

EPHESIANS

ALIVE IN CHRIST

LIVING AS CITIZENS OF
GOD'S KINGDOM

Ephesians 2:19–3:13

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 07.06.25

Philippians 3:20–21 | Colossians 1:17 | Colossians 1:26–27

SUMMARY

As Paul continues to remind the Church of who they are—their identity in Christ—a chosen people, who have been redeemed, saved, and set apart for his glorious purposes, he then reminds them that they are no longer “strangers and aliens” (v. 19). Paul’s point is that previously, the Ephesians, as Gentiles, were strangers to Old Testament ritual the Lord set apart for his chosen people. But now, because of the saving work of Jesus, they are not only no longer strangers to the ritual of the Old Testament, but they are no longer strangers to God himself; the Lord has numbered them among his chosen people. Even more than no longer strangers, they are “fellow citizens” and members of “the household of God” (v. 19). The ceremony, sacrifice, and symbolism of the Old Testament was all done in preparation for the arrival of Christ who would bring salvation to the Jew *and* the Gentile according to the promise the Lord made with Abraham many generations before (Genesis 12; 15; 17). Paul continues the metaphor of God’s household as he details the nature of what would ultimately become the holy, inspired word of God—the Scriptures. Central to all of the Scriptures is Jesus himself; he is the Cornerstone which all human history rests upon (Colossians 1:17). The Lord also appointed spokesmen, “the apostles and prophets” (v. 20), who would speak and pen the word of God culminating in the gospel of Jesus Christ—a new expansive, inclusive covenant which includes Jews and Gentiles “joined together” as the “temple in the Lord” (v. 20). The temple, which for generations God’s people would have understood to be the dwelling place of God, Paul now reveals the ultimate temple—the dwelling place of God—to be in the hearts of all of God’s people. Those who have been saved by God’s grace through the work of Jesus Christ are now, by the power of his Holy Spirit, the temple of God. Jesus himself, through his life and death, revealed this “mystery” (Ephesians 3:3), the apostles and prophets then carried it forth, and now the Lord has given it to us, the Church, to take to every corner of the world.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ephesians 2:19–3:13.

How does the temple of the Old Testament relate to today’s New Testament Church? What are the similarities? What are the differences?

In the Old Testament, “Israel” was always synonymous with “God’s chosen people.” According to this passage, who is the Lord’s Israel now? How does this intersect with your understanding of current events surrounding the nation of Israel now?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.