

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



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

Ephesians 2.

(2013)

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.

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 special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Ephesians 2.

Topics.

- The prince of the power of the air.
- The course of this world.
- A power that supersedes all powers.
- God has seated us with Christ in heavenly places.
- Dead in trespasses and sins.
- Through Christ we have access in one Spirit to the Father.
- The Temple of God and the Cornerstone.
- A dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The Previous Chapter.

In the previous chapter Paul spoke of spiritual heavenly blessings of being sealed with the promised Holy Spirit and told the Ephesians that God had predestined that Jesus Christ would be the eternal centre of God's plan of salvation and the head of the church. He explained that God predestined that those who chose to trust in Christ from their own free will would be accepted by God and saved in Christ, and would receive a predestined glorious inheritance. Paul ended the chapter with the majestic words, "The church which is Christ's body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

The Prince of the Power of the Air.

Ephes. 2:1-3 ----- ¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Dead in Trespasses and Sins: Paul's statement, "You were dead in trespasses and sins" means all of mankind is separated from God and condemned to eternal death for the following two reasons: -

1. Not one of us can stand before God's Holy Law and boast that we have not broken it.
2. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23) and states that, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) therefore we are already judged, sentenced and condemned to eternal death because of our trespasses and sins.

The Course of this World.

The words, "Following the course of this world" (v1) carries the idea that one corrupt age follows another, but it also embraces two other thoughts: -

1. Of conforming to the customs and ways of the world at large and that the populations of the secular world are fully influenced by the collective mind and thinking of the world in contrast to being influenced by the mind of God.

2. The idea that the populations of the world are living in trespasses and sins meaning they live a lifestyle that is totally devoid of God and to satisfy the passions, desires and cravings of our lower nature (the flesh) i.e., self, ego, pride, lust and greed etc.

A Power that supersedes all Powers.

Though all may clearly see the destructive effects of the power of sin (wars, rape, murder theft etc.), not all understand the source of it. This is because it is a power that has not only deeply penetrated us all, but blinds us to recognising its subtle and deceptive workings. This power has been by far the most powerful force in the world throughout every historic age and continues to be the most powerful force today in this present age.

It maybe a surprise too many that this power does not refer to an enormously powerful evil god named Satan nor does it refer to many hundreds of millions of evil entities flying about in the air called devils as some believe. Rather this power that by far supersedes all other powers refers to a power that dwells within us.

It was the cause of Adam and Eve's fall, this power is self-will, ego and pride they are the unseen spiritual destructive muscle in the world and are always in rebellion to God. These three have universal influence over the individual and collective mind of people of all nations who deny God. (See the title, The Prince of the Power of the Air below).

NOTE: the word devil (a very appropriate word) in the Bible embraces within its meaning the sum total of all the wickedness and rebellion toward God that dwells in the human heart and influence the individual mind and the collective mind of the world away from God and against His will.

For further information on the devil see the titles: -

- Devil.
- Demons.

Both titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Flesh: firstly refers to the fallen corrupted nature all of mankind that we inherited from our earthly father Adam it is that part within that has no interest in God or the things of God, and secondly it refers to self, ego, pride, lust and greed etc. The flesh is carnally minded, meaning it is always minded to satisfy the demands of self.

The phrase, "Walking according to the flesh" refers to living a lifestyle to satisfy-self and self-gratification. It embraces; adultery, orgies, unlawful sex, drunkenness, taking drugs, and following false religions, throwing fits of anger and finding reasons to argue and quarrel. It refers to gossiping, backbiting, coveting and being envious and jealous of others. It is deliberately causing strife, trouble, conflict, contention, rivalry and such like things. Today the word flesh is replaced by terms such as, the lower nature which is controlled by self, ego and pride, it is that part of us that says, "me first" and denies God.

Children of Wrath: all of mankind by nature are children of wrath which in the context of these verses means that all are judged sentenced and condemned by the, most perfect and Holy Law of God to eternal death because, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23) and the law states, "the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23).

The Prince of the Power of the Air.

Some teach that the title, the prince of the power of the air (v2), refers to an enormously powerful spiritual and evil creature named satan, who not only has almost as much power as God, but who also controls literally hundreds of millions of invisible spiritual evil entities called devils who have their residence in the air and serve satan's every command flying about in the air throughout all nations like an

inhuman malicious and hostile spirit creature whose sole purpose is to serve their evil master Satan and take control of the human mind to destroy not only the person whose mind they control, but eventually destroy the entire human race. This theory that Satan an evil god has at his command a spiritual army of hundreds of millions of invisible spiritual evil creatures called devils was originally birthed from religious pagan belief.

Later; because of the influence of this pagan idea and a misunderstanding of Bible language the concept was reinforced and perpetuated by ancient religious thinking and in our modern era enormously strengthened in the mind of not only the secular world, but also the mind of much of the religious world by Hollywood blockbuster horror movies and religious teaching in many churches, but the theory is a gross misunderstanding of the language of the Bible.

Prince: from Strong's Concordance can mean, first in rank, power or political authority, the chief ruler or magistrate. In the context of these verses it carries the idea of reigning and ruling over mankind. The title, The Prince of the power of the air is a title that refers to the spirit of rebellion toward God that is in those who deny God, the Bible refers to them as, the sons of disobedience which we today would refer to as, people acting from, self-will in contrast to people acting from, God's will.

The title, The Spirit of Rebellion and Disobedience can also apply to: -

- The influence of; the authority and power of governments that rule the world.
- The influence of; the collective mind or consciousness of the world.
- The influence of; the world's thinking and the ways of the world.
- The influence of; the declining morals and behaviour of the world.

The title, the prince of the power of the air (v2) carries within it the idea that the people of this world are dominated and guided by mankind's self-will, disobedience and unbelief in contrast to being guided by God and His laws, statutes and ways. It refers to that unseen influence hidden in the heart of mankind (self-will, rebellion and disobedience to God) guiding, the course of this secular world (2 Cor. 4:4) in contrast to God and His will guiding the governments, authorities and rulers of it. The prince of the power of the air is that collective universal and world-wide influence of mankind's self-will and willing rebellion and disobedience against God.

This collective influence of mankind's denial of God and the world's rebellion and disobedience to Him pervade the air and come upon our minds as unconsciously as the vital fluid we breathe. This ever pervading influence appeals to our fallen nature and to self, ego, pride, lust and greed etc., thus the reason it is without any hindrance able to easily take hold of the mind of the secular world and become the dominant power influencing, controlling and guiding those who deny God and His will and the reason this influence is summed up in the title, the prince of the power of the air.

In this world at this present time we live in an atmosphere poisonous and impregnated with the deadly elements of self-will, ego, pride, lust and greed. There is no other power on this planet more deadly than the collective powers of the air i.e., the influence of mankind's self-will, rebellion and disobedience toward God which Paul beautifully sums up in the title, the prince of the power of the air (v2), but a mighty purification of the air will be effected by Christ's glorious coming, for self-will, rebellion toward God and disobedience will be bound.

God's Eternal Plans and Purposes will Not be Thwarted.

Even though God has left this world at this time in the control of mankind's self-will and disobedience His eternal plans and purposes will not be thwarted. This is because God has eternal foreknowledge and eternal wisdom. He knows the beginning and the end and has therefore by this foreknowledge planned before the foundation of the world His eternal purpose and promises accordingly. This is why the prophets who were inspired by the Spirit of God were able to prophecy future events with such certainty.

God has seated us with Christ in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus.

Ephes. 2:4-7 ----- ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Immeasurable: (Exceeding in KJV) in this context carries the idea of something that abundantly and exceeding surpasses and excels far beyond and above what is considered normal.

Dead in Trespasses and Sins.

A person who is dead in trespasses and sins is in a state of conformity to this world and as such has no desire for the spiritual pleasures of God. When we look upon a corpse, it gives an awful feeling, we see the life has gone and left nothing but the ruins of that person. Paul viewed those who are, dead in their trespasses and sins (v5) as being spiritually dead for two reasons: -

1. Because they are without Christ through who God's eternal love and the fountain of His rich mercy and undeserved grace flows.
2. Because whoever is without God's grace is not an heir of eternal life, but remains destined to eternal death.

Just as we feel that awfulness upon seeing a corpse, it is most certain that Paul felt this same awfulness toward those without Christ and that this awfulness (which is really deep compassion and concern) was the motivating power that drove him with outstanding zeal to proclaim the saving power of the Good News of the Gospel even at the risk of his own life.

Heavenly Places in this context carries two ideas: -

1. It refers to the fact that those in Christ are delivered from the condemnation of the law and the sentence of eternal death into the glorious eternal Kingdom of God. It refers to their sins being forgiven, the favour and fellowship they have with God and with Christ, the grace that God has lavished upon them because of their devotion and love for His Son and to God's majestic and guaranteed promise of eternal life and everlasting glory.

The following words of Paul, "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (v7) mean that the faithful in Christ have by faith and God's grace been raised up with Christ and are seated with him in spiritual places far beyond any riches this earthly and material world has. Paul is able to speak of this majestic event in the past tense or as though it has already taken place because it is a reality by faith in the mind of all who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Added to this it is based on God's promise and He cannot lie therefore it is guaranteed.

2. The word, heavenly from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of elevation and can refer to a heavenly state of the mind. Thus the words, seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (v6) can also carry the idea of the mind being lifted up into high places of joy, peace and love by the Gospel of Christ since the faithful in Christ are aware of all the majestic glorious and eternal blessings they have in Christ and that knowledge elevates the mind into a glorious state of joy, peace, contentment and wonder. It is similar to when a secular person has a fabulous day or a great win and shouts in exuberant excitement and joy, "Wow I'm in heavenly places." It's a spiritual way of saying that the mind is in an elevated state of joy and of well-being.

God's Immeasurable Greatness.

The words, "That in the coming ages God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (v7) refer to two things: -

- 1 The resurrection, God by His awesome creative power gloriously raised Christ one man from the dead, but at the resurrection God by His awe-inspiring and breath-taking power will literally raise multitudes who are sleeping in Christ from the dead to eternal and everlasting glory and all this in the twinkling of an eye.

This will be an absolutely stunning event which will by far surpass the power of any thunderstorm, lightning strike or tornado that this world has ever seen. It goes without saying all who see this glory will stand in awesome and breath-taking wonder as they witness the immeasurable riches of God's grace and kindness toward those who have loved and been faithful to His Son.

- 2 It refers to the wonder and glory of the following majestic vision of a godly man on the isle of Patmos who wrote: -
 - I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband and a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore (Rev. 21:2-4).
 - I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb (Rev 21:22-23).
 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads and night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever (Rev 22:3-4).

Is there any other religion on the face of our planet that proclaims such a majestic and glorious eternal hope? This author has not found one.

The Gift of God is Righteousness and comes as a Free Gift

Ephes. 2:8 -----⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Grace: means unmerited and undeserved favour.

The Gift of God: relates to two things, firstly, the Lord Jesus Christ himself and secondly, to the splendour, wonder, and awesome glory of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which states, "Sinners are saved by grace." We cannot earn it, nor can we do anything to deserve it everyone who is saved to eternal life is saved by faith and God's grace alone.

It does not matter how great we are at keeping any religious rite, custom or tradition nothing we do can add to our salvation or make us worthy of it. Every eternal spiritual blessing we have is because of God's grace and our faith in His Son.

God in His eternal wisdom has designed salvation this way for three reasons: -

- 1 So that no-one can boast that they are saved by their own self effort, works, talents, gifts or abilities.
- 2 So salvation is not dependent on birthright (i.e., being born a descendant of Abraham, a Jew or a citizen of Israel) or whether someone is of noble decent or lowly, rich or poor, a leader of a great church or the church mouse it makes no difference since not one of these has any power to make us worthy for salvation.
- 3 So that every man and woman is on an equal playing field in regards to eternal life all have the same chance since salvation for all is based on faith and not our abilities or lack of them.

Good Works, which God Prepared Beforehand.

Ephes. 2:10-11 ----- ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. ¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision which is made in the flesh by hands—

The uncircumcision: refers to the Gentiles (i.e., everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

The circumcision: naturally refers to the Jews (it was a sign of God's covenant with them).

Paul in these verses is saying that both Jews and Gentiles are God's workmanship created in the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that every faithful brother and sister in Christ whether Jew or Gentile has been changed from a child of wrath to a child that has been made alive together with Christ to be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory by God's plan of salvation and His outworking of it contrasted to our own planning and own self-effort.

The words: -

- We are created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand (v10).

Does not mean that God has prepared beforehand some to be saved and others to be damned, rather it is the good works that God has prepared beforehand which is summed up in the command: -

- Love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22:37-39) (Mark 12:28-31) (James 2:8).

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.

The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we must abide by them ourselves. To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

Thus the words: -

- That we should walk in good works (v10).

Means we should do everything in our power to obey the Royal law and to love those not only in the Kingdom of Christ, but also those outside of his Kingdom, but our motivation in living in this manner is not to be driven by the false idea that we must add to our salvation, but because it is the loving, good and right thing to do and it brings honour to the name of Jesus.

The Commonwealth of Israel.

Ephes. 2:12 ----- ¹²remember you 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.

Prior to Christ's ministry on earth anyone born of any other nation than Israel was separated from Christ, from God and from God's promises and therefore separated from the Commonwealth of Israel.

NOTICE: this implies that those born of Israel even prior to the arrival of Christ were united with Christ. Some may wonder how this can be since Christ had not yet appeared. The answer is simple, the faithful fathers were united with Christ in the same manner as we are, i.e., by faith they believed in the coming of the promised seed of (Genesis 3:15), the promised seed of Abraham, the promised seed of David, the Messiah, the Christ thus the Lord Jesus Christ was with the faithful Jews of the Old Testament in the same manner as he is with us today, i.e., by faith.

Ephes. 2:13 ----- ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Those who were far off refer to the Gentiles since they were separated from God while those who were near obviously refer to the Jews who had God, the covenants and the promises.

Ephes. 2:14-17 ----- ¹⁴For he himself is our 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 might create in himself one new man in place of the two so making peace ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Because the Jews were given God's commandments, His statutes, the temple, the prophets and the promises they viewed themselves as the holy race with God and the Gentiles as the unclean race without God. Paul is now clearly showing that God through Jesus death and resurrection has now abolished every religious Jewish law, custom and tradition that separated the Jews from the Gentiles and has now united both Jews and Gentiles together in Christ to create in him, one new man. In other verses this new man is also called, a new creation, a new nation, the church and the Kingdom of God.

NOTE: some religions teach that the Jews have higher value to God, because they are the LORD'S chosen nation, but Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the fact that this is no longer true. God's love for brothers and sisters in Christ is equal regardless of whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

Added to this a Gentile in Christ will now inherit the eternal promises God made to Israel whereas a Jew who denies Christ will not. This is because the true Israel is not those who are biologically descendants of Abraham, but those who are children of Abraham by faith in his promised Seed the Lord Jesus Christ.

For further information on the Promised Seed of Abraham see the title: -

- The Promises of Abraham (Galatians 3)
- In, Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Through Christ we have Access in One Spirit to the Father.

Ephes. 2:18-20 ----- ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone (chief corner stone in the KJV).

Saints: in this context refer to the Jews because up until now Israel has been God's special people. The LORD has always dealt with Israel differently to any other nation, He declared His word, statutes and His rules to Israel (the LORD has not done this with any other nation). They are children of Abraham the father of faith and because they are his offspring they were entrusted with the oracles of God and to them belongs the adoption, the glory and the covenants.

God says he gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4) and loved them when they were a child, and out of Egypt He called Israel His Son (Hosea 11:1). They were given the law, the worship and the promises, to them belong the patriarchs and from their race, came the Christ who is Lord over all that God created (Rom. 3:2) (Rom. 9:4-5, 7). Added to this; the LORD called Israel His Treasured Possession and the apple of the LORD'S eye, his allotted heritage and a people holy to Him.

(Exod. 19:5) (Deut. 7:6) (Deut. 14:2) (Deut. 26:18) (Deut. 32:9).

The one Spirit (v18) the Jews and Gentiles have to access the Father through refers to the Spirit of Christ and the words, "Through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father" again clearly shows that the only way for a Jew or a Gentile to enter into communion with God the Father is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The glorious, magnificent and celebrated words: -

- You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God (v19).

Changed the Jewish and Gentile religious world forever, they mean that Gentiles are now considered by God equal to Jews because of their faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Temple of God.

The comparison of the church with a building was most likely taken from the Temple since it was a structure of great beauty, expense, and sacredness. It would be natural to compare the church with it since the temple was the sacred place where God dwelt on the earth and the church is the place where he delights to abide now.

To a converted Jewish mind such as Paul's the comparison of the church to the Temple and the residence of God would have been clearly obvious. Added to this the image of a building was especially appropriate to both the Jews and the Christians at Ephesus since the temple at Jerusalem was the stronghold of Judaism as the temple of Diana of the Ephesians was of paganism. Nevertheless whether Paul had these temples in mind or not is not important since the principle of the cornerstone applies to any structure.

The Cornerstone.

The word of God that the apostles and prophets proclaimed is the foundation of which the Christian church is built on. But the cornerstone is the most important stone in the entire building because the whole building rests mainly on the cornerstones if they are small and unstable then the entire building is insecure therefore the master architect would make sure that great care was taken to place a large stone firmly at each corner.

Isaiah when referring to Jesus, wrote: -

- Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste. (Isaiah 28:16).

The Lord Jesus is called the "Precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation" because the whole building rests on him, he holds a place as important as the cornerstone of any natural building since if not for Christ neither the prophets nor the apostles alone could sustain the structure for a moment.

There is another beautiful symbolism in Christ being referred to as the cornerstone which presents Christ as also being the stone of union. This is because the stone at the corner became a part of both walls joining them together, thus Christ the cornerstone has joined the Jews and Gentiles together in the building.

The Structure being Joined Together, Grows into a Holy Temple in the Lord.

Ephes. 2:21-22 ----- 21: in whom the whole structure being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
22: In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The whole structure: embraces the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostles and prophets the Jews and the Gentiles.

The words "Being joined together" (v21) refers to Jews and Gentiles being united as one body in Christ, it embraces whoever will come to the Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of birth or background (good or bad) whether rich or poor, whether king or lowly it makes no difference, Peter in his letter wrote: -

- As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:4-5)

Added to this the Lord Jesus Christ himself says: -

- All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out (John 6:37).

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit.

As the stones in a Solomon's temple were all properly and carefully placed so as to form the complete structure to be a sacred house for God to dwell and be worshipped there. Likewise all 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.
- Ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it.
- Solid since love cements it together.
- Closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone.
- Exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself.
- Full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God.
- Full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner.
- Spacious since it is spread over the whole earth.
- Invincible or indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word.
- Divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit.
- 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.

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).

End