

# War of the Worlds

*Studies in Ephesians*

## Uniting the Troops

Introduction to Ephesians 2:11-22

Whether it's on the battlefield or in the dugout, there must be unity among the troops if success is to occur. Unfortunately, the more diverse a team is, the more difficult unity is to achieve. In fact, even among God's people, human nature tends to disunity and division. The study in Ephesians this week reveals how God has dealt with this issue. The passage begins by pointing out the natural barriers to this unity. Gentiles (all people except Jews) were considered outcasts by Jews; the Jewish Messiah was unavailable to them, and they were unable to partake of God's promises to the Jews, thus having no hope in the world of getting to God. However, in God's plan, these very Gentiles were to become part of His family. The inevitable hostility called for a solution

that only God could provide. Christ overcame this barrier to unity by dying on a cross, offering a viable basis for uniting Jews and Gentiles in one body. His death dealt with the enmity caused by the Jewish law. Gentiles were outside of it, thus unable to keep it. This, in turn, made them outsiders to the Jews, leading to ongoing hostility. Jesus fulfilled the Law, and made it obsolete at the cross, thus enabling Jews and Gentiles (and anyone else) who believed in Him to become united as friends. By abolishing the authority of the Law that kept us from God (because of man's inability to keep it), Jesus gave both Jews and Gentiles access to God by His Spirit. Thus, all of God's people are able to experience the blessings of



**The war is on...  
are you ready?**

unity. Through Christ we are near to God, and are even being made by God into His temple. As God's dwelling place we are being fitted together by Him, we are growing up in Him, and we are being built on the foundation of the apostles and God's spokesmen, with Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone, who holds all the building together. Due to His work, all of God's troops are united, and able to achieve success for Him.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for Ephesians 2:11-22

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| 1. Read 2:11-12. What 2 groups in God's family had to be united (v11, 12)? Describe the condition of the first group (v12), and the result of that condition (v12). How does that relate to us? |  |
| 2. From 2:13 where were the Gentiles in relation to God, and what happened to change that? What is the benefit of being brought near to God?  |  |
| 3. According to 2:14-15 what did Christ do for Jews and Gentiles (v14, 15)? Because of this how is He described? How can this help us deal with our hostile relationships?                      |  |

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## Ephesians 2:11-22 Study Questions (cont)

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| 4. In 2:15-16 what barrier to unity did Jesus abolish (v15), and why do you think it was a barrier? Why was Jesus' death able to break down this barrier?                                 |  |
| 5. Based on 2:15-16 what relationship did Jesus want for Jews and Gentiles in His family? How does this apply to any division that might exist in His family today?                       |  |
| 6. From 2:17 what message did Jesus proclaim to those near (Jews) and those far away (Gentiles)? Why is His message described this way? Why are all in need of this message?              |  |
| 7. Read 2:18. What role does Jesus, the Spirit, and the Father fill in helping us gain peace? Where does true peace come from? How does this apply to our human relationships?            |  |
| 8. According to 2:19 what status among God's people did Gentiles used to have, and what status do they now have? How should that guide us to relate to everyone who knows Christ?         |  |
| 9. Looking at 2:20 who is the foundation of God's temple, and who is the cornerstone? Why is each of these important, and how should God's people relate to both of these?                |  |
| 10. From 2:21-22 what is the purpose of the people of God collectively (v22), and how is this happening (v21)? Why does this make unity all the more important?                           |  |
| 11. Reflect on Eph 2:11-22. Where does disunity exist today among God's people? Why is it important for unity to exist instead, and how can Christ's death help us resolve this disunity? |  |

### Scripture to Remember

***“For through Him we both  
have our access in one  
Spirit to the Father”  
Ephesians 2:18***

### ***Celebration Fellowship***

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

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### Life Group Questions (Eph 2:1-10)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Kick around how most people use their computers (this could be dangerous). What are some of the most interesting searches you've done (even if no computer)?
2. Talk about the serious problems that man faces (he's dead, deceived, and depraved). What does each of these mean, and which one seems to plague you most?
3. Share some times in your life when "but God" changed your entire situation—i.e., when He intervened to rescue or provide for you.
4. Discuss some things that God is doing in your life that are making you into a "trophy of His grace". How can we obstruct (get in the way of) this process?
5. Why must faith, and not good works, be the basis of our salvation? Why then does God purpose that we do good works after we are saved?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.