

MANY NATIONS, ONE PEOPLE.

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.

The hostility started with the two sons. The child born as a result of the flesh persecuted the one born as a result of the Spirit. The one born out of human effort was alienated and excluded from inheritance. However, there was a promise of grace and a reconciliation in an age that would come, and which has come now. That through the seed, the two would worship in the heavenly Jerusalem,

Illustration of the two groups (before the blood)

Citizens/genealogical Jews/entitled

Luke 13

¹⁶ Satan has bound this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for 18 years—shouldn't she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"

Aliens/gentile sinners/not entitled

²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs."

Prophecy:

This gentile/alien woman was prophetically speaking about a justification that would come by faith. By revelation, she spoke about the promise God made to Abraham about many nations through the seed.

²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great *is* your **faith!** Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

.... prayer point....

To the gentiles: When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us gentiles sinners. We are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

To the Jews: The law given to the Jews symbolised Hagar and bondage. So, even the Jews were not truly free. They found themselves in a loop of human effort which was only effective in amplifying sin, condemnation and death.

BUT now, through the blood of Jesus, the two sides have been reconciled. Sarah who represents freedom, grace, and the heavenly Jerusalem is our mother.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his **grace**, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Do you feel alienated or excluded? Hostility in our families, fellowships, churches and communities? This is creation crying out for a grace that comes through grace and not human effort.

Let's pray for a total surrender and yielding to God.