

Ephesians 2.1-10

New English Translation Bible 2019

Fifth century or earlier manuscript variants: [inserted] [~replaced] [-omitted]

Working Outline of the Epistle to the Ephesians

I. Greeting 1:1-2	E Ephesus
II. Praise 1.3-14	P Praise
III. Prayer 1:15-23	H Hope
IV. Teaching 2:1 – 3:21	E Edification
V. Exhortation 4:1-32	S Spiritual life
VI. Warning 5:1-21	I Instruction
VII. Counsel 5:22 – 6:9	A Attitudes
VIII. Spiritual warfare 6:10-20	N Negotiation
IX. Closing 6:21-23	S Salutation

Structure of Ephesians 2.1-10

Concession:

Although you were dead in sins 1

Although we were dead in transgressions 3, 5

Action: God, rich in mercy, livened, raised & seated us 4, 6

Purpose: God shows his grace 7

Explanation:

You have been saved by grace through faith 8

This is God's gift, so that no one boast 9

Reason: We are his work, created for good works 10

Concession 1 'you' (Gentiles)

1 And although you were dead in your offenses and sins [~lusts], 2 in which you formerly lived according to this world's present path, according to the ruler of the domain of the air, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience, ...

Sins: Greek feminine noun = in which

World: (kosmos) organized societies and cultures

Path: (aiōn) present age of time

Ruler, domain: 'rule and authority' 1:21

Energize: 'exercised' 1:19, 20

DDS 1QM 17.5-6: "Today is His appointed time to subdue and to humiliate the prince of the realm of wickedness. He will send eternal support to the company of His redeemed by the power of the majestic angel of the authority of Michael." (Logos Software)

Unseen realm: Yahweh, divine council, seraphs, messengers, serpent, devil, sons of El, watchers, cosmocrats, gods, princes, rulers, powers, authorities, dominions, shades, ghosts...

Seen realm: Emperors, bankers, kings, parliaments, governors, administrators, mafiosi, judges, mayors, chiefs, constables, enforcers, CEOs, bosses, umpires, managers...

Ephesians 2.1-10

Lived: 'walked' = 2:10, old and new moral conduct.

Query: Describe the secret behaviour of those who remain outside of Christ, and their spiritual condition.

You ... we: Rhetorical way of expressing inclusion? Or you Gentiles and we Jews? Or both?

Greek inflections (endings)

Nouns, articles, adjectives, pronouns and participles, each has several endings, indicating: gender (masculine, feminine, neuter), *number* (singular, plural), and *case* (nominative [subject], genitive ['of'], dative ['to/for /in/by], accusative [object]).

Any of these that are related to a same person, place or thing, must agree in gender, number and case. E.g., in 'the strong lifting man who...', all five words are masculine, singular, nominative.

Concession 2 'we' (Jews)

3 among whom all of us also formerly lived out our lives in the cravings of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath even as the rest...

Alternate: 'in which (transgression) we lived'

Alternate: 'we formerly lived'

Query: What does our flesh desire? What our mind?

Query: Who were once just as lost as the rest?

Query: What kind of a god would ever show wrath?

Query: Angry children? Or objects of divine wrath?

Main clause: three divine actions

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of his [~the] great love with which he loved [~pitied] us, 5 even though we were dead in offenses [~our bodies] [and lusts], made us alive together with Christ—by [his] grace you are saved! —

Query: What does mercy do? What does love do?

Query: In what sense were we dead?

Query: In what sense are we alive?

Query: What does grace do?

Brief theology of death and of life

- 1 In Adam, our body is destined to die.
- 2 We are born (or aborted) spiritually alive, without sin.
- 3 We deliberately sinned, and so incurred spiritual death.
- 4 Upon death of the body, the dead descend conscious into Sheol, the place of the dead.
- 5 If we trust in Christ, then we become spiritually alive.
- 6 Upon death of the body, the living go to be with Christ.
- 7 When Christ returns, he will bring with him the living.
- 8 He will then raise our body back to life.
- 9 So we will remain with the Lord forever, in our glorified body.

Ephesians 2.1-10

Purpose clause 2:7

6 and he raised us up together with him and seated us together with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 to demonstrate in the coming ages the surpassing wealth of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Greek: The aorist tense has no time, so these may not be past tenses! Translate them with whatever time makes sense.

Query: When did/does/will God make alive, raise and seat us with Christ?

Query: Demonstrate to whom?

Explanations

8 For by grace you are saved through [the] faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 it is not from works, so that no one can boast.

Greek: Has no adjective 'saved', so it says 'are having been and remaining saved' (perfect tense participle).

Saved: To rescue from danger or disease, bringing out safely, preserving in good condition.
BDAG

Query: We are saved from what? Unto what?

Salvation

PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
We were saved. We have been saved.	We are saved. We are being saved.	We will be saved. We will have been saved.

From: Danger, disease, desire, devil, demons, drugs, deeds, death and damnation.

Unto: Holy living, good deeds, better health, joyful thoughts, resurrection, everlasting life...

Reason why not by our works

10 For we are his creative work, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared before-hand so we can do them.

His work: (poiéma) 'In our literature only of the works of divine creation' BDAG.

Good works: (ergon) 'These things are excellent and profitable for people' (Titus 3:8), 'so as to help cases of urgent need' (14).

Query: What good work would you like to do the rest of your years of strength?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, please, keep me busy for your kingdom, the rest of my time on earth!

Share

What is one truth, insight, belief or action that you learned from Ephesians 2:1-10, this week?

For next time

Let us read a chapter of Ephesians each day in versions that you trust. Let us study Ephesians 2:11-22, preparing comments and queries.