

# Ephesians 2:11-22

1. 2:11-22 is parallel with 2:1-10
  - a. 2:1-10 begins by presenting all individuals as being objects of God's wrath with a sin nature in the cosmos controlled by Satan
  - b. 2:11-22 presents the Gentiles as being outside the advantage (5x) of the Israelites. The Israelites had been given the promise of a historical opportunity for salvation through the Messiah (the anointed one, Christos, Christ).
2. 2:11-12 identifies the Gentiles as having FIVE disadvantages that were actually advantages for Israel:
  - a. "separated from Christ"
  - b. "alienated from the commonwealth of Israel"
  - c. "strangers to the covenants of promise" (notice COVENANTS, plural; not covenant, singular)
  - d. "having no hope"
  - e. "without God in the world"

**Ephesians 2:11 – “Therefore 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—”**

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| 1352 [e]  | 3421 [e]    | 3754 [e] | 4218 [e] | 4771 [e] | 3588 [e] | 1484 [e] | 1722 [e] | 4561 [e]    | 3588 [e] | 3004 [e]     |
| Dio       | mnēmoneuete | hoti     | pote     | hymeis   | ta       | ethnē    | en       | sarki       | hoi      | legomenoi    |
| 11 Διὸ    | μνημονεύετε | ὅτι      | ποτὲ     | ὑμεῖς    | τὰ       | ἔθνη     | ἐν       | σαρκί       | , οἱ     | λεγόμενοι    |
| Therefore | remember    | that     | formerly | you      | the      | Gentiles | in       | [the] flesh | the ones | being called |
| Conj      | V-PMA-2P    | Conj     | Adv      | PPro-N2P | Art-NNP  | N-NNP    | Prep     | N-DFS       | Art-NMP  | V-PPM/P-NMP  |

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| 203 [e]              | 5259 [e] | 3588 [e] | 3004 [e]     | 4061 [e]           | 1722 [e] | 4561 [e]    | 5499 [e]      |                 |
| akrobystia           | hypo     | tēs      | legomenēs    | peritomēs          | en       | sarki       | cheiropoiētou |                 |
| ἀκροβυστία           | ὑπὸ      | τῆς      | λεγομένης    | περιτομῆς          | ,        | ἐν          | σαρκί         | χειροποιήτου -- |
| [the] uncircumcision | by       | that     | being called | [the] circumcision | in       | [the] flesh | made by hand  |                 |
| N-NFS                | Prep     | Art-GFS  | V-PPM/P-GFS  | N-GFS              | Prep     | N-DFS       | Adj-GFS       |                 |

1. "Therefore" refers back to 2:1-10 which is a single sentence in the Greek.
2. Notice Gentiles are referred to as *ta ethnē* or "the Gentiles" which highlights the fact that they were the notorious underprivileged group. This is not a derogatory insult, but a matter of spiritual and religious fact. To deny this information or to receive it as an insult is to minimize or ignore the Gentile's problem.
3. But, notice Paul is quick to emphasize the Jews merely possess a physical sign of a covenant with the potential of the promise of salvation. The Jews had "circumcision in the flesh made by hand." No real salvation, but a sign that they had received a promise of salvation.
  - a. Effectual circumcision is done in the heart as in Galatians 5:6.
  - b. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant of a coming promise. Once the promise has been fulfilled in Christ the issue is no longer circumcision, but the faith in Jesus being the Christ.

**Ephesians 2:12 – “remember that 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.”**

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| 3754 [e] | 1510 [e] | 3588 [e] | 2540 [e] | 1565 [e] | 5565 [e]      | 5547 [e]  | 526 [e]         | 3588 [e] |
| hoti     | ēte      | tō       | kairō    | ekeinō   | chōris        | Christou  | apēllotriōmenoi | tēs      |
| 12 ὅτι   | ἦτε ,    | τῷ       | καιρῷ    | ἐκείνῳ   | χωρὶς         | Χριστοῦ , | ἀπηλλοτριωμένοι | τῆς      |
| that     | you were | at the   | time     | that     | separate from | Christ    | alienated from  | the      |
| Conj     | V-IIA-2P | Art-DMS  | N-DMS    | DPro-DMS | Prep          | N-GMS     | V-RPM/P-NMP     | Art-GFS  |

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| 4174 [e]     | 3588 [e] | 2474 [e]  | 2532 [e] | 3581 [e]  | 3588 [e] | 1242 [e]  | 3588 [e] | 1860 [e]     | 1680 [e] |
| politeias    | tou      | Israēl    | kai      | xenoi     | tōn      | diathēkōn | τῆς      | ἐπαγγελίας   | ἐλπίδα   |
| πολιτείας    | τοῦ      | Ἰσραὴλ ,  | καὶ      | ξένοι     | τῶν      | διαθηκῶν  | τῆς      | ἐπαγγελίας , | ἐλπίδα   |
| commonwealth | -        | of Israel | and      | strangers | to the   | covenants | of the   | promise      | hope     |
| N-GFS        | Art-GMS  | N-GMS     | Conj     | Adj-NMP   | Art-GFP  | N-GFP     | Art-GFS  | N-GFS        | N-AFS    |

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| 3361 [e] | 2192 [e]  | 2532 [e] | 112 [e]     | 1722 [e] | 3588 [e] | 2889 [e] |
| mē       | echontes  | kai      | atheoi      | en       | tō       | kosmō    |
| μὴ       | ἔχοντες , | καὶ      | ἄθεοι       | ἐν       | τῷ       | κόσμῳ .  |
| not      | having    | and      | without God | in       | the      | world    |
| Adv      | V-PPA-NMP | Conj     | Adj-NMP     | Prep     | Art-DMS  | N-DMS    |

1. “separated from Christ” – The Gentiles had no promise, understanding or expectation of a coming Messiah to deliver them from the oppression of the world (sin, kosmos, Satan).
  - a. Unbelieving Jews were separated from Jesus, but not from the promise of the Messiah.
  - b. The Gentiles were separated from the promise of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ.
  - c. Romans 3:2
2. “alienated from the commonwealth of Israel” –
  - a. “alienated” – *apellotriomenoi* – this signifies being alienated from God in the New Testament:
    - i. Col. 1:21 –
    - ii. Eph. 4:18
  - b. “commonwealth” – *politeias* – a body of citizens, a franchise, citizenship. It was used to refer to Roma citizenship. Here it refers to citizens of the franchise or body known as Israel.
    - i. There is a contrast of closeness and relationship with Israel being “citizens” here before the fulfilled promise and with 2:19 where Gentiles and Jews are “members of God’s household” after the work of the Messiah.
    - ii. In Exodus this nation of Israel was placed under legal contract to be “the people of God.”
3. “strangers to the covenants of promise” – (notice COVENANTS, plural; not covenant, singular)
  - a. “strangers” – *xenoi* – means “alien, new, novel; stranger, foreigner.”
  - b. Covenants:
    - i. Abraham – Gen. 15:7-21; 17:1-21
    - ii. Isaac – Gen. 26:2-5
    - iii. Jacob – Gen. 28:13-15
    - iv. Israel – Exod. 24:1-8
    - v. David – 2 Samuel 7
  - c. “of promise” ties all the Covenants God established in to the original promise given to Abraham. The covenants were all part of God bringing about the fulfillment of his ultimate/original promise to Abraham.

4. “having no hope” – The Gentiles were outside the scope of Israel’s promises of deliverance and salvation.
5. “without God in the world” – The Gentiles had relationships with gods and they may have known there was a “God”, but God had not reached out to them as he had the Jews. The Gentiles could not go back into their history, their literature, their religions or their philosophy and figure out the way of salvation through Christ.
6. Jews advantage:
  - a. Romans 3:1-2 – “What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.
  - b. Romans 9:4-5

**Ephesians 2:13 – “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”**

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| 3570 [e] | 1161 [e] | 1722 [e] | 5547 [e] | 2424 [e] | 4771 [e] | 3588 [e] | 4218 [e] | 1510 [e]  | 3112 [e] | 1096 [e]    |
| nyni     | de       | en       | Christō  | lēsou    | hymeis   | hoi      | pote     | ontes     | makran   | egenēthēte  |
| 13 νυνὶ  | δὲ       | ἐν       | Χριστῷ   | Ἰησοῦ    | , ὑμεῖς  | οἱ       | ποτε     | ὄντες     | μακρὰν   | , ἐγενήθητε |
| now      | however  | in       | Christ   | Jesus    | you      | -        | once     | being     | far off  | have become |
| Adv      | Conj     | Prep     | N-DMS    | N-DMS    | PPro-N2P | Art-NMP  | Prtcl    | V-PPA-NMP | Adj-AFS  | V-AIP-2P    |

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| 1451 [e] | 1722 [e] | 3588 [e] | 129 [e] | 3588 [e] | 5547 [e]  |
| engys    | en       | tō       | haimati | tu       | Christou  |
| ἐγγύς    | ἐν       | τῷ       | αἵματι  | τοῦ      | Χριστοῦ . |
| near     | by       | the      | blood   | -        | of Christ |
| Adv      | Prep     | Art-DNS  | N-DNS   | Art-GMS  | N-GMS     |

**Ephesians 2:14 – “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”**

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| 846 [e]    | 1063 [e] | 1510 [e] | 3588 [e] | 1515 [e] | 1473 [e] | 3588 [e] | 4160 [e]    | 3588 [e] | 297 [e]   | 1520 [e] | 2532 [e] |
| Autos      | gar      | estin    | hē       | eirēnē   | hēmōn    | ho       | poiēsas     | ta       | amphotera | hen      | kai      |
| 14 Αὐτὸς   | γάρ      | ἐστὶν    | ἡ        | εἰρήνη   | ἡμῶν     | , ὁ      | ποιήσας     | τὰ       | ἀμφότερα  | ἐν       | , καὶ    |
| he himself | indeed   | is       | the      | peace    | of us    | -        | having made | -        | both      | one      | and      |
| PPro-NM3S  | Conj     | V-PIA-3S | Art-NFS  | N-NFS    | PPro-G1P | Art-NMS  | V-APA-NMS   | Art-ANP  | Adj-ANP   | Adj-ANS  | Conj     |

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| 3588 [e] | 3320 [e]    | 3588 [e] | 5418 [e] | 3089 [e]           |
| to       | mesotoichon | tu       | phragmou | lysas              |
| τὸ       | μεσότοιχον  | τοῦ      | φραγμοῦ  | λύσας              |
| the      | barrier     | of the   | fence    | having broken down |
| Art-ANS  | N-ANS       | Art-GMS  | N-GMS    | V-APA-NMS          |

**Ephesians 2:15 – “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,”**

**Ephesians 2:16 – “and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”**

**Ephesians 2:17 – “And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.”**

**Ephesians 2:18 – “For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”**

**Ephesians 2:19 – “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,**

**Ephesians 2:20 – “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,”**

**Ephesians 2:21 – “in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”**

**Ephesians 2:22 – “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”**