

L61 | Ephesians | "Without God and Christ" | Eph. 2:11-18

I. Intro/Review:

- Remembering more time past
 - Correlation with the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
- Gentiles in the flesh
 - Called uncircumcision by the them called the circumcision - animosity toward the Gentiles

II. Preview:

- The Distinction and Animosity
- At That Time
 - Without Christ
 - Aliens
 - Strangers
 - No Hope
 - Without God

III. Sermon:

- **The Distinction and Animosity**

1. **The Distinction**

1) The World from Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 10)

2) The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11)

- "make us a name" - not be scattered
- Romans 1:20-32
 1. :24 - "God also gave them up to uncleanness"
 2. :26 - "God gave them up unto vile affections"
 3. :28 - "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient"
- How do we know idolatry was taking place at Babel? When they are scattered all the idolatry went with them.
 - Deut. 4:1ff, :14-20
 - 1 Pet. 4:3
- Gentile history from Babel
 - Acts 14:1-28 - (:16 - "who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.")
 - Acts 17:22-31 - (:30 - "and the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because He hath appointed a day,...")

3) The Sanctification of Abram (Gen. 12)

- "a land"
- "I will make thee a great nation - I will bless thee"
- "Make thy name great - be a blessing"
- "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee"
- "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
- Israel was to be and will be the channel of blessing to the world, by God blessing him as a great nation and making his name great.
 - Rom. 4:13 - "the heir of the world" - Abraham and his seed (all his seed)
 - God fulfills His promises - Abraham making them a great nation in Egypt
 - Deut. 32:7-9
 - Promise of the Spirit - eternal life given to Abraham based upon faith alone
 - This would be given to the nations through Israel, through his seed

4) Circumcision - Sign, Seal, Covenant

- Rom. 4:11 - Sign and seal of the righteousness he had being uncircumcised
 - Seal of the Holy Spirit that circumcises our heart
- Gen. 17:1ff - Covenant in his flesh
- Rom. 9:6-8 - This produces a two-fold recognition
 - Israel - children of the flesh
 - Israel - children of the promise
 - They are not all Israel, which are of Israel
 - John 8:37 - Abraham's seed (physical lineage)
 - John 8:39 - Abraham's children (spiritual lineage)
 - Israel began to only look at

5) The Light and Salt of the Earth

- Ex. 12:43-44 - circumcised (sign and seal of righteousness by faith) and eat of passover
- Ex. 12:48-51 - servant bought for money, be as one that is born in the land
- Lev. 19:33-34; Deut. 10:12-22 - love the stranger as one born among you
 - Regards not persons
 - Nothing special in Abraham - low estate (Deut. 7:7-8 - few in number)
 - Deut. 4:1ff - in the sight of the nations
- The distinction, the covenant in their flesh, was to identify the nation from the rest of the nation's regarding their origins, their God, their faith, the promises given to them, and the blessing they were to be.
- Isa. 11:10, 42:1, 6, 49:6, 22-23, 54:3, 60:3, 5, 11, 16, 61:6, 9, 62:2, 12, 66:12, 19
- Summary
 1. God gave up, gave up, and gave over the nations
 2. Called out Abram to establish him as the heir of the world
 3. Through Abraham and his seed blessing to the nations
 4. Circumcision to be a seal, sign, and covenant

5. Instead, not all Israel is of Israel

- Instead, circumcision became the concision only the national identity
- Thoughts regarding Israel's specialness became void of where they came from, the promises to profit all, and being a blessing.

2. The Animosity

- The Lord - Never see any animosity with the Lord toward the Gentiles, just program issues
 - Luk. 7:1-10 - Roman centurion, servant, and friends - blessed Israel
 - Matt. 10:1, 5-6 - program
 - Matt. 15:21-28 - not what she did, nor sheer compassion on the Lord's part
 - She has already responded to Israel's God ("Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David")
 - She has benefited from Israel's salt and light - she has responded to the Davidic Covenant
 - Still answered her not a word - not time to deal with her
 - "Lord, help me" - her Gentile plight - then He probes her (is appeal worthy of being honored at this time.)
 - Her faithful response shows her worthiness (not snappy or provide some "come back")
 - Spilled over or as a result of Israel's carelessness or neglect
- The Nation of Israel
 - Rom. 2:23-29 - focus outward and praise of men, but the name of God blasphemed
 - Hypocrites - woe unto them
 - Rom. 11:11
 - Rom. 3:9-18 - no better, in no wise
 - Gal. 2:14-15
 - 1 The. 2:16
- At That Time

**That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
{Eph 2:12}**

- **"that at that time"**

- At the time the Ephesians were Gentiles in the flesh
- At the time when the Ephesians were called Uncircumcision by the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands
- **"ye were without Christ"**
 1. **"being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel"**
 2. **"and strangers from the covenants of promise,"**
 3. **"having no hope"**
 4. **"and without God in the world:"**

- **"without Christ"** - everything is given to Christ; therefore, no inheritance and all inheritance was with Israel and Christ with Israel

1. How were the Gentiles "without Christ"?

1. Abraham - Galatians 3:16-17
 2. Israel - 1 Corinthians 10:4
 3. The Law - Galatians 3:23-25
 4. Christ Came - Gal. 4:4-5, Rom. 9:5, 15:8ff, Luke 2:64-80
 - Matt. 10:1-6 (Matt. 8:5-13)
 - Matt. 15:21-31
- Wasn't that a Gentile or stranger couldn't become Israel, but Israel was the channel of blessing

1. **"being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel"**

- **"aliens"** (alienated) - Eph. 4:18, Col. 1:21 (Rom. 1 - God gave up)
 - Estranged, a non-participant, to shut out
 - Then historically calls out Abraham and alienates the Gentiles until the blessing of the seed of Abraham
 - Not simply from God, but from "wealth", the table would overflow to the Gentiles
- **"commonwealth"** - the administration of civil affairs; a state or commonwealth
 - "To be a God" through the generations
 - Acts 22:28 - "And the chief captain answered, with a great sum obtained I this **freedom**. And Paul said, "But I was free born."
 - They could "obtain", but what was given to Israel the Gentiles were aliens from.
 - The blessing God established with Israel not the nations, thus as citizens of other nations they were aliens from what God was doing with Israel
 - They had no natural relationship with God
 - Be circumcised
 - Keep the law
 - Blessing came from blessing Israel; blessing came from spill over; blessing came from carelessness and neglect

2. **"strangers from the covenants of promise"**

- **"strangers"** - not given to the Gentiles, given to Israel
 - A foreigner, a stranger (alien), without a share in - not that they

couldn't have a share in

- **"from the covenants of promise"**

- Romans 9:4 - "the covenants and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;"
- Romans 15:8 - promises came to confirm
 - Land, victory over enemies, etc.

3. "having no hope"

- Did not give what He gave to Israel to any other nation
- Vanity

4. "without God in the world"

- Covenanted to be Israel's God
- Gentiles worshipped other gods
- Not only judgment of giving them up, not only distinction with Israel, but Israel's animosity - no longer the situation according to His power for the riches of His inheritance in the saints.

IV. Conclusion: