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## **Salvation For Jews and Gentiles Is the Same**

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Salvation for Jews and Gentiles is the Same.

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## Topics.

- Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ.
- Gentiles who were far off have been brought near.
- God might reconcile both Jews and Gentiles to God in one body.
- Jews and Gentiles are both members of the household of God.
- The cornerstone and the foundation of God's household.

**INTRODUCTION:** it is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David is Christ and that 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 by faith belong to Christ. The following Scriptures of Paul brilliantly and masterfully show that God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jews and Gentiles This new nation is also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God. (Gentiles embrace everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

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## EPHESIANS 2:11-12

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### Gentiles, were Alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel.

The apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-12:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" (Jews), by what is called the circumcision, 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.

Israel has always been God's special and unique people of them 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 (Deuteronomy 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deuteronomy 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, He declared his word, statutes and his rules and gave them the prophets, the worship and the promises, the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs and the glory belonged to them and the oracles of God were entrusted to them.

Added to these the people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith and from Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world. The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges.

**Gentiles who were Far Off have been Brought Near.**

- **Ephesians 2:13-15:** But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off 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 expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

Paul in his conversation with the Gentile brothers and sisters is telling them (and by extension every Gentile Christian) that prior to the Lord's death and resurrection they had no part of God's chosen people Israel, and had no inheritance in God's glorious promises made to Israel concerning God's eternal Kingdom. Paul in these verses is telling his Gentile audience that they were once far away from God, but have now been brought near to God by the blood of Christ and that Jesus through his death and resurrection has abolished the law and the Old Covenant which separated Jews from Gentiles so that God could create one new nation in Christ so that there would no longer be any separation between Jews and Gentiles. In this way God through Jesus death and resurrection is creating one new nation made up of both Jews and Gentiles who are seen in Christ before the throne of God as one people in Christ. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, a new man in Christ and the body of Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God.

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**EPHESIANS 2:16-17**

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**God might Reconcile Both Jews and Gentiles to God in One Body.**

- **Ephesians 2:16-17:** and might reconcile us both (Jews and Gentiles) to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup> And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you who were far off (for God) and peace to those who were near (Jews).

Christ is reconciling Jews and Gentiles to God in one body through the cross and by his death and resurrection destroying the hostility (i.e., the law) that separates the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus message was proclaiming peace between Gentiles who were separated from God and Jews who were chosen by God. At this time the Jews saw themselves as the chosen and holy race with God and the Gentiles as the unclean race without God.

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**EPHESIANS 2:18-19**

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**Jews and Gentiles are Both Members of the Household of God.**

- **Ephesians 2:18-19:** For through him we both 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.

Some today think that the Jews have special access to God, but that is not what Paul in these verses is teaching in fact Paul is saying quite the opposite by shining a spotlight on the truth that both Jews and Gentiles are both sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ.

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**EPHESIANS 2:20-22**

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**The Cornerstone and the Foundation of God's Household.**

- **Ephesians 2:20-22:** 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 also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

For any structure to rise in a straight plumb line it has to have a perfect cornerstone and for it to endure the storms of life it has to have a solid foundation. This is why Jesus is referred to as the cornerstone of God's household and the faithful prophets and apostles are referred to as its foundation. Here is the glorious climax of Paul's message: God through Jesus is establishing a dwelling place for His Spirit in Jews and Gentiles who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**A brilliant floodlight:** in in these Scriptures Paul is masterfully shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that Gentiles who were once separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel' and strangers to God's covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world have now been brought to God by the blood of Christ. God through the Lord Jesus Christ is now making 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. Paul in his letter to the Galatians wrote:

- For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise (Gal. 3:26-29).

The practical application of what this means to people of all nations today is that all the eternal promises God made to Israel now apply to whoever belongs to Christ. It matters not if they are biologically born as offspring of Abraham's or born a Hebrew, a Jew or a Gentile all who are in Christ are children of God and all are counted as offspring of Abraham. In some circles of religion today there is a mindset that Israel will have an exalted position in the eternal Kingdom of God, but these verses clearly show that this is a mistaken theory since God is now establishing one nation in Christ made up of both Jews and Gentiles. There are no favourite nations in Christ we are all one in him. 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 (referring to the Jews) and all kindreds of the earth (referring to the Gentiles) (Revelation 1:5-7).

And 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).

These verses clearly show, that God is creating a Kingdom made up of people from all nations and not just Israel and that in Christ we are all equal before God, no brother or sister is superior to another nor is any nation valued above another in Christ all are counted as equal and valued citizens of God's Kingdom. The New Covenant of grace clearly teaches that no-one (Jew or Gentile) can enter God's Kingdom without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and trusting in God's grace. During the Old Testament the faithful set their hope upon God's promises of a future King of Israel who would take their nation to victory and triumph over all nations of the world. They believed and set their faith upon the coming of the promised seed of the woman spoken of in (Genesis 3:15), the coming of the prophet

and deliver Moses said would come like him and upon the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David the Messiah the Christ that the prophets and the Scriptures speak of. The hope of the faithful prior to Christ's appearing was in the coming of their Messiah the Christ. The difference between their faith and ours is that we have far more light concerning God's plan of salvation and who the promised Messiah the Christ is.

**NOTE:** when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie (Rom. 8:24). The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

**Faith and hope:** the difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. In this way faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in. Faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith. A person who is full of faith is a person who has examined the evidence and is fully convinced that what they have examined proves itself to be true. The pillars of faith are conviction, assurance and confidence without these three there is no faith.

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## CONCLUSION

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These verses of Paul shine a brilliant light on the truth that God at this present time is creating one new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ and that it matters not if a person is born a direct descendent of Abraham or of a Levite priest, neither does it matter if a person is noble or lowly, rich or poor, or whether they have a global religious empire or simply fellowship in a home with other believers to be saved to eternal life. Whoever comes before God with an honest and humble heart, acknowledge their sin and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and faithfully follow him are counted as worthy and equal citizens of God's Kingdom, no one in Christ's family is superior to another before God's eyes.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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