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Once Gentiles, Now What?

Ephesians 2:11-13

“Therefore remember that you, **once Gentiles** in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— that **at that time you 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. But now **in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near** by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:11-13 NKJV

- ☒ Once Gentiles
 - ☒ What is a Gentiles (Pagan)
 - ☒ Nations or people
 - ☒ Pagan or worshiper of idols
- ☒ Israel the Evangelist

Jews, Greeks, Gentiles (Hint: the Jew First)

God... “who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the **Jew first and also of the Greek**; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, **to the Jew first and also to the Greek**. For there is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:6-11 NKJV

All One in Messiah

“For **you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ **have put on Christ**. There is **neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female**; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus**. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:26-29 NKJV

No Distinctions

“For there is **no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord** over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”” Romans 10:12-13 NKJV

No matter how you started off... Put off the old man and put on the new man

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. **Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth**: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves **once walked** when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.**” Colossians 3:1-11 NKJV

Israel, the first Evangelist

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all

people; **for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.'"" Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV

Israel shall be Yahweh's a light to the Gentiles salvation to the ends of the earth

""And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, **So that Israel is gathered to Him** (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), Indeed He says, '**It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob**, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "" Isaiah 49:5-6 NKJV

The Mystery was not that the gentiles would come into the commonwealth but how?

"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him **to reconcile all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And **you, who once were alienated and enemies** in your mind by wicked works, yet **now He has reconciled** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless,

and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, **for the sake of His body, which is the church [the one new man]**, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, **the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. [this was the ultimate plan to bring all men under one label]** Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” Colossians 1:19-29 NKJV

Self Righteousness

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own

righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Romans 10:1-3 NKJV

Y’shua knew that evangelism was always the calling, but it was ruined because of hypocrisy!

““ But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you **shut up the kingdom of heaven against men**; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte**, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.” Matthew 23:13-15 NKJV **(you can read all of Matthew 23 to see all the hypocrisy being rebuked)**

- ☑ At that time you are without Christ
 - ☑ You are aliens—from what?
 - ☑ Strangers —see mixed multitude
- ☑ The commonwealth of Israel
- ☑ The Covenants of Promise
- ☑ Having no Hope because as an alien (stranger) to the commonwealth you are without God because as an

- ☑ BUT NOW— in Christ and by His blood, you who were once aliens and strangers are now the opposite of that, you are now “near”!

More than just Israel

“Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. **A mixed multitude went** up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.” Exodus 12:37-38 NKJV

Review Passover:

1. Separation of Firstborns
2. Separation of non-firstborns

There was always just ONE LAW for everyone

“And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. **One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you.**” Exodus 12:48-49 NKJV

“You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 24:22 NKJV

“One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD. One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.” Numbers 15:15-16 NKJV

Ephesians 2:14-18

“For He Himself is our peace, who has **made both one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, **having abolished in His flesh the enmity**, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man** from the two, thus making peace, and that He might **reconcile them both** to God in one body through the cross, thereby **putting to death the enmity**. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” Ephesians 2:14-18 NKJV

- ☒ One new man
- ☒ No Jew no Gentile (we saw that above)

- ☑ One body
- ☑ Putting enmity to death
- ☑ Finds fault with the man not the law!

One New Man—those led by the Spirit

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, **these are sons of God.** For you **did not receive** the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Romans 8:14-17 NKJV

All are become one new creation when reconciled by Messiah

“Therefore, from now on, **we regard no one according to the flesh.** Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **Now then, we are**

ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:

we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:16-21 NKJV

One Body!

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that **one body**, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into **one body—whether Jews or Greeks**, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is **not one member but many**. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now **indeed there are many members, yet one body**. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body

which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. **Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.**” I Corinthians 12:12-27 NKJV

So if we are all one new body under the laws of Israel, there should be no more enmity! Enmity of what?

Hebrews 8– was the law the problem?

“For **if that first covenant had been faultless**, then no place would have been sought for a second. **Because finding fault with them**, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—” Hebrews 8:7-8 NKJV

What got wiped out?

“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by **putting off the body of the sins** of the flesh, by

the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the **substance is [BODY]** of Christ.” Colossians 2:11-17 NKJV

Romans 30– Faith establishes the Law

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the **deeds of the law**. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. **Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.**” Romans 3:28-31 NKJV

Look at Psalm 119 about the Law: 176 verses of David magnifying Yahweh's laws!

At least 12 synonyms for the Law, all as David magnifies the supremacy of God's commands: Commandments, judgments, precepts, statutes, law, word, light, Way, testimonies, righteous judgements, the way of truth, salvation, great treasure:

Ephesians 2:19-22: The Household of Yahweh

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

- ☑ Fellow citizens
- ☑ members of God's household
- ☑ SOP — apostles, prophets, king
- ☑ Grow into the holy temple (we are that temple)

We are His House

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle and High Priest** of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, **inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.** And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son over His own house, **whose house we are** if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” Hebrews 3:1-6 NKJV

That House is His Temple

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. **Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot?**

Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” I Corinthians 6:12-20 NKJV

Don’t defile your temple

“Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, **which temple you are.**” I Corinthians 3:16-17 NKJV

Living Stones

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, **but chosen by God and precious, you also, as**

living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” I Peter 2:1-5 NKJV

Remember: His House first! (Jew first and also of the Greek)

“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. **For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first**, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” I Peter 4:16-17 NKJV

Separation of Powers: this is a big deal!

The King, The Priest, and the Prophet

Eph. 2:20 “built on the foundation **of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner** stone.

What happens when we don’t have all three in operation?

““O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one **who kills the prophets** and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! **See! Your house is left to you desolate;** for I

say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "" Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV

God's Leadership Plan:

This is God's plan for the most prosperous governance, God's divine order. There are always three positions: THE KING, THE PROPHET, THE PRIEST!

God's perfect governance is achieved when there is a Separation of Powers (SOP). There needs to be three branches, which may be known under different names, but they are always in operation.

Ancient Times

The King

The Priest

The Prophet

Church (the whole Body of Christ)

The LORD (King of Kings)

The Apostle (Pastor of Pastors of people)

The Prophet (The direction of the LORD to Pastors)

Church (Local)

The Pastor (Apostolic)

The Prophet

The People

There are always three branches of government or leadership!

The Church is built on Apostles and Prophets with Christ as the Chief cornerstone

Christ is King or Chief Cornerstone. The Apostle is the Pastor who oversees Pastors or modern-day Priests who minister to God's people (the spiritual temple). And the prophet is the advisor to all and brings overall oversight. Always three, always a King, a Priest, and a Prophet.

But God does nothing without first sending His prophets or keeping his prophets informed:

*"Surely the Sovereign LORD **does nothing** without revealing his plan to his **servants the prophets.**" Amos 3:7*

John the Baptist and Elijah (prophets) must come first!

*"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For this is he who was spoken of by the **prophet Isaiah [about John the Baptist and Elijah]**, saying: "The voice of one crying in the*

wilderness: **'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'** "" Matthew 3:1-3 NKJV

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

*"Behold, I will send you **Elijah the prophet before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Malachi 4:5*

Even Jesus acknowledged that the prophet must come first!

*"The disciples asked him, 'Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah [the prophet] **must come first?**' Jesus replied, 'To be sure, **Elijah comes and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." **Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.**" Matt. 17:10-13*

Government

Executive Branch

(THE KING) Commander and Chief

Legislative Branch

(THE PRIEST) The voice and servants of the people

Judicial Branch

(THE PROPHET) The Supreme Court and Overseer of the Law

Business

CEO (Chief Executive Officer) THE KING

Visionary and the Final Authority and decision maker.

CSO (Chief Serving Officer) THE PREIST

Serves as a corporate pastor or chaplain. Head of HUMAN resources. Ministers holistically to the needs of the people (from the CEO down into the entire organization).

CIO (Chief Integrity Officer) THE PROPHET

Chief of staff who discerns God's best for the CEO and entire organization. A sample of the King (CEO) / Chief of Staff (CIO) relationship: Pharaoh and Joseph in Genesis 41.

CIO serves to bring your business into biblical leadership model of Separation of Powers.

MAKE A CHOICE

Come out an be Separate!

"O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, **but you are restricted by your own affections.** Now in return for the same (I speak as to children),

you also be open. Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. **For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?** And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will **dwelt in** them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore “**Come out from among them And be separate**, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”” II Corinthians 6:11-18 NKJV

No longer live for the lusts of the flesh but for the will of God!

“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same mind**, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he **no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.** For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing **the will of the Gentiles**—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the **same flood of dissipation**, speaking evil of you. **They will give an account** to Him

who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be **judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.**" 1 Peter 4:1-6 NKJV