

The Silent Wall

/Craig Rees

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Ephesians 2
pg. 1174

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.”

[Ephesians 2:14]

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM BETHLEHEM GHETTO





“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.”

[Ephesians 2:14]

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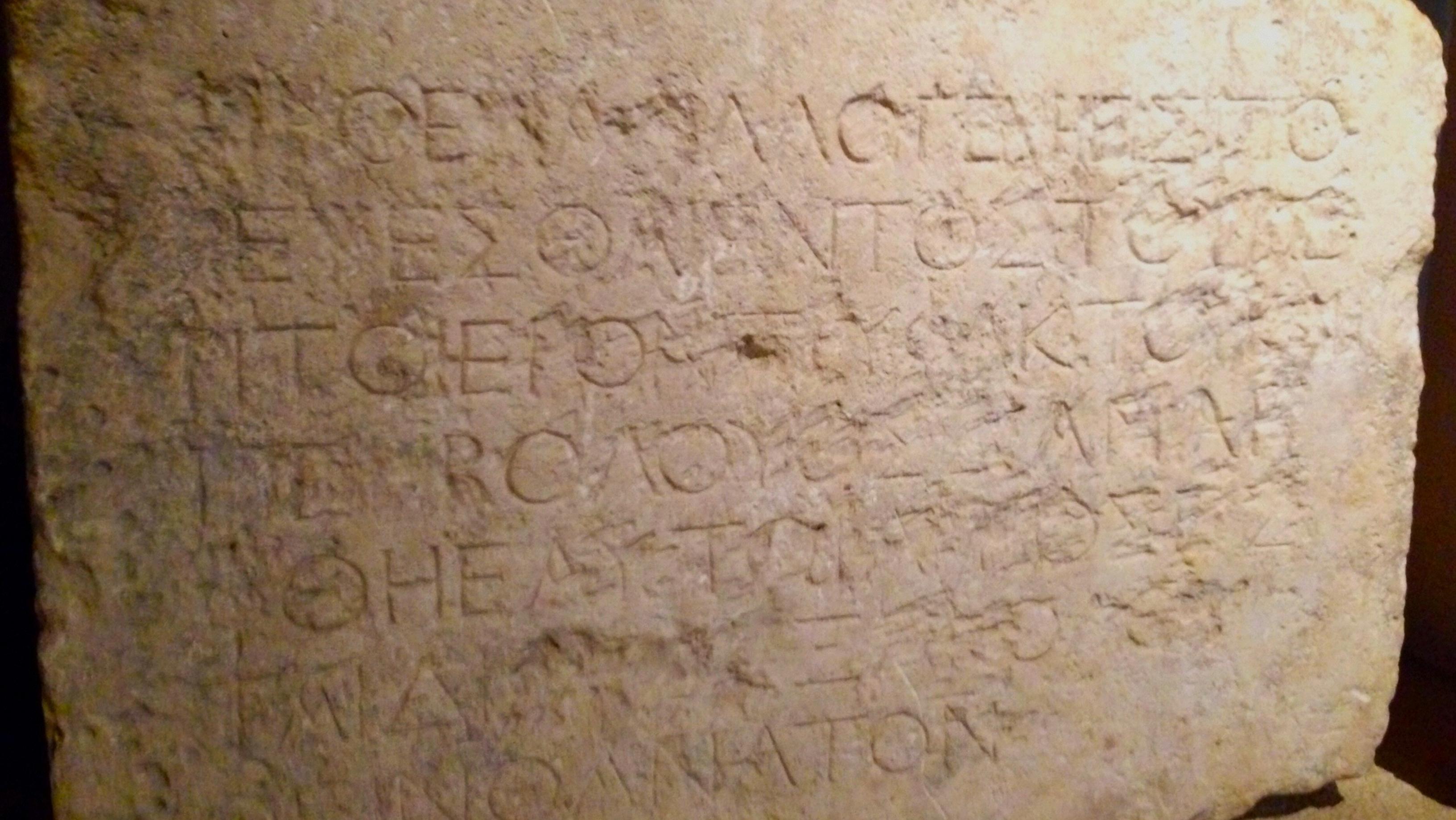
Acts 21:27-32
pg. 1116

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Court of the Gentiles



אין להקיף
Please do not climb



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“NO FOREIGNER IS TO GO BEYOND THE
BALUSTRADE AND THE PLAZA OF THE TEMPLE
ZONE. WHOEVER IS CAUGHT DOING SO WILL
HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME FOR HIS DEATH
WHICH WILL FOLLOW.”

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“Taking a non-Jew beyond a particular dividing point in the temple was such an important breach of Jewish law that the Romans even permitted Jewish leaders to execute violators of this law.”

Keener, C. S., The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament (Eph 2:14-16).

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Paul believed that in Jesus, racial segregation was
a thing of the past.

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How could Paul, a Jew, arrive at that conclusion?

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“by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.”

[Ephesians 2:15-16]

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[Ephesians 2:15-16]

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Through Jesus' death:

1) "One New Humanity" was Created

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καινός (kainos)

“new or fresh.”

*“New” in kind not new in time. It’s a never
been seen before type of new.*

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If the idea behind the 'new creation' is personal
the idea behind the new humanity is communal.
According to Paul we don't just have a new
creation but also a new, never been seen before,
humanity.

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God is a God beyond every culture and within every culture. Our faith is a super-cultural truth that is enhanced when walls come down, not threatened. In Jesus walls come down and different people from different places become a radically new humanity, the like of which has never been seen before.

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Through Jesus' death:

- 1) "One New Humanity" was Created
- 2) "Peace" was Established

Peace is a favorite word of Paul's. He uses it forty-three times in his writings and seven times in Ephesians. Most of Paul's concepts embrace the idea of peace.

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1) Experiencing Peace with God.

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1) Experiencing Peace with God.

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

[Colossians 1:20]

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- 1) Experiencing Peace with God.
- 2) Experiencing Peace in our Hearts.

2) Experiencing Peace in our Hearts.

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

[Philippians 4:7]

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- 1) Experiencing Peace with God.
- 2) Experiencing Peace in our Hearts.
- 3) Experiencing Peace with Others.

3) Experiencing Peace with Others.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

[Romans 12:18]

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Jesus “continues to make peace for those fallen children of Adam who will respond by repentance and faith. Christ’s peace is not automatic ... but it is available.”

Dr. Bob Utley

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**Video testimony goes
here...**