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Ephesians Bible study

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Study of Ephesians Chapter 2

Ephesians 2 Bible Study — From Death to Life, From Separation to Dwelling Place

Ephesians 2 is a powerful continuation of Ephesians 1. Paul moves from describing our **identity and spiritual inheritance in Messiah** to explaining what Yahweh has rescued us from, what He has brought us into, and what He is now building through us.

1. From Spiritual Death to Life in Messiah

Ephesians 2:1–3

1 AND YOU [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins

2 In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course *and* fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

3 Among these we as well as you once lived *and* conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behaviour governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then by nature children of [God's] wrath *and* heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind.

Paul begins by reminding believers of their former condition. We were not merely struggling spiritually; we were **dead in trespasses and sins**. We lived according to the patterns of this world and were influenced by desires and ways of thinking that opposed Yahweh.

This gives us an important picture of salvation. Yeshua did not simply come to make us "better people." He came to **bring dead people into life**.

Paul also speaks about the "prince of the power of the air," showing that there is a spiritual dimension behind the rebellion and deception operating in the world. However, the believer's focus is not meant to remain on the kingdom of darkness. Ephesians 1 has already established that Yeshua is seated **far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion**.

Our old life was shaped by the world, the flesh, and spiritual rebellion. Our new life is shaped by Messiah.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:1–2

"And you [He made alive when you] were [spiritually] dead and separated from Him because of your transgressions and sins, in which you once walked. You were following the ways of this world..." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

Romans 6:11 — Consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to Yahweh in Messiah.

Colossians 2:13 — Though we were dead in our sins, Yahweh made us alive together with Messiah.

John 10:10 — Yeshua came that we may have life and have it abundantly.

Reflection Questions

1. Are there areas of my life where I still think and respond according to my "old life"?
2. What patterns has Yeshua already brought me out of?
3. What does being spiritually alive in Messiah mean to me personally?
4. Am I more conscious of the darkness around me or of Yeshua's authority over it?
5. What would it look like for me to live today as someone who has truly been made alive?

2. "But God" — Mercy Changes Everything

Ephesians 2:4–5

4 But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of *and* in order to satisfy the great *and* wonderful *and* intense love with which He loved us,

5 Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings *and* trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship *and* in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Yeshua Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favour and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation).

Two of the most beautiful words in this chapter are "**But God.**"

Humanity was spiritually dead, **but God** intervened.

Yahweh's response to our brokenness was not based upon our ability to repair ourselves. Paul says He acted because He is **rich in mercy** and because of His **great and wonderful love**.

This reveals the Father's heart.

We sometimes approach Yahweh believing that we must first fix ourselves, become worthy, overcome every weakness, and then come into His presence. But the Gospel reverses this thinking.

He loved us **while we were dead**.

Mercy met us where we were, but His love did not leave us there.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:4–5

"But God, being [so very] rich in mercy, because of His great and wonderful love with which He loved us, even when we were [spiritually] dead and separated from Him because of our sins, He made us [spiritually] alive together with Christ..." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

Romans 5:8 — Yahweh demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us.

Lamentations 3:22–23 — His mercies are new every morning.

Titus 3:4–5 — He saved us according to His mercy, not because of righteous works we had done.

Reflection Questions

1. Is it easy or difficult for me to receive the Father's mercy?
2. Do I sometimes believe I must earn Yahweh's love?
3. How does "But God" change the way I look at my past?
4. Where in my life do I currently need to experience His mercy?
5. Can I identify situations where Yahweh intervened when I could not rescue myself?

3. Raised and Seated With Yeshua

Ephesians 2:6–7

6 And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Yeshua (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

7 He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace (His unmerited favour) in [His] kindness *and* goodness of heart toward us in Yeshua.

Paul now makes an extraordinary statement: Yahweh has **raised us up together with Messiah and seated us with Him in heavenly places.**

This connects directly with Ephesians 1:20–21, where Yeshua is described as seated above every ruler, authority, power, and dominion.

Our spiritual position has changed.

We are no longer defined by where we came from. Our identity is connected to **where Yeshua is seated.**

This changes the way we approach spiritual warfare, prayer, identity, fear, and authority. We are not trying to fight our way toward victory so that we can eventually become accepted. We begin from the finished work of Yeshua.

Our authority never comes from ourselves; it flows from our **union with Messiah.**

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:6

"And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, [because we are] in Christ Jesus." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

Ephesians 1:20–21 — Yeshua is seated far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion.

Colossians 3:1–3 — Seek the things above, where Messiah is seated.

Romans 8:37 — We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Reflection Questions

1. Do I live from the perspective of being seated with Yeshua, or from fear and defeat?
2. How would understanding my spiritual position change the way I pray?
3. What situation currently looks different when I view it from Yeshua's authority?
4. Have I been trying to establish spiritual authority through my own strength?
5. What does being "in Messiah" mean for my identity?

4. Saved by Grace — Not Performance

Ephesians 2:8–9

8 For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment *and* made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

9 Not because of works [not the fulfilment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]

Paul makes the foundation of salvation unmistakably clear.

We are saved **by grace through faith**.

Salvation cannot be earned through religious performance, perfection, knowledge, good behaviour, ministry, or good works.

Grace removes boasting because salvation begins with what **Yahweh has done**, not what we have accomplished.

This also speaks deeply to identity. When our relationship with Yahweh becomes performance-based, we may constantly wonder:

"Have I done enough?"

Grace changes the question.

Instead of striving to become accepted, we learn to live **from acceptance in Messiah**.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:8–9

"For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves..." — AMP

Key notes:

- Yeshua's salvation and the power thereof is a gift of God for us.
- It is not a result of your works, it is a gift to you.

Supporting Scriptures

Romans 3:23–24 — We are justified freely by His grace.

Titus 2:11–12 — The grace of Yahweh teaches us how to live.

Galatians 2:16 — We are justified through faith and not by works of the law.

Reflection Questions

1. Am I resting in grace or constantly trying to prove myself to Yahweh?
2. Where has performance entered my relationship with Him?
3. Do I measure my spiritual value by what I accomplish?
4. What would it look like to receive grace more deeply?
5. How does grace produce obedience without producing religious striving?

5. You Are His Workmanship

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Grace does not mean that our lives have no purpose or responsibility. Immediately after saying that salvation is **not by works**, Paul says we were created **for good works**.

The order matters.

We do not perform good works **to become accepted**.

We do good works **because we have already been accepted and recreated in Yeshua**.

The Greek word translated "workmanship" is *poiēma*, carrying the idea of something made or crafted. Our lives are Yahweh's workmanship.

Your calling therefore does not begin with comparison.

Yahweh has prepared a path for you to walk with Him.

Key notes:

- We are His workmanship, created in Yeshua for good works.
- God prepared these good works beforehand for us.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works..." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

Psalms 139:13–16 — Yahweh formed us and knew our days.

Philippians 1:6 — He who began a good work in us will complete it.

John 15:16 — Yeshua chose us and appointed us to bear fruit.

Reflection Questions

1. Do I see myself as Yahweh's workmanship?
2. Where have I compared my calling with someone else's?
3. What gifts or assignments has Yahweh placed in my life?
4. Am I trying to create my own purpose, or am I walking in what He prepared?
5. What "good work" might Yahweh be asking me to walk in during this season?

6. "But Now" — Brought Near by the Blood

Ephesians 2:11–13

11 Therefore, remember that at one time you were Gentiles (heathens) in the flesh, called Uncircumcision by those who called themselves Circumcision, [itself a mere mark] in the flesh made by human hands.

12 [Remember] that you were at that time separated (living apart) from Christ [excluded from all part in Him], utterly estranged *and* outlawed from the rights of Israel as a nation, and strangers with no share in the sacred compacts of the [Messianic] promise [with no knowledge of or right in God's agreements, His covenants]. And you had no hope (no promise); you were in the world without God.

13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were [so] far away, through (by, in) the blood of Christ have been brought near.

Another major turning point appears in verse 13:

"But now..."

Paul is speaking particularly to Gentile believers who had previously been separated from the covenant community of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise.

But something changed through Yeshua.

Those who were **far away have been brought near through His blood.**

The Gospel is therefore not simply about personal forgiveness. It is about **reconciliation, covenant relationship, belonging, and restoration.**

The blood of Yeshua changes our position from **far away to brought near** and belonging.

Key notes

- You were separated from the commonwealth of Israel.
- Now, you have been brought near by the blood of Yeshua.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:13

"But now at this very moment in Christ Jesus you who once were [so very] far away [from God] have been brought near by the blood of Christ." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

Romans 11:17 — Gentile believers are pictured as wild olive branches grafted into the cultivated olive tree.

Jeremiah 31:31–33 — Yahweh promises a renewed covenant with the house of Israel and Judah.

Hebrews 10:19–22 — Through Yeshua's blood we have confidence to enter Yahweh's presence.

Reflection Questions

1. What does "being brought near" mean to me?
2. Do I approach Yahweh as someone near to Him or as someone who still feels far away?
3. How does understanding covenant deepen my understanding of salvation?
4. What does Romans 11's picture of the olive tree add to Ephesians 2?
5. Is there anything making me emotionally or spiritually withdraw from the Father's presence?

7. Yeshua Is Our Peace

Ephesians 2:14–18

14 For He is [Himself] our peace (our bond of unity and harmony). He has made us both [Jew and Gentile] one [body], and has broken down (destroyed, abolished) the hostile dividing wall between us,

15 By abolishing in His [own crucified] flesh the enmity [caused by] the Law with its decrees and ordinances [which He annulled]; that He from the two might create in Himself one new man [one new quality of humanity out of the two], so making peace.

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16 And [He designed] to reconcile to God both [Jew and Gentile, united] in a single body by means of His cross, thereby killing the mutual enmity *and* bringing the feud to an end.

17 And He came and preached the glad tidings of peace to you who were afar off and [peace] to those who were near. [Isa. 57:19.]

18 For it is through Him that we both [whether far off or near] now have an introduction (access) by one [Holy] Spirit to the Father [so that we are able to approach Him].

Paul does not merely say Yeshua **gives** us peace.

He says:

"He Himself is our peace."

Through Yeshua, hostility and separation are overcome. Jew and Gentile are reconciled through Messiah and brought together into one people.

The cross deals not only with separation between humanity and Yahweh but also with hostility between people.

Biblical reconciliation therefore has both a **vertical** and **horizontal** dimension.

Through Yeshua, we have access to the Father **by one Spirit**.

Father, Son, and Spirit are beautifully revealed together in verse 18.

Key notes:

- His blood broke the wall of separation.
- He became the peace you were searching for.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:14

"For He Himself is our peace and our bond of unity." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

John 14:27 — Yeshua gives us His peace.

Colossians 1:19–20 — Through Messiah, Yahweh reconciles all things to Himself.

Galatians 3:28 — Believers are one in Messiah Yeshua.

Reflection Questions

1. Am I trying to manufacture peace, or am I receiving Yeshua as my peace?
2. Where is there hostility or division in my relationships?
3. Is Yahweh asking me to pursue reconciliation somewhere?
4. What prevents me from experiencing His peace?
5. How does the Ruach HaKodesh lead us into unity without removing our individual identities?

8. No Longer Strangers — You Belong

Ephesians 2:19

19 Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to God's [own] household.

The language now changes from separation to **belonging**.

Paul says we are no longer strangers or outsiders.

We are **fellow citizens** and members of **Yahweh's household**.

This speaks powerfully to an orphan mentality. An orphan lives as though they must earn a place, compete for attention, protect themselves, or prove their worth.

A son or daughter understands:

I belong in my Father's house.

The Gospel brings us from spiritual homelessness into family.

Key notes:

- You are not far off, alienated.
- You have been brought near as fellow citizens and members of the household of God.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:19

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [outsiders without rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints... and are [members] of God's household." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

Romans 8:15–17 — We have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

John 14:2–3 — Yeshua speaks about His Father's house.

1 John 3:1 — See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called children of Yahweh.

Reflection Questions

1. Do I genuinely believe that I belong in the Father's household?
2. Where do I still behave spiritually like an outsider?
3. Do I approach Abba Father confidently or cautiously?
4. What orphan-like patterns might Yahweh want to replace with sonship?
5. How would my life change if I deeply understood, "**I belong here**"?

9. Built Together Into a Dwelling Place

Ephesians 2:20–22

20 You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Yeshua Himself the chief Cornerstone.

21 In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the Lord].

22 In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of God in (by, through) the Spirit.

Ephesians 2 ends with a beautiful picture of a building.

Yeshua is the **chief cornerstone**.

The apostles and prophets form part of the foundation, and believers are being joined together into a holy temple.

This means Yahweh is not merely restoring individuals.

He is building a people.

We are living stones being fitted together. Spiritual maturity therefore cannot only be individual. Yahweh desires covenant community, unity, relationship, accountability, and shared purpose.

The final destination of Ephesians 2 is remarkable.

We began the chapter **dead in sin**.

We end the chapter becoming a **dwelling place for Yahweh through the Ruach HaKodesh**.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 2:21–22

"In whom the whole structure is joined together, and it continues [to increase] growing into a holy temple in the Lord... you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." — AMP

Supporting Scriptures

1 Peter 2:4–5 — We are living stones being built into a spiritual house.

1 Corinthians 3:16 — We are Yahweh's temple and His Spirit dwells in us.

Psalms 133:1 — How good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity.

Reflection Questions

1. Is Yeshua truly the cornerstone around which my life is aligned?
2. Am I allowing Yahweh to "fit me together" with other believers?
3. Where could pride, hurt, rejection, or independence be hindering unity?
4. What does it mean for me to be a dwelling place of the Ruach HaKodesh?
5. What is Yahweh currently rebuilding in me so that I can function more fully within His Body?

The Journey Through Ephesians 2

Ephesians 2 shows that salvation is much greater than simply being rescued **from something**.

We are also restored **to someone** who belongs to a heavenly family. This was God's heart from the beginning, to restore and repair what was lost and broken, through the Blood of the Lamb.

We are brought back to the Father, restored to covenant relationship, given a new identity in Yeshua, joined to His people, and made into a dwelling place for His Spirit.

The question Ephesians 2 ultimately places before us is not simply:

"Have I been saved?"

But also:

"Am I learning to live from the identity, belonging, authority, purpose, peace, and unity that Yeshua's finished work has already made available to me?"