

# Vision 2026:

## Advance

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Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of Ephesians, chapter two.

Ephesians is in the New Testament, which is the second part of your Bible. The first part is called the Old Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, lets look at the text together.

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# His Dwelling Place

## ***Ephesians 2:19-22***

*Ephesians 2:19* Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. NKJV

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## A. Three kinds of people on the Day of Pentecost.

### a. The Seekers

- i. *Acts 2:12* So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” They heard these every-day, common folk declaring “*the mighty works of God*” in their own native languages. This was miraculous & unmistakable.
- ii. They were bewildered; they didn’t dismiss it outright — they wanted understanding.

### b. The Dismissive

- i. *Acts 2:13* Others mocking said, “*They are full of new wine.*” They saw the same phenomena (ecstatic praise, tongues, boldness) but attributed it to drunkenness.
- ii. Sarcastic, closed-minded, & diminishing. They explained away the supernatural with a natural and mocking excuse. It was early morning (9 AM — “*the third hour*”), making drunkenness unlikely, yet they chose ridicule.
- iii. Mockers will prioritize skepticism over seeking truth.

## c. The Spirit-Filled

- i. They were Obedient & expectant; *filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues...*
  - ii. Peter didn't defend emotionally; he pointed to Scripture (**Joel 2:28-32**) & declared this was the fulfillment of God's promise through Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.
- d. This Super-natural event – wind – fire – tongues – brought diverse reactions but massive conversion & church growth.

B. **Acts 2** transpired nearly 2K years ago. But it didn't stop there. Jesus is still baptizing in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. And I want you to leave this place today knowing God desires you to be "*His Dwelling Place.*"

## TRANSITION:

Apostle Paul gives us a subtle reminder that salvation & the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is for Jew & Gentile when he says, "you are no longer strangers and foreigners." In verse 21 he says, "*in whom the whole building, being fitted together.*" He refers as a metaphor to a building & how the stones are "*fitted together,*" to form a single structure. You & I are a part of that building with Jesus as the Chief Cornerstone where the Spirit of God dwells, lives & makes His habitation.

{Apostle Paul gives us a subtle reminder that salvation & the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not just for the Jew, and it is not just for the Gentile. It is for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord!

Look at how Paul sets the stage for where we are going today. He says, "*You are no longer strangers and foreigners.*" You aren't on the outside looking in.

Then, in verse 21, he shifts his language to set up the main truth we must grasp today. He says, "*In whom the whole building, being fitted together...*"

He uses the metaphor of a building. He shows us how different stones are "*fitted together*" to form a single, unshakeable structure. And church, here is the shout today: *You and I are a part of that building!*

We are not scattered bricks on the ground. We are being *fitted together*! And we aren't just built on anything. We are built with Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone!

This isn't just a monument to look at. This is the very place where the Spirit of the Living God dwells! He lives here! He makes His habitation right here in us!

*Remember the application:*

- I. **A Living Habitation** - Ma'on Kadosh {Holy Habitation}

## A. Pour Out

God said, "*I will pour out my spirit...*" Pouring out, issues Divine completeness, perfection, resurrection & new life. In this pouring out will be the power of the spoken word/prayer. It was poured out from the mighty, righteous hand of the Almighty!

- a. God did not haphazardly "*pour out.*" The pouring out was into vessels... - *1 Corinthians 3:16* *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? NKJV* - Again, who did He pour out on? - *I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ESV* -
- b. In the Upper Room when the Spirit was initially poured out were fishermen, a tax collector, & a political zealot. We know there were women, even Mary the mother of Jesus & His brothers & Thomas who doubted that Jesus was raised from the dead until he saw the nail prints.

## B. Dwelling Place

How is Ephesians 2:22 tied to Acts 2? Hebrew "dwelling place..." - (God's Name) HaMakom - God's Omnipresence - God encompasses & sustains all creation but is not contained by it... - Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone & holds the building aka the Church, together -

a. Let's talk about the Holy of Holies because this dwelling place is very similar to the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle/Temple.

- i. The innermost chamber of the Tabernacle; and the place where God's manifest presence rested above the Ark of the Covenant between the cherubim. A place where only the High Priest entered once a year. - *Exodus 25:22* And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony -
- ii. God in His sovereignty chose to pour His Spirit on us, Believers but He is not contained or restrained... -<sup>2</sup> *Chronicles 2:6* But who is able to build him a house, since heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain him -
- iii. The heavens can't contain Elohim, Yahweh, JHWH yet He chooses Believers to be a dwelling place by His Spirit.

**b. Dwelling Place - Think about this, you are a living habitation of God by His Holy Spirit. {Hebrew translation ma'on – 4 Hebrew letters - מְעוֹן}**

- i. Mem is a letter of transition {trial & testing also} Mem living, life-giving water which brings revelation & teaching - **John 14:26** -
- ii. Ayin ... Perception, learning - God's intimate seeing and indwelling, the temple is under His constant observation and care. –
- iii. Vav ... it is a connector, like the tent peg of the tabernacle in the wilderness, it held everything in place. - Christ Jesus is that Connector, the Chief Cornerstone. He brings everything to be fitted & fastened securely.
- iv. Nun ... It is the continuation of life – Seed – Completion, being brought to full purpose – Gematria 50; the year of Jubilee representing freedom & deliverance.
- v. A securely fastened dwelling place where His living waters flow, His eye watches with love, and His presence is nailed down permanently by the finished work of Christ, producing lasting fruit.

c. The 120 in the Upper Room were waiting in unity and prayer — preparing the “foundation.”

- i. The sound of the mighty rushing wind, the breath, the life - Ruach - And the tongues of fire - filled them all - And they became the first living stones of God's מְעוֹן — a corporate dwelling place. - *1 Peter 2:5* *You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood* –
- ii. God no longer dwells in a building made with hands — He now dwells in His people by His Spirit.

## II. Conclusion

**Church, listen!** The same God who shook the Upper Room with the sound of the mighty wind & divided tongues of fire is pouring out His Holy Ghost upon you right now! He has not chosen temples made with hands — He has chosen **you** to become His **מְעוֹן** — His blazing, Holy dwelling place on the earth! By the living waters of Mem, the piercing eye of Ayin, the nail-pierced Vav of Calvary that fastens God's glory inside you, and the Jubilee fire of Nun — you are now a walking Holy of Holies, filled with resurrection power!

Just like those 120 ordinary, imperfect believers — fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, doubters, and mothers — the fire has fallen on you today!

**Now rise up in Holy Ghost power**, release the sound of Heaven, prophesy, speak in tongues, and let the world see that the living God is not contained in buildings — **He is dwelling in you**, and the greatest outpouring the earth has ever seen has only just begun!

**Conclusion:** PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.