

## “THE ALL-INCLUSIVE GOSPEL”

### READING: **Ephesians 2:16**

*“...And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:”*

### INTRODUCTION:

The great rift of hostility between the Jews and the Gentiles was put in place and kept in place by the Law of God given to Moses on mount Sinai. Peace (reconciliation between the two nations) If the Gentile first had to become a Jew, that would elevate Judaism and not Christianity - which was the opposite of what God wanted to achieve **Daniel 2:44-45**) This could only be achieved if and when the Law of Moses was taken out of the way. But how was God going to do justice to the requirements of His own Law and yet make Jew and Gentile acceptable to Him on equal terms?

### DISCUSSION:

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit shows how God went about revealing His plan of salvation for the Gentiles without alienating the Jews.

The first step was to change the mindset of the Jews, by superseding the requirements of the law of Moses. (which authorised the eating of “clean” animals only) God stated that He (from then on) wanted to make “clean” what previously had been considered “unclean” (**Acts 10:15**) God then authorised Peter’s (and the six brothers who accompanied him - **Acts 11:12**) to go to the dwelling of a Gentile (Cornelius) who was a representative of Caesar (who bowed down to Peter, a representative of Christ).

The third instance of the command given to Peter (and all Christians) is to tell “all you have been commanded” (**Matthew 23:18-20**)

Which indicated that God had a new law (the gospel of Christ) which would include both Jew and Gentile (**Ephesians 2:16**)

### CONCLUSION:

When the Gentiles were baptised for the remission of their sins (**Ephesians 5:26**) they brought about God’s grand plan of reconciling all men to Himself, through the cross of His Son Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:8-11**)