

BS
WA
19.
L*

display the grace of God that raised them. *Wherefore remember that, ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision by that which is called circumcision in the flesh, made by hands.* There is no doubt that in time past it meant very much to be a Jew. The advantage of the Jew was "much every way." To them alone of all people and races of the earth was in covenant relation with God. Back of the law was the covenant with Abraham and his seed, which was without condition and included all earthly blessings to them as a nation; and through Christ the spiritual Seed, all heavenly blessings in Him. But the Gentiles were outside of this. They had no claim upon God. They could not refer to any single promise, or any word of hope that had ever been made to them. It was only in Israel that a Saviour was promised. Salvation was of the Jews. They bore the seal of circumcision which marked them as sharers in the covenant which God made with Abraham and his seed forever. To them alone the prophets had been sent; with them alone God was in communication; to them alone He gave His law, and the ordinances of grace, and forms of worship; and of them Christ had come. All was of Israel and for Israel.

The Gentiles are reminded that they were *aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* And what was true in Paul's time, is true to-day. The heathen world is here described. But this sad condition is not confined to those we call heathen. The same is true of those in Christian lands, who though they hear the Gospel and are familiar with its terms, are yet with