ideas: -

- Israel will swiftly attack their enemies as a bird of prey suddenly and with rapid descent fastens itself upon the shoulders of a wild beast.
- Israel will be swift like an eagle to devour its prey (Hab. 1:8)

**They shall plunder the people:** (v14) means that they will not only take possession of their property, their farms, orchards, vineyards and land as the spoil of war, but will also and plunder their towns and homes and make the people subject to them. The people of Edom (also called Idumea) were often involved in wars with the Israel as was the Ammonites who at various times made alliances with the Moabites to go to war against God's people. The Philistines were sworn enemies of the Israelites and often involved in war with them. They were amongst the most constant and formidable enemies that the Jews had.

**Edom Moab and the ammonites will obey Israel:** (v14) It is possible that these verses could be made (with limitations) to fit various Jewish kings at different periods of time in Israel's history, especially after their seventy year Babylonian captivity; their triumphant return to their beloved city; their repossessing their land their homes and farms and rebuilding the city of Jerusalem and the temple of God after which a golden age followed for Israel for a period of time, but there is no other age, that fits the detail and wonder of Isaiah's prophetic words contained in this chapter as the coming Messianic age of Christ does. The idea here is that on the day Christ rules from Mount Zion all the enemies of Israel will submit to his authority and government.

**East and West:** Israel will subdue their enemies west and east of Judah. This is characteristic of what has been already spoken. Isaiah by a vision of God has had revealed to him the glory of the Messianic kingdom as a restored Eden that is full of the knowledge of God with the Gentiles seeking light and salvation. However blended within this prophetic vision are certain scenarios that belong to Old Testament history such as the Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites and the enemies of Israel being taken and subdued as they will be in the Messianic kingdom age. Prophetically Isaiah is predicting that all the kings and kingdoms east and west of Judah will submit to the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ and his government in the Messianic age.

**There will be a Highway from Assyria for Israel as there was from Egypt.**

Isaiah 11:15-16 ----- <sup>15</sup>and the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the river with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. <sup>16</sup>and there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt (with Moses in the exodus).

**The tongue of the sea of Egypt:** (v15) embraces people of every nation that speak against God, against His word and against His will.

**Lead people across in sandals:** (v15) carries the idea that they will not need warriors armour and weapons of war.

**There will be a highway from Assyria:** (v16) carries the idea that the Lord will destroy those that are against his people and will provide a safe path of protection for all who desire to come to him.

The following verses speak of a highway for Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt:

- Was it not the LORD who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over? <sup>11</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 51:10-11).

- God put in the midst of Moses and his people his Holy Spirit, <sup>12</sup>who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, <sup>13</sup>who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. (Isaiah 63:11-13).

The following verse speaks of highway being established for Christ: -

- A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. (Isaiah 40:3-4).

The following verse speaks of future highway God will establish: -

- A highway shall be there (the wilderness, the dry land and the desert), and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. (Isaiah 35:8).

Isaiah in his vision sees such a highway as here mentioned stretching across the great plains of the Middle East for the return of Israel. It is to be a second highway for the restoration of those seeking God as the highway through the Red Sea was for Israel. It will be a miraculous highway clear of obstructions like as it was to Israel in that day that they were delivered by the highway through the Red Sea from their fierce enemy and entered the Promised Land. It will be like a large common, highway that all seeking the way of truth, righteousness, and holiness will be able to walk without any fear of interruption or hindrance.

**Wrapping the chapter up:** overall it refers to the triumph of the Messiah's kingdom which as yet is not fully accomplished and to that time that is coming when the scattered Jews will be regathered to God, but not to be returned to their own land, but to be brought again under God's dominion and under the administration of the Messiah.

This event will be followed with such a sudden removal of obstructions to the Gospel that it will rapidly spread everywhere among all nations. Some as they look at the present state of the Jews and the unbelieving world may tend to think, "How can the Gospel possibly go out with such swiftness?" But consider the following four points.

1. The Jews have been driven to all parts of the earth, wanderers without a home, scattered amongst all nations (and will continue to be so), yet continuing to live and survive and practice their faith, rites and unique customs despite all the efforts of nations to crush and destroy them.
2. They speak nearly all the languages of the world. They are acquainted with all the customs, prejudices, and opinions of the nations of the earth and therefore have no need of engaging in the time consuming work of learning languages as the modern missionary must do.
3. Though the Jews at this present time are like extinguished candles the law of God though not practised by the world is in the world by them and in every synagogue in all nations. All that is needful to illuminate it to the world is to light those candles. When God pours a spirit of grace on the Jews and they look on him whom they have pierced (Zech. 12:9-14) and are brought to see the true meaning of His law and the spirit of the evangelist shines into their synagogues the world will be quickly illuminated. The Gospel truth will go with the speed of sunlight from place to place, until the whole earth is enlightened with the knowledge of the Redeemer.
4. The Jews, when converted, make the best missionaries. There is a freshness in their views of the Messiah when they are converted, which Gentile converts seldom feel (the apostles were all Jews). The zeal of Paul shows what converted Jews will do when they become engaged in making known the true Messiah. It has been said of their nation that they would travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, what will more than three million accomplish when they become converted to the true faith of the Redeemer?



We have every reason to expect that God intends to make great use of the Jews, whom He has preserved and scattered everywhere. Though they are but a remnant, when converted as Paul was they will be more than is needed in converting the world to their Messiah who they rejected (taken from Barnes Bible notes). Add to this all the converted faithful Gentiles worldwide and it is easy to see how the Gospel would very quickly spread amongst the nations especially with Christ ruling as King of kings and Lords with his government from the Holy City Jerusalem on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain.

When God's appointed time comes for the redemption of His people Israel and the Gospel is publicly preached the mountains of opposition and antichristian countries will become plains before the evangelist and the world as we know it will be changed forever.

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### **The Commonwealth of Israel.**

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ.

This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). This means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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### **The Glory of the Spiritual Temple God is Building in Christ.**

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity.

When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in.

It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building, (taken from the beautiful writings of a faithful, but unknown brother in Christ).

Peter wrote: -

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when: -

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

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End.