

L63 | Ephesians | "Far Off Aliens and Strangers" | Eph. 2:11-18

I. Intro/Review:

- The Ephesians were in time past Gentiles in the flesh
 - The Gentiles origins go back to the scattering of the nation's back at the tower of Babel
 - At that time and forward
 - The Gentiles gave themselves over to lasciviousness (their own ways)
 - God judged them and gave them up, up, and over (vain imaginations, vile affections, reprobate mind)
 - God would deal with these Gentiles but by His prescribed way
 - That way was through Abraham and his seed that God would make into a great nation
 - God's great nation would be a blessing to all families of the earth
 - God gave the covenant of circumcision as a sign and a seal of the righteousness he had by faith before circumcision.
 - Those bearing this covenant in their flesh were to be like Abraham and walk in the steps of Abraham from justification by faith alone in the sight of God, then justification by faith plus works in the eyes of men to be the light of the world and salt of the earth.
 - Instead Israel misinterpreted the sign of circumcision as they were special by nature hence God's choosing - even though God stated He is no respecter of persons.
 - This stiff-neck, this haughtiness, this pride would become their fall and would need "reform".
 - This pride would cast God's law behind their back which was their light in the sight of the nations to be a blessing and in turn the Gentiles blasphemed God because of Israel's not hearkening to God.
 - This pride of circumcision (that which circumcision was never to be) "called" the Gentiles in the flesh The Uncircumcision and themselves The Circumcision.
- The Light and Salt of the Earth
 - Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:8-9 - "the gospel of uncircumcision"
 - The scripture foreseeing
 - Acts 14:27 - How He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles."
 - In Christ
 - 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
 - Matt. 8:5-13 - Gentiles through Israel
 - Revelation 7:9 - "lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations"
 - Revelation 15:4 - "who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name?...for all nations shall come and worship before thee;"

- Revelation 21:24 - "and the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it."
- Three Issues
 1. Gentiles given over in judgment
 2. Israel to be the blessing to the nations
 3. Israel's failure and pride toward Gentiles

II. Preview:

- At That Time Without Christ
 - Aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel
 - Strangers from the Covenants of Promise
- No Hope and Without God

III. Sermon:

- **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
 - Two Perspectives
 1. Heavenly - Christ appears to Saul and executes this judgment
 2. Earthly - prior to Paul's salvation and apostleship
 - Part of Paul's ministry is in line with what the scriptures foresaw about Gentile justification through faith.
 - Gen. 12:1-3 (Gal. 3:8-9)
 - Acts 26:22
 - Acts 28:23, 26-28
 - Part of Paul's ministry communicating the suspension of His wrath, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them - the dispensation of the grace of God.
 - Part of Paul's ministry is the revelation of the mystery that on the basis of these things He is forming the one new man, the body of Christ.
- **"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
 - The Gentiles in the flesh were aliens from what God was doing with Israel
- "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
- All blessing was attached to Israel nothing separate from them
- Their vanity

4. "without God in the world"

- Covenanted to be Israel's God
- Gentiles worshipped other gods
- Door of faith was closed
- 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: