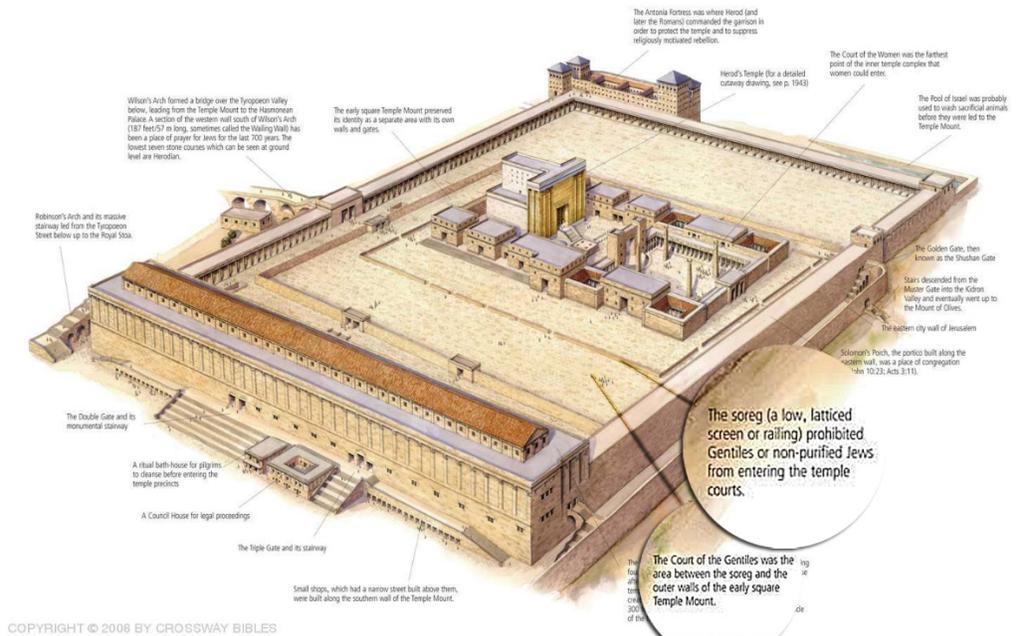


UNIFIED Series

July 13 & 14, 2019

Byron Mengle



Read Ephesians 2:11-22,

Intro

Paul's in jail wondering if the church in Ephesus will stay together or break up. He is not only concerned about grace, 2:1-10: he is concerned about race, 2:11-22. Jews have used slurs to describe how inferior Gentiles (non-Jews) were for centuries. They were the goyim, unclean, dogs. For Gentiles visiting the temple in Jerusalem, it's was visibly clear that they could only come so close to God. See the illustration above. The good news was God was drawing them both to Christ. The awkward news though, was that there were more Gentiles coming to Jesus than Jews. The question on Paul's mind was would people with centuries of hardened prejudice and mistrust built up against each other actually come together around Jesus? This movement depends on unity and unity between races.

1. Reading the passage what religious "strikes", did the Gentiles have against them?
2. Verse 11 contains the first and only command in all of the first three chapters, 'remember'. Paul addresses Gentiles only. What should the Gentile majority remember? What would remembering do for unity?

3. From verses 14-18, what does Christ's cross do for people of every race spiritually and socially? How does that make us think about other people?
4. If you were a Jew what would it mean to you that the Soreg, the separating wall had come down if not literally in Jerusalem; it hadn't, but spiritually in Christ?
5. Looking at verse 15, which may be the key verse in the book, what has God done to eradicate racism?
6. What's the new race of humanity called? See verse 15.
7. What kinds of racial struggle do you see these days? What can whites and Native Americans do to rebuild trust?
8. Do you think people of different races should worship together?
9. If it's more comfortable to worship with your own race, is that sinful or okay?
10. What stands out to you from Bryon's message and this chapter?