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"TIME PAST" AND "NOW"

As the apostle Paul describes from Ephesians 2:11, God has brought in a great dispensational change in the outworking of His plans and purposes:

"11. Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 that at **that time** ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- 13. **but now**, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometime were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- 14. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15. having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16. and that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"
(Ephesians 2:11-16)

God's 'TIME PAST' (verse 11) program and dealings with the nation of Israel, which had Israel 'nigh' unto God and the Gentiles 'FAR OFF' (verse 13), is **NOT** the situation today. A change has taken place. God has temporarily suspended His program and dealings with Israel, and He has brought in a new dispensation, or program, of His grace for us Gentiles. God has put Jew and Gentile on the same level in the present dispensation, and He is forming 'OF the TWAIN ONE NEW MAN' (verse 15), the new creation, the church, the body of Christ.

This great dispensational change was **NOT** something which was prophesied about before and, therefore, expected. The apostle Paul declares and confirms in Ephesians 3:1-12, it was a 'MYSTERY' (verse 3) which 'FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD HATH BEEN HID IN GOD' (verse 9). God ushered it in when He raised Paul up as a new apostle and revealed to him the 'MYSTERY OF CHRIST' (verse 4). Today, we live in this new dispensation of Gentile grace, and God's program and dealings with the nation of Israel are in abeyance 'UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES BE COME IN' (Romans 11:25).

Concluding, it is crucial that Christians 'RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH' (2 Timothy 2:15), recognizing that it is in the epistles of the apostle Paul, who is our apostle being the APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES' (Romans 11:13), that we have the doctrine and instructions from God which are expressly **TO US** and **ABOUT US** today.

(Source:

'Time Past & Now' by K.R. Blades)