

A Song or A Longing Desire?

- *This world is not my home*
- *I'm just passing through*
- *My treasures are laid up*
- *somewhere beyond the blue*
 - *The angels beckon me*
 - *from heaven's open door*
 - *and I can't feel at home*
- *in this world anymore (#230)*

Abraham

- *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb 11:8-10*
- He went out to the place he'd receive as inheritance
- He dwelt in the land of promise that was not yet his
- He dwelt in that land in a foreign country
- All because he was waiting for a city whose builder and maker is God.

Full Impact of God's Promises

- Not just on Abraham, but everyone before him:
- Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah
- *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Heb. 11:13-15*
- They did not receive these promises.
- They saw them far off ... were assured of them
- Confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Left the Country Where They Lived

- *For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. Heb. 11:13-15*
- Declare plainly they left their country to seek a homeland
- If they had called to mind what they had lost in that home
- They still had opportunity to return to it.
- *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. Heb 11:16*
- They exchanged what they had in this world
- To gain all that God promised in a heavenly country
- With this longing God is not ashamed to be their God
- He has prepared a city for them.

Are We Strangers/Sojourners/Pilgrims?

- Peter, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion 1 Pet 1:1
- call on him as Father, ... pass the time of your sojourning in fear: 1 Pet 1:17
- I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust, which war against soul 1Pet 2:11
- These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Heb 11:13
- Why are God's children strangers and sojourners?

We Must Choose

- *Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you 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**. Eph 2:11-13*
- *Now, therefore, you are **no longer STRANGERS and FOREIGNERS**, but **fellow citizens** with the saints and **members of the household of God**, Eph. 2:19-22*
- It is our choice.
- We can be at home here and aliens and strangers to God
- We can be strangers and foreigners here and be fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's family.

Why we are Strangers and Sojourners

- “He has **delivered** us from the power of darkness and **transferred** us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” Col. 1:12
- “For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also **eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**” Phil. 3:20-21
- Eagerly waiting for the promises ...
- Walking in the footsteps of our forefathers Heb 11:13-18.

How We are Strangers and Pilgrims?

- *But you are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, **His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness** into His marvelous light; 10 who once were **not a people** but are **now the people of God**, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 11 **Beloved**, **I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, 1 Pet. 2:9-12*
- God made us a chosen generation a holy nation
- A royal priesthood His own special people
- He called us from darkness into the light
- We were not a people, but now we are the people of God
- Thus as strangers and pilgrims we leave behind the lusts

Moses Exchanged his Citizenship

- *By faith Moses, **when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; **for he looked to the reward.**** Heb 11:24-26*
- The country he came out of ...
- the opportunity to return...
- Chose to suffer ill treatment with the people of God
- Refused to enjoy the passing pleasure of sin.
- He became a Stranger, Sojourner, Pilgrim

Attitudes of the Stranger and Sojourner

- Therefore, since ***all these things will be dissolved***, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ***12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God***, because of which the ***heavens will be dissolved***, being on fire, and the ***elements will melt with fervent heat?***
13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. *2 Peter 3:11-13*
- Holy conduct and godliness.
- Looking forward to wanting the day to hasten
- Looking for a new heavens and a new earth

God's Command to His Strangers

- *As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore **"Come out from among them And be separate**, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.' 7 Therefore, **having these promises**, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** 2
Cor 6:16-7:1*

A Clash between His World and Ours

- *“If the world hates you, you know that **it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet **because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**” Jn. 15:18-20*
- This is why we must always be strangers & aliens
- We cannot peacefully co-exist when they demand we become like them and give up Jesus' ways.

Can't Peacefully Co-Exist

- *friendship with the world is enmity with God, Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jas. 4:4*
- *All that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is **not of the Father but is of the world.**” 1Jn. 2:16*
- We are thus forced to become strangers and exiles.
- They want us to side with them in a compromise that would make us an enemy of God.
- Since Jesus was killed and shed His blood because He refused that compromise, we must also refuse.

Words of a Song or Longings

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