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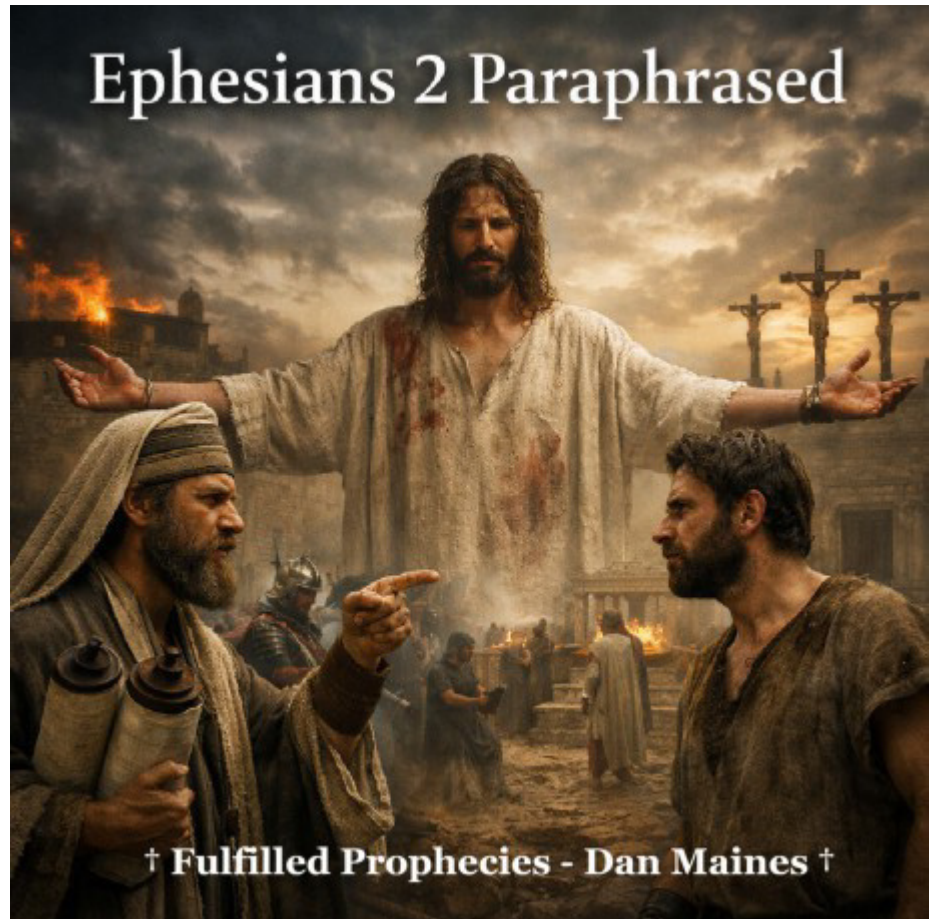
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Ephesians 2 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Ephesians 2 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Ephesians 2 explains how God brought people from spiritual death into life through Christ.

† Paul shows that both Jews and Gentiles were rescued by grace and brought into one covenant people.

† This chapter also reveals that believers together became God's dwelling place.

Ephesians 2:1

You once lived in a state of spiritual death because of your sins

and rebellion.

† Paul begins by reminding believers of their former condition of separation from God's life (Romans 6:23).

† Spiritual death meant being cut off from God's covenant blessings (Isaiah 59:2).

† Christ came to bring life to those who were dead in sin (John 5:24).

Ephesians 2:2

At that time you followed the pattern of this world and lived under the influence of the ruler of the unseen realm, the spirit that still works in those who refuse to obey God.

† The world system pulls people away from God and promotes rebellion (1 John 5:19).

† The ruler mentioned is the adversary who deceives and opposes God's purposes (John 12:31).

† Disobedience reveals who is walking according to that influence.

Ephesians 2:3

All of us once lived that way, following the desires of our flesh and the thoughts that drove us, and by our nature we were headed toward judgment like everyone else.

† Paul includes Jews and Gentiles together in humanity's fallen condition (Romans 3:23).

† The desires of the flesh describe the pull of sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21).

† Judgment is the natural result of rebellion against God.

Ephesians 2:4

But God is rich in mercy and loved us deeply.

† The focus shifts from human failure to God's mercy and compassion.

† God's love moved Him to act on behalf of sinners (John 3:16).

† Mercy means God withheld the judgment we deserved.

Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in our sins He made us alive together with Christ, it's by grace you've been saved.

† Salvation is entirely the result of God's grace (Titus 3:5).

† Being made alive describes receiving spiritual life in Christ (Colossians 2:13).

† Grace means undeserved favor freely given.

Ephesians 2:6

He raised us up with Him and gave us a place with Christ in the heavenly realm.

† Believers share in Christ's victory and authority (Colossians 3:1).

† The heavenly realm refers to the spiritual kingdom where Christ reigns.

† This describes the covenant position believers now have in Christ.

Ephesians 2:7

He did this so that in the coming ages He could display the immeasurable richness of His grace through His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

† God's grace is the central theme of the gospel message.

† The ages to come refers to the unfolding era of the new covenant.

† Christ reveals the kindness and generosity of God toward humanity.

Ephesians 2:8

It's by grace that you've been saved through faith, and this didn't come from yourselves, it's God's gift.

† Salvation begins with God's grace and is received through faith (Romans 5:1).

† Faith means trusting in the finished work of Christ.

† Paul emphasizes that salvation is God's gift.

Ephesians 2:9

It isn't the result of human effort so no one can boast.

† Human works cannot earn salvation (Romans 4:5).

† If salvation came by works people would claim credit.

† Grace removes boasting and gives all glory to God.

Ephesians 2:10

We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand for us to walk in.

† Believers are spiritually recreated in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† Good works are the result of salvation not the cause of it (Titus 2:14).

† God prepared a life of obedience and service for His people.

Ephesians 2:11

So remember that formerly you Gentiles by birth were called uncircumcised by those who called themselves circumcised which was done in the flesh by human hands.

† Paul reminds Gentile believers that they were once outside Israel's covenant identity.

† Circumcision was the physical sign of the old covenant (Genesis 17:10).

† Jews often used the term uncircumcised to describe those outside the covenant.

Ephesians 2:12

At that time you were separated from Christ excluded from Israel's community strangers to the covenants of promise without hope and without God in the world.

† Gentiles once lived outside the covenant promises given to Israel.

† They had no covenant hope before the gospel reached them.

† Paul highlights the dramatic change brought by Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

† Christ's sacrifice opened covenant access to the nations.

† Those who were far away refers to Gentiles (Isaiah 57:19).

† The blood of Christ removed the barrier of sin.

Ephesians 2:14

He Himself is our peace the one who made both groups into one and broke down the wall that separated them.

† Christ united Jews and Gentiles into one covenant people.

† The dividing wall symbolized separation in the temple structure.

† Through Christ that barrier was removed.

Ephesians 2:15

He ended the law of commandments expressed in regulations so that He could create in Himself one new humanity from the two groups making peace.

† Christ fulfilled the old covenant system that separated Jew and Gentile.

† The new covenant created one unified people in Christ.

† Peace came through reconciliation in Him.

Ephesians 2:16

Through the cross He reconciled both groups to God in one body putting hostility to death.

† The cross removed hostility between God and humanity.

† It also ended hostility between Jews and Gentiles.

† Reconciliation restored peace and unity.

Ephesians 2:17

He came and proclaimed peace to those who were far away

and peace to those who were near.

† Christ's message of peace was for Gentiles and Jews alike (Isaiah 57:19).

† The gospel united both groups under one covenant.

† Peace describes restored relationship with God.

Ephesians 2:18

Through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

† Christ opened direct access to God for all believers (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† The Spirit unites believers into one body.

† Covenant access is now shared equally.

Ephesians 2:19

So now you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household.

† Gentile believers became full members of God's covenant family.

† Citizenship language reflects belonging to God's kingdom.

† The household imagery shows a united spiritual family.

Ephesians 2:20

You are built on the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.

† The teaching of the apostles and prophets established the church.

† Christ is the cornerstone holding the structure together (Isaiah 28:16).

† The foundation represents the revealed gospel.

Ephesians 2:21

In Him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

† Believers together form God's spiritual temple (1 Corinthians 3:16).

† This replaces the old covenant temple structure.

† God's presence now dwells among His people.

Ephesians 2:22

In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God through the Spirit.

† The church collectively becomes God's dwelling place.

† This fulfills God's promise to dwell among His people.

† The Spirit unites believers into this living temple.

Historical References

† Irenaeus taught that Christ united Jews and Gentiles into one body through the cross, *Against Heresies*.

† Clement of Alexandria described believers together as the spiritual temple of God, *Stromata*.

† Eusebius recorded that the destruction of Jerusalem confirmed the transition from the old temple system to the new covenant temple, *Ecclesiastical History*.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We remember that salvation is completely God's grace not our works.

† We live as one united people in Christ regardless of background.

† We recognize that believers together are God's dwelling place.

† We walk in the good works God prepared for us.

† We rest in the peace Christ created between God and humanity.

Q & A Appendix

Q: What condition were people in before Christ?

A: They were spiritually dead because of sin (Romans 6:23).

Q: How are people saved?

A: By grace through faith not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Q: What did Christ accomplish between Jews and Gentiles?

A: He made both groups one people in Himself (Ephesians 2:14-16).

Q: What are believers described as in the new covenant?

A: God's household and a spiritual temple (Ephesians 2:19-21).

Q: What role does Christ play in the spiritual temple?

A: He is the cornerstone holding everything together (Isaiah 28:16).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ephesians 2

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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