

EPHESIANS 2:11-22.

Jesus reconciles Jews and Gentiles into one group.

QUICK HISTORY.

- ◆ Abrahamic Covenant and circumcision (Genesis 17:1-14).
 - ◆ God appeared to Abram and established a covenant between Him and Abram's descendants.
 - ◆ In the agreement God offered to be a personal God, and in return He offered the land of Canaan.
 - ◆ The sign of entering this covenant was circumcision.
- ◆ Law and circumcision (Leviticus 12).
 - ◆ This covenant was codified in the Levitical law and each family was required to circumcise their sons on the eighth day after their birth.

GENTILES.

- ◆ Prior to the death and resurrection of Jesus, gentiles were not recipients of the promises of God.
 - ◆ This left the gentiles *“having no hope and without God.”*
- ◆ In Jesus, those who were apart from God, are now near to Him, through the blood of Jesus at the cross.
- ◆ Paul spent much of his ministry focusing on bringing the gospel to the gentiles, but it caused division in the church.
 - ◆ Acts 10:45-11:4 - Peter first brings the gospel to gentiles.
 - ◆ Galatians 2:11-14 - Peter fears the Jews, Paul has no fear.
 - ◆ Acts 15:4-21 - Council at Jerusalem.
 - ◆ Acts 22:21-22 - Paul’s imprisoned because of the gospel.

RECONCILED.

- ◆ Jesus made believing Jews and gentiles into one group (see Galatians 3:28 & Colossians 3:11).
- ◆ Jesus accomplished the following at the cross:
 - ◆ Made peace between Jew and gentile.
 - ◆ Broke down the symbolic barrier wall between Jews and gentiles in the temple.
 - ◆ Abolished the law by fulfilling it.
 - ◆ Reconciled both Jew and gentile to God.
 - ◆ Gave everyone an opportunity to have access to God the Father, through the Holy Spirit.

TOGETHER.

- ◆ Paul uses three word pictures to describe how Jews and gentiles are now together:
 - ◆ Citizenship - gentiles were previously considered strangers and aliens, but now are citizens.
 - ◆ Members of God's household - God's house was established on the foundation of the prophets and apostles and Jesus is the corner stone.
 - ◆ A Holy temple - where the Spirit of God dwells.