

# No More Strangers

## Ephesians 2:11-22

(ie) Illustrations of aliens, foreigners, movie Alien, ET, Predator, Roswell, Ellis Island, The Patriot,

This passage is a backward look for us. We have been in chapter three verses 14-21 looking at Paul's second prayer for the church. Now, we move back to cover territory we missed when we looked at his two prayers (Chapter 1:15-23 and chapter 3:14-21) This passage, that we are about to read, follows immediately on Paul's explanation of who were before Christ, and just how extremely bad we really were before receiving Christ. It is introduced by those immortal words,

Ephesians 2:8. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9. not by works, so that no one can boast. 10. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Therefore, always has a reason for being there. It is a conclusion and application.

11. Therefore, remember that formerly you who are **Gentiles** by birth and called "**uncircumcised**" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) -- 12. remember that at that time you were **separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship** in Israel and **foreigners** to the covenants of the promise, **without hope** and **without God** in the world.

13. **But now** in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been **brought near** through the blood of Christ. 14. For he himself is our **peace**, who has made the two one and has destroyed the **barrier**, the dividing wall of **hostility**, 15. by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus **making peace**, 16. and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17. He came and **preached peace** to you who were far away and **peace** to those who were near.

18. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. 19. Consequently, you are **no longer foreigners and aliens**, but **fellow citizens** with God's people and **members of God's household**, 20. **built on the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple in the Lord**. 22. And in him you too are being built together to become a **dwelling in which God** lives by his Spirit.

1. **Remember You Were...** Gentiles, uncircumcised, cut off, excluded, foreigners, without hope, without God.

1. Gentiles: (vs 11)
2. Uncircumcised: (vs 11)
3. Separated from Christ: (vs 12)
4. Excluded from Citizenship: (vs 12)
5. Foreigners to Covenants: (vs 12)
6. Without Hope: (vs 12)
7. Without God: (vs 12)



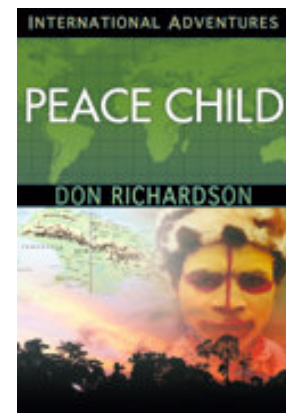
### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

1. As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2. in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

### **Romans 1:29-32**

2. **But Now, You Are ...** by made near, hostility settled, reconciled to God, and peace with God, the sacrifice of Christ (his blood).

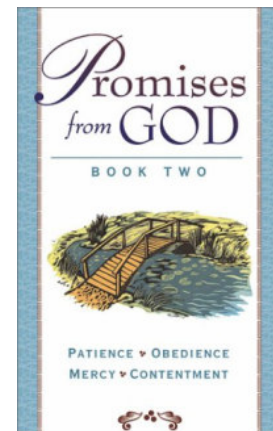
1. Brought Near: (vs 13)
2. **Atoned For:** (vs 13)
3. **At Peace With God:** (vs 15-17)
4. No Longer Foreigners/Aliens: (vs 18)
5. Fellow Citizens: (vs 18)
6. Members of God's Family: (vs 18)



(ie) Richardson, **Peace Child**

3. **Consequently, You Have...** access to the father, citizenship, membership in the family of God, solid foundation, become the dwelling place of God.

1. Access to Father: (vs 18)
2. All rights and Privileges (vs 19) God's People
3. **All the Promises/Covenants** (vs 19)
4. A Solid Foundation: (vs 20) Cornerstone
5. You Are Holy Temple: (vs 21)
6. You Are Dwelling Place of God: (vs 22)



All the Promises of God in Christ are yes and amen.

### **Members of the Household of God**

Herbert Lockyer's, *All the Promises of the Bible.*

**Chorus:**

**Every promise in the book is mine,**  
Every chapter every verse every line,  
All the blessings of his love divine,  
Every promise in the book in mine.

You have an inheritance...  
that fades not away reserved for you in heaven.

**How shall he not also freely give us all things?**

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,  
how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**NIV Luke 12**

22. Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25. Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 26. Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? 27. "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29. And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 2. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

## **Conclusion and Application:**

So what?

So you are God's children. You are citizens with all the rights and privileges. He has purchased your peace with the price of his own blood. You have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. You are recipients of the promises.

It is his good pleasure to help you, provide for you, heal you, hear and answer you, do great and mighty things for you, FOR HIS GLORY AND YOUR GOOD.

**Be cleansed. Be renewed. Be healed, Be supplied.**

This morning during our communion service the altar is open to God's children. Come and receive. Ask of him great and mighty things. He is able to do immeasurable more than you ask or even imagine.

Here is how we invite you to come. After you have been served the bread, or the cup, leave your seat and come to the front and ask an elder or pastor to lay hands on you, anoint you, and trust God together with you for God's touch in the area of your life that most needs it.

**(ie) Peace, healing, emotion, marriage, finances,**

**(Physical, Spiritual, Emotional, Material)**

Put this on the overhead with the cross. Be specific with God.

We will anoint you, lay hands on you, and pray a short prayer of faith with you, then return to your seat.

**Come Just As You Are**

Hear the Savior call.

**Come to Jesus**