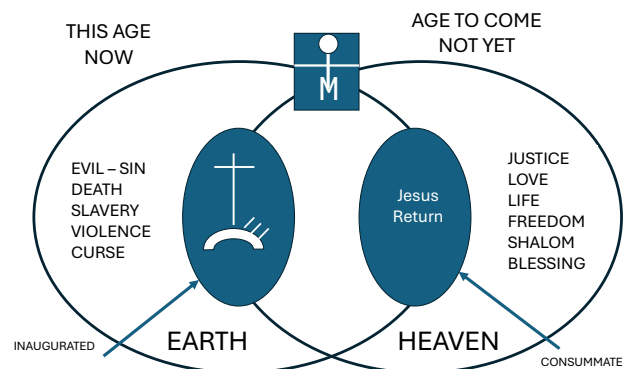


Paul's Letter to the Ephesians – Chapter 2

From Death to Life to Temple

Jesus above all powers and authorities in Heaven and on Earth



"1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. 4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. 8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. 12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. 14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. 17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. 19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit."

Ephesians 2:11-22 (NLT)

Two Movements Two Perspectives

	Ephesians 2:1-10 Their story from a cosmic perspective	Ephesians 2:11-22 Their story from a covenantal perspective
Their former predicament	2:1-3: And you were dead in transgressions and sins, in which at that time (ποτε) you walked ... doing the desires of the flesh	2:11-12: Remember, at that time (ποτε), you nations in the flesh ... were estranged from the citizenry of Israel, foreigners of the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world
The agents of death	2:2: "the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit now at work in the sons of disobedience"	2:14-15: "the dividing wall, the hostility ... the Torah consisting of commands with decrees"
God's intervention	2:4-8: But God, being rich in mercy ... made us alive together with the Messiah ... by grace you have been saved	2:13: But now in Messiah Jesus, you who were far have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah
The new creation result	2:5-6: He made you alive together with the Messiah ... and raised you up together and seated you together in the heavenly realm in the Messiah Jesus 2:10: You have been created in Messiah Jesus for good works	2:14-18: He made both groups into one ... in order that in himself he might create two into one new humanity ... through him we both have access by the one Spirit to the Father

Source: Tim Mackie for BibleProject Classroom: Ephesians (2029)

The Cosmic Perspective Ephesians 2:1-10

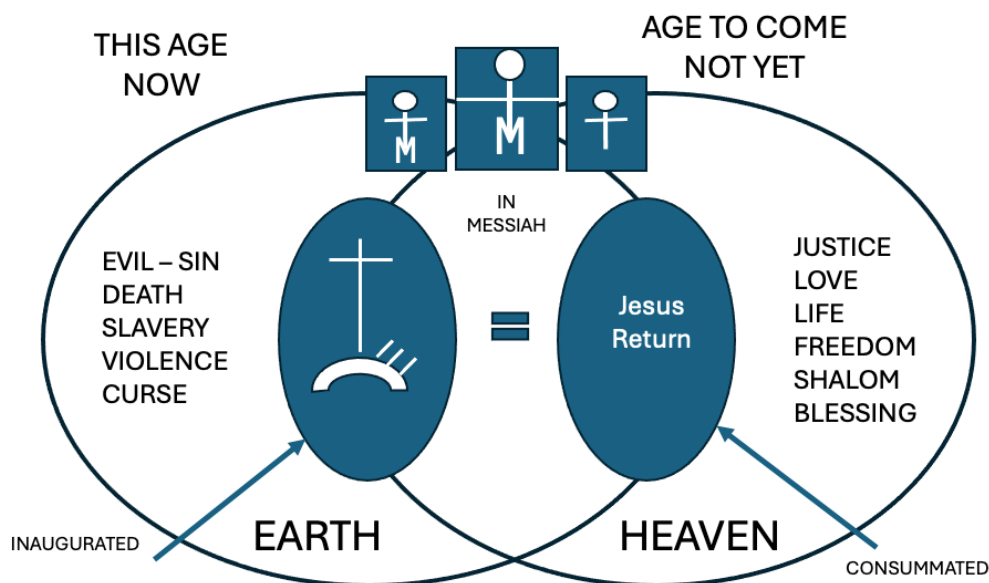
¹ And y'all being dead in y'all's transgressions and sins, ² in which at one time y'all walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit who is now working in the sons of disobedience, ³ among who we also all used to live by the passions of the flesh, doing the will of the flesh and the mindsets, and we were by nature children of wrath, as also were the rest. ⁴ But God being rich in mercy because of the great love with which He loved us ⁵ and we being dead in our transgressions He made us alive together with the Messiah by grace y'all have been saved and ⁶ he raised us up together and sat us together in the heavenlies with Messiah Jesus ⁷ in order that we might demonstrate in the ages which are coming the surpassing richness of his grace by kindness to us in Messiah Jesus.

⁸ for it is by grace that you all have been saved through trust and this is not from yourselves it is the gift of God ⁹ [it is] not from works, in order that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, having been created in Messiah Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand, so that we would walk in them.

- **Our Predicament:** We are dead, captive to flesh, captive to mindsets, under slavery, under the authority of a ruler that is not God.
- **God's Response:** Mercy. Mercy expressed with what? Love, in the midst of our fallen human condition.

New Creations in Christ

- Seated with Christ
- Reign and rule here on Earth and care for creation in the now and not yet
- Fulfilling our purpose from the beginning – redeemed in Messiah



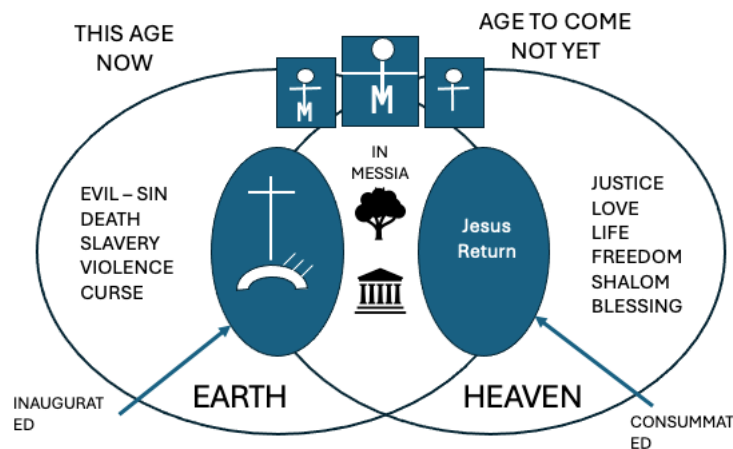


Melbourne
Inclusive Church
Come as you are.

The Covenantal Perspective Ephesians 2:11-22

- A. 11 Therefore remember that at one time y'all the gentiles **in flesh** who are called uncircumcised by what is called the circumcised (what is performed by hands **in the flesh**),
- B. 12 that you'll were at one time **without Messiah** **estranged** from the citizenry of Israel and **foreigners** of the covenants of the promise, having no hope and **without God** in the world.
- C. 13 but now **in Messiah Jesus** y'all who were at one time **far off** have become **near** by the blood of the Messiah 14 for he himself is our **peace**,
- D. the one who made the **two into one** and having destroyed the barrier of the wall **the enmity** 15 in **his flesh** having set aside the Torah of commandments in decrees in order that he might create in himself the **two into one** new humanity, making **peace**, 16 and that he might reconcile to God the **two by means of one body**, through the cross, having killed **the enmity** in himself.
- C. 17 and as he came he announced good news of **peace** to **y'all** who are **far off** and **peace** to those **near** 18 because through him we both by means of one **Spirit** have access to the father.
- B. 19 Therefore then, **y'all** are no longer **foreigners and immigrants** but y'all are **fellow citizens of the holy ones** and **household members of God**
- A. 20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets the cornerstone being **Messiah Jesus** himself, 21 in whom the entire building is joined together so that it can grow into a holy temple **in the Lord** 22 in whom y'all too are being built together into a dwelling-building of God **in the Spirit**
- Once outsiders based on the flesh, (circumcision) - Now part of the Messianic new temple.
 - Once estranged, foreigners, and without God - Now fellow citizens.
 - Once far off - Now brought near.
 - Barrier wall destroyed.
 - Children of covenant promises
 - We become the dwelling place of God, in Christ, through the Spirit
 - Jesus is the place where the fullness of God overlaps

- From graves to gardens



Paul's view of Grace

⁸ for it is by **grace** that you all have been **saved** through trust and this is not from **yourselves**

it is the **gift** of **God** ⁹ [it is] not from works, in order that **no one can boast**.

¹⁰ For we are his **handiwork**, having been created in **Messiah Jesus** **for good works** which **God** prepared beforehand, so that **we** would **walk in them**.

Grace (charis):

gift, favor, power.

attitude or attribute of the one giving the gift

- Not self-generated → salvation cannot be earned.
- Eliminates boasting → creates equality across gender, culture, status
- Grace is relational:
 - In some cultures, gifts create bonds/reciprocity.
 - Paul: God's gift obligates us to respond with trust resulting in strong connection bond.

²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT)

Response to Grace

- Trust in God's wisdom, not works.
- Live out good works prepared beforehand.
- Build relationships and embody new creation community.

Key Takeaways

- From Graves to Gardens: We move from death to life in Christ.
- Peace & Unity: No divisions in God's household → live reconciled.
- Temple Identity: We are the Spirit's dwelling place, living representations of God's presence.
- Grace as Gift: Salvation cannot be earned but calls us to trust and faithful action.
- Identity in Christ: Social definitions (race, status, gender) are irrelevant in new creation.

Final Encouragement and Call to Action

- If you've felt orphaned, marginalized, or "less than," you have a place in God's family.
- You don't need to market yourself—your Maker knows you, loves you, and calls you to the table.
- Consider offering grace to someone to whom you may rather not – this may include yourself.