



EPHESIANS 2 PART 1

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:10

Far from being a distant, detached power, the Almighty has always sought an intimate collaboration, inviting us to participate in the breathtaking display of His glory across the cosmos. This enduring vision was first etched into the very fabric of creation in Genesis, where humanity was uniquely crafted in His image, entrusted with the stewardship of His world—an initial, profound invitation to co-labor. This same purpose resonated powerfully in the choosing of Israel, a people called to embody a "better way" and reflect God's character to the surrounding nations. As Ezekiel 16:14 beautifully declares, "Your fame went out among the nations because of My splendor which I had bestowed on you." Their story, with its triumphs and challenges, reveals God's persistent commitment to this partnership. And now, through the New Covenant and the transformative grace described in Ephesians, this divine collaboration finds its ultimate expression in the Church—a redeemed community, empowered by His Spirit, to continue this awe-inspiring work. To be invited into partnership with the Creator of the universe, to serve as His representatives in the world, is not simply a duty; it is an unparalleled privilege, a profound testament to a love that has never wavered and a purpose that remains eternally steadfast.

1. According to Genesis 1, how did God's creation of humanity in His image establish a foundational blueprint for divine-human cooperation and a representative role for mankind in the created world? Consider the mandate given to humanity and its implications for stewardship. (See Genesis 1:26-28)
2. How did God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic) establish Israel as a chosen people, intended to demonstrate God's "better way" and serve as His representative to the surrounding nations? What did their history reveal about their ability to fulfill this unique calling? (See Genesis 12:2-3; Genesis 17; Exodus 19:5-8; Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Ezekiel 16:14; Jeremiah 2:2; Jeremiah 3:12-13)
3. How does Jesus Christ serve as the pivotal fulfillment of Israel's representative role, and what does His life, death, and resurrection signify about God's unchanging redemptive purpose across the Old and New Testaments? (See Matthew 5:17; John 1:14; John 4:22; Galatians 3:8, 14)
4. How does the New Testament, particularly Ephesians 2, describe the transition from national Israel to the Church as God's new, unified community? What does this transition imply about the universal scope of God's plan for representation, bringing together both Jews and Gentiles? (See Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:28)
5. Ephesians 2:8-10 states that believers are "His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." Explain how salvation by grace empowers believers to fulfill God's unchanging plan for humanity's partnership and representation in the world through these "good works," contrasting this with human effort under the Law. (See Ephesians 2:8-10; John 15:5; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 13:16)