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

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## Isaiah 25.

(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 25.

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### Topics.

- The LORD has made the fortified city a heap, the palace is no more.
- Ruthless nations will fear you, for you have been a stronghold to the poor.
- The LORD will swallow up the veil of death that is spread over all nations.
- Moab shall be trampled down as straw is trampled down in a dunghill.
- 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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Chapters twenty-four through to chapter twenty-seven inclusive are a continuous prophecy of the overthrow of Babylon during the days of Nebuchadnezzar its king and in their widest sense the overthrow of the great world-powers which arrayed themselves against God and His people.

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### **The LORD has made the Fortified City a Heap, the Palace is No More.**

Isaiah 25:1-2 ----- <sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. <sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; (a palace of strangers to be no city in KJV) the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.

In this prophetic vision Isaiah sees that the LORD has made the fortified city (a palace of strangers in KJV) a heap of ruin. There has been, a great variety of suggestions as to which city Isaiah had in mind, the following are some of the cities that have been suggested by various commentators: -

- Samaria, the city of Nineveh.
- Ar of Moab, or any other strong city, or fortress, possessed by the enemies of the people of God.
- Rome or the many cities which will be destroyed in the times of Gog and Magog.
- The seat of antichrist and all world powers.

All of these may apply at a certain level, but the city that best fits the context of the entire chapter and the previous chapter and the following two chapters is the city of Babylon during the time of Nebuchadnezzar its king and the city of Babylon spoken of in the following verses of the book of Revelation: -

- Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. <sup>3</sup>For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living. (Revelation 18:2-3).
- The kings of the earth will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come. (Rev. 18:10).

- A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more. (Rev. 18:21).

The whole scope of the chapter requires us to understand this of Babylon during Nebuchadnezzar reign and the Babylon of Revelation which signifies the world-power which in every age opposes itself to God, His people and His ways. The Babylon of Isaiah becomes the type of the Babylon spoken of in the book of Revelation. Though much of what is said maybe applied to cities of various generations Babylon is chiefly intended. It is not only a symbol of God's judgment upon nations that oppose God and His people, but also a perfect symbol of God's deliverance of His people from ungodly nations.

- Rejoice over her (the great city Babylon), O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her! (Rev. 18:20).
- After this (the fall of the great city Babylon) I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God (Rev. 19:1).

**You have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin:** (v2) (a palace of strangers to be no city in KJV) what was once a royal city in which only kings, princess, nobles, mighty men and commanders of armies and their families entered will become such a ruinous heap that foreigners and strangers will dwell amongst its ruins. It is certain that to the eyes of man Babylon the great city, fortified by its walls and defended by its mighty armies appeared indestructible, but under the hand of God's judgment its great glory and power was brought to nothing. The ruin of Babylon began when God took Cyrus by the hand to invade and conquer Babylon and used him as His anointed shepherd to set the people of Israel free from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon.

- Thus says the LORD to *his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped*, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed. (Isaiah 45:1).
- I (*the LORD*) will go before you (*Cyrus king of Persia*) and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, *who call you (Cyrus) by your name*. <sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, *I call you by your name, I name you*, though you do not know me. (Isaiah 45:2-3).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; *I equip you (Cyrus) though you do not know me*, <sup>6</sup>that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-6).

God used Cyrus King of Persia as His anointed shepherd to set His people free. Cyrus after Conquering the mighty Empire of Babylon gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God. But, Isaiah's message transcends the era of Isaiah and Cyrus and echoes a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd, and his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ, in who God at this present time is also building a Temple made up of Jews and Gentiles (also called a new nation or new creation in Christ). For further information concerning the spiritual temple God is building in Christ at this present time, see the title: "The Commonwealth of Israel" (at end of this Chapter).

**Ruthless Nations will Fear You, For You have Been a Stronghold to the Poor.**

Isaiah 25:3-5 ----- <sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup>For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall, <sup>5</sup>like heat in a dry place. You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is put down.

The populations of strong nations and great cities and the fierce and mighty armies of the surrounding nations will declare that the God of Israel has been a stronghold to the poor and needy in their distress and a shelter from their ruthless enemy and glorify Israel's God when they see the fall of Babylon and multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations during the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions triumphantly marching with great joy as one united nation to their beloved city and their homeland under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah singing songs of praise to the LORD their God.

After Assyria had taken the ten tribes of Israel captive and the Babylonians had burned the city of Jerusalem, pillaged the temple and taken the two tribes of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem captive the surrounding nations would have thought that the Israel as a nation was annihilated forever especially since their city and land lay waste for seventy years so when they see multitudes returning and the city being rebuilt and temple worship restored they will naturally glorify the God of Israel. This does not mean that they will accept the God of Israel as their God (some may), the idea is that they will acknowledge that the God of Israel has kept and preserved His people.

**The breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall:** (v4) the imagery here is of a fierce tornado or violent storm of wind and hail beating against a wall, threatening it with destruction, but without any effect, for the wall stands firm in spite of the fierceness of the storm. The wall signifies protection while the storm is a symbol of fierce invading enemies, the rage of the wicked, strong temptations and calamity and affliction. The idea is that it matters not how fierce and mighty invading enemies maybe or how loud the rage of the wicked is or how strong the temptation or calamity and affliction are against those who trust in the LORD they will not crumble, because the LORD is as a strong wall of protection around about them.

**As heat by the shade of a cloud:** (v5) intense scorching heat poured down on earth if unabated would not only dry up every stream and fountain and wither up the grass and every green thing, but would also dry up the ground and burn up all fruits and crops so that no living thing would survive. But black and shadowy clouds intervene and halt the burning rays of the sun. These clouds bring shade and give protection from the scorching beams of the sun and the rain that falls from them brings life and refreshing to the earth.

The scorching heat signifies death and destruction while the clouds are symbols of life, protection and refreshing. The image is of the Babylonians invading Israel, but before Israel as a nation could be brought to utter annihilation God in His mercy interposed like the intervening of a cloud that blocks out the burning rays of the sun, before its scorching heat utterly destroys the earth. Just as the scorching heat is abated by the dark shadowy cloud, so shall God will abate the fierce armies of Babylon from bringing the nation and people of Israel to total extinction.

**The song of the ruthless is put down:** (v5) (the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low in KJV) the word branch comes from the Hebrew word (*zamiyr*) it literally means a song to be accompanied with instrumental music. It carries the idea of striking with the fingers the strings of a musical instrument to make music accompanied by the voice celebrating with music and singing songs and psalms of praise.

The song can refer to any or all of the following ideas: -

- The enemies of the LORD exultant shout of triumph and victory over His people.
- The tumultuous sound prideful nations make while entering into battle.
- The joyful sound of revelry, clamour and the usual hum of business in the streets of a vast city.

All these sounds of ruthless nations will be brought down and vanquished. The meaning in the context of this vision is that all the shouts of victory and the songs of joy, and revelry and the clamour and busyness of the streets of Babylon will be

brought low by its destruction and by the return of the captive Jews to their own land. The sound of Babylon's triumph will be at an end; instead of the voice of harpers and musicians, of pipers and trumpeters being heard in the streets there will be weeping and wailing.

- The kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. (Rev. 18:9).

### **The LORD will swallow Up the Veil of Death that is Spread Over all Nations.**

Isaiah 25:6-9 ----- <sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. <sup>7</sup>And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. <sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Based upon Isaiah's words, "on this mountain," it would be safe to suppose that he was at the time of this prophetic vision standing on Mount Zion the hill the city of Jerusalem is built upon. On mount Zion the LORD will make for all peoples a rich feast (v6) can apply to the following three events, the first two partially and the third one fully: -

1. The return of the ten tribes of Israel and the two tribes of Judah united as one nation to their beloved city Jerusalem on Mount Zion and establishing true worship in the temple of God. At this time there was great feasting and celebration and a golden age of prosperity and peace followed for the people of Israel.
2. The age of Christ's ministry on earth when Jews and Gentiles by the power of the Gospel and God's grace in Christ could be united together as one body in Christ. Truly these days can be rightly spoken of as days of rich food and the Lord's Supper can be truly spoken of as a spiritual feast of well-aged wine.
3. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ 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 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).

**The covering and veil that is cast over all people of all nations:** (v7) is death. The words, "death will be swallowed up forever," immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following words of Paul: -

- When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."<sup>55</sup> O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:54-55).

The words, "the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces," (v8) echoes the following words of the apostle John in the book of Revelation,

- The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Rev. 7:17).
- God himself will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. (Rev. 21:3-4).

The words, "the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth," (v9) will be partially fulfilled when God sets His people free from the seventy year captivity in Babylon. For the Jews to have their city laid waste and be held captive by their enemies was a great reproach (i.e., reproof, scolding and reprimand) of the LORD toward them. Clearly when they were set free and returned to their city this reproach was removed. But the ultimate fulfilment will be when the following words of Zechariah are fulfilled: -

- On that day (the day the Lord protects the inhabitants of Jerusalem) I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.<sup>10</sup> And 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 mourn by themselves (Zech. 12:9-14).

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 even this is in the sovereign will of God, until that glorious day when they see him who they pierced.

In that day it will be said, "Behold, this is our God, we have waited for him that he might save us, this is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (v9).

### **Moab shall be Trampled Down as Straw is Trampled Down in a Dunghill.**

Isaiah 25:10-12 ----- <sup>10</sup>For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, and Moab shall be trampled down in his place, as straw is trampled down in a dunghill. <sup>11</sup>And he will spread out his hands in the midst of it as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim, but the LORD will lay low his pompous pride together with the skill of his hands. <sup>12</sup>And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring down, lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.

**Moab:** (Moabites) the child that the firstborn or elder daughter had to her father Lot was called Moab, he became the father of the Moabites. The Moabites did not meet Israel with bread and water when Israel Came out of Egypt and Moab hired Balaam against Israel to curse them (Deut. 23:3-6).

**Moab's pride will be laid low:** throughout Israel's history Moab was always prominent among the enemies of Israel. At the time Babylon invaded the land of Judah Moab not only aligned themselves with them, but also mocked and scorned the inhabitants of Jerusalem as they were being taken into captivity. These are the reasons Moab will be trodden under foot.

Moab is likened to a swimmer swimming for their life in tumultuous waters, but to no avail, because of Moab's excessive and pompous pride the LORD will bring their fortified cities to dust. While Israel is being protected, their enemy is being destroyed. Moab may also be used here in a general sense to signify all the enemies of God and in a much wider sense the enemies of the church.

**As straw is trampled down in a dunghill:** (v10) (trodden down for the dunghill in KJV) the word dunghill comes from the Hebrew word (*madmenah*), it literally means dunghill, manure and dung. Cows dung was used for the making of bricks (it still is in some parts of India today) straw was crushed up and put with dung then mixed with water, the straw acted as reinforcing for the dried out dung and made the bricks much stronger.

The expression "as straw is trampled down in a dunghill," may carry one or all of the following ideas: -

- Moab would be so crushed that like straw used for bricks they would be brought to utter ruin
- Like straw being left on the ground and mixed with dung lying there is trampled upon by the feet of men and beasts Moab will be trodden down and brought to waste.
- As straw is left to lie in the yard where cattle lie and is trodden down by them Moab will be brought to waste and ruin.
- Moab will be laid waste as easily as straw is crushed under the wheels of the ox's cart and left to rot amongst their dung.

**SUMMARY:** Israel of old waited seventy years for the LORD'S deliverance (almost a lifetime) many who went into captivity would have died in captivity. At this present time it can be rightly said that we live in the long day of death and the long day of grace until the Redeemer at the appointed time comes with mercy and with the fullness of our salvation. During this long day of death and grace the faithful are called to patiently wait for him with joy and praise knowing they do not wait in vain.



The hands once stretched out upon the bloodstained cross, to make way for our salvation will at the right time be stretched out to destroy the wicked and all unrepentant and defiant sinners and bring rich reward to all the faithful who have endured in faith through the afflictions, sorrows and troubles of this life. With this knowledge everyone who belongs to the global body of Christ are called to be steadfast in faith always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labour is not in vain in the Lord.

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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.