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

Isaiah 2.

(2015)

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 2.

Topics.

- Out of Zion shall go the law and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- Enter into the rock hide from the terror of the LORD and His majesty.
- The LORD has a day against all that is proud and lifted up.
- In that day the LORD alone will be exalted and idols will utterly pass away.
- The Commonwealth of Israel.

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.

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.

Out of Zion shall Go the Law, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:1-5 ----- ¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

One of the keys to understanding many prophecies of the Bible is to know that the verses are not always written in chronological order. It is almost as though the prophet is so inspired that he immediately speaks the words as they come to him. They are then recorded in the order that the prophet spoke them and not in the order that they will actually take place throughout history.

Sometimes the latter verses of a chapter may actually be the first events to take place in God's foreordained plan of events. In the book of Revelation this principle applies not only to the verses of the chapters but also too many of the chapters themselves. To understand this chapter it helps to read verses twelve to twenty-two first and then read verses one to five as though they are the end of the chapter and not the beginning of it.

The focus of this prophecy is Judah and Jerusalem (v1) the expression in the latter days can refer to two occasions, a latter event to take place in Isaiah's generation and a latter event to take place in a future age: -

1. The local application would apply to Ezra and Nehemiah triumphantly and with great rejoicing leading the people with great joy out of their seventy year captivity to their beloved city to rebuild Jerusalem and the time of peace and prosperity that followed. Looking back in time it is clear that this application has certain limitations, but at the time of Isaiah it would have inspired hope for the people of Israel while kept under the bondage of Babylonian captivity.
2. The ultimate application is to 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 Kingdom age: from (Isaiah 2:1-5) we learn the following seven things concerning Christ and his governments rule on earth during the glorious Kingdom age: -

1. Mount Zion and Jerusalem will be the capitol city of the earth and the head government over the world (v2).
2. Multitudes will joy in the administration of Christ's government so much so that people from all nations will flow into the city of Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2). This of course will be because though Christ will rule as a dictator King over the earth he will rule with compassion and not from selfish ambition and pride. He will not only exalt honest justice and administer from a spirit of love and fairness for all and care for the poor and helpless, but will also destroy all forms of oppression and greed.
3. Multitudes will be so happy with Christ's rule they will say to their friends: "Come, let us go to the mountain and city of the Lord and visit the house of God" (Isa. 2:3).
- 4 From Jerusalem the Lord and his government will teach the nations of the earth his laws and his ways and how to peacefully carry them out. (Isa. 2:3).

Christ summed up all God's laws in the following two verses, firstly, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30) and secondly, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:31)." These two commandments are not only the greatest commandments in the entire Bible but also the greatest commandments under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts.

Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ there is no other commandment more important than these two commandments. After loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the thing that delights Him the most is when those who belong to Christ are obeying his command to, "love your neighbour as yourself," (Matt. 22:39). This means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. James the brother of Jesus said: -

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt. In contrast to leaders and governments that rule over the nations from a lust for power and greed or from selfish ambition and a prideful craving for power Christ and his government will rule over the nations of the earth from the love of God and the desire to enhance the lives of others and bring about a world that is safe and a global system that is fair for all.

- 5 The Lord will not only act as an honest, wise and fair judge between the nations, but will also solve disputes and differences between the nations for the well-being of their populations and that will bring peace over the face of the earth (Isa. 2:4).
- 6 Instead of billions of dollars being globally spent on weapons of war every year money will be spent on farming equipment and whatever helps heal the earth and not destroy it, and provides food for all people in all countries and not just the wealthy nations (Isa. 2:4).
- 7 There will be no more armies, no weapons of war, and no more war (Isa. 2:4). The heart and mind of those who know the love and grace of God in Christ is filled with excitement at the thought of his return in glory, this excitement is magnified for those who also mourn over the suffering of the innocent in the world today, since they also will benefit by having Christ and his government ruling on earth.

Enter into the Rock Hide from the Terror of the LORD and His Majesty.

Isaiah 2:6-10 ----- ⁶For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. ⁷Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots. ⁸Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made. ⁹So man is humbled, and each one is brought low—do not forgive them! ¹⁰Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty.

This section and the following verses should be read before verses one to five. God has rejected His people, because they were full of pride and turned to fortune tellers, idols and pagan gods. Added to this Isaiah says that there is no end to their material assets which carries the idea that they are chasing after worldly riches and giving no time to God.

No end to their chariots: (v7) chariots were used for warfare they are symbols of weapons of war God's people were to trust in Him and not weapons of war.

They bow down to the work of their hands: (v8) the Living Bible when speaking of idols says, "O foolish man you chop down a tree and use some of the wood to build your homes, some to cook your food, some to warm your hands and some you carve into an idol and bow down before it to worship it, can't you see it's just a block of wood." The service of idols is so absurd and illogical that it is enormously difficult for a person with a sane mind to understand how anyone in their right mind chooses the service of idols before the service of God.

One of the reasons people do choose a false faith is because idols and false gods do not put demands upon their outward lifestyle, as long as the believer adheres to their ceremonial rituals and outward religious practises they are accepted by their god and free to live as they please.

Do not forgive them: (v9) this of course does not mean, never forgive them, but as long as they continue in their sin and worship of other gods do not forgive them. Isaiah being a faithful prophet would be horrified at the corrupt and wicked behaviour of the people of Judah and extremely disappointed, disillusioned and saddened at their total lack of honouring the Lord their God.

Enter into the rock and hide in the dust: (v10) Isaiah warns God's people to hide themselves, because God will bring His terror and His judgment on them and humble them because of their pride and their turning to pagan gods and idols. God used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon and his fierce armies as His arm to bring about this judgment the armies of Babylon marched into the city of Jerusalem, burnt it, pillaged the temple and took the people of Judah into captivity for seventy years.

The splendour of his majesty: (v10) it is interesting to notice that the splendour of God's majesty in this context was manifested in God using the mighty armies of Babylon as His servant to bring about His judgment upon the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (Jer. 25:8-9). God even gave Babylon Egypt as their wages for labouring for Him and carry out His work. (Ezek. 29:17-21).

The LORD has a Day Against all that is Proud and Lifted Up.

Isaiah 2:11-16 ----- ¹¹The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ¹²For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low; ¹³against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan; ¹⁴against all the lofty mountains, and against all the uplifted hills; ¹⁵against every high tower, and against every fortified wall; ¹⁶against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft.

The LORD alone will be exalted in that day: (v11) refers to the day God humbles mankind. The expressions: -

- The cedars of Lebanon, the oaks of Bashan and the lofty mountains.
- The uplifted hills, every high tower and every fortified wall.
- The ships of Tarshish and the beautiful craft.

All speak of pride, worldly riches, majestic buildings and magnificent structures of architecture, global trade and commerce the strength and might of nations and their weapons of war. They embrace every worldly thing mankind admires and puts their trust in.

The LORD has a day when the proud will be brought low: (v12) the two dominant spirits in the world are the spirit of pride and the spirit of humbleness one is of the flesh while the other is of God. The day of the LORD in focus refers to the following two prophetic events: -

1. The day God will use Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon as his servant and his mighty armies to destroy Jerusalem and take the people of Judah into captivity
2. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory to destroy the antichrist system and gather the faithful to himself.

NOTE.

There are two aspects to pride, healthy pride and destructive pride. Not all pride is evil pride the following shows the difference between healthy pride and destructive pride.

Healthy pride embraces the following: -

- That happy satisfied feeling experienced when having or achieved something special that other people admire.
- Taking great pride in one's work is healthy and productive pride.
- That personal sense of satisfaction and pleasure that comes from something accomplished or a quality possessed.
- Having a proper sense of one's own value and the correct level of respect for the importance and value of one's personal character, life, efforts and achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth.
- That personal feeling of satisfaction because of an achievement or possession that one is especially pleased to have accomplished and is fully satisfied with (i.e. their grandchildren were their pride and joy or the gold medal I won at the Olympics is my pride and joy etc.).

Unhealthy pride embraces the following: -

- Having a feeling of superiority and a haughty attitude. This type of pride is shown by somebody who believes (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God, and will treat those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.
- Having the biggest ego of all, a person at this level of pride sees themselves at the top of humanity and views themselves as always being right. They believe they are equal to God or even a god themselves and are so egotistical that they think the whole world revolves around them.

In that Day the LORD alone will Be Exalted and Idols will Utterly Pass Away.

Isaiah 2:17-22 ----- ¹⁷And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ¹⁸And the idols shall utterly pass away. ¹⁹And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. ²⁰In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, ²¹to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. ²²Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?

The prideful and arrogant will be humbled and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day (v17) refers to the following two events: -

- 1 The day God will use Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon as his servant and his mighty armies to destroy Jerusalem and take the people of Judah into captivity
- 2 The return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory to destroy the antichrist system and gather the faithful to himself.

Both of these events will be so terrifying that people will be desperately seeking places they can flee to for shelter and protection from the surrounding destruction and devastation. Mankind will be so struck with awe at the power of God that they will willingly destroy and forsake all forms of false gods and religious systems.

Mankind will cast away their idols to the moles and to the bats: since idols have no spiritual light they are perfectly and very aptly identified here with creatures of darkness.

NOTE.

It is interesting to notice that after Israel's destruction by Assyria and Judah's destruction by Babylon and after their seventy years in captivity Israel never again turned to other gods or idols. Sadly they never recognised their Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ when he came, but even this is in the sovereign will of God. The prophet Zechariah wrote: -

- On that day (the day the Lord protects the inhabitants of Jerusalem) I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰"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. ¹¹On 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. The following verses show that the United Kingdom of Israel has always been God's special and unique nation unlike any other nation. God said: -

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation: -

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power. (Exodus 20:1-17).
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes and his rules. (Rom. 9:4).
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship and the promises. (Rom. 3:4).
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory. (Rom. 3:5).
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted. (Rom. 3:2).
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith. (Rom. 9:7).

- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world. (Rom. 9:5).
- God declared his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation (Psalm 147:19-20).

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges. These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy race with God and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

The thermometer of God's prophecy: it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return. It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin and our well-being.

Likewise Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God.

Israel's love for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot be doubted and when their Messiah does return in glory and they do recognise him not only will the entire nation weep over the horrific crime they committed against him, but the entire world and its systems of global finance, trade and governments will be changed as we know them today. For further information concerning the new nation God is building in Christ, see the title:

- The Commonwealth of Israel, at the end of this chapter.

Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath: (v2) Isaiah warns the people of Judah to stop looking up to man and look up to God and His word, and follow his laws and His ways. Following are two reasons for this: -

1. In the following chapter (Isa. 3:1-3) Isaiah warns the people of Judah that God will soon take away their mighty men, their captain and his soldiers, the judge, the prophet, the diviner, their elders and their magicians and counsellors.
2. Those who confess to believe in God should never idolise man in their mind or heart above God no matter how spiritual and how knowledgeable he might be in the Scriptures or how large his ministry is and how well he is able to speak God's word he should never be adored or as it were hero-worshipped. This is a very real danger even for the faithful today, there are false religious teachers that are so charismatic in their personality and who speak with such authority that those who follow them consciously or unconsciously idolise them so that they become their spiritual authority rather than the words and teachings of Jesus.

Such teachers are given a higher place in the mind than is Christ. This is the state of the people of Judah at this time, they are looking to their false prophets and teachers rather than seeking the word of God for themselves and listening to the faithful prophets God is and has sent to them.

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—¹²remember 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. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For 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 ¹⁵by 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, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So 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, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In 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).

End.