

Session 6 – Strangers in the Land: We Refuse to Make this World our Permanent Home

Written for our Instruction: OT Lessons on the Christian Life

NOTES:

I. Our Identity as “Aliens & Strangers”

1. **1 Peter 2:11-12** Our identity as aliens and strangers makes possible our _____ in this world.
2. **Peter’s strategy:** Let your _____ reflect your _____.

II. A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT

A. *The City of Enoch*

1. **Gen 1-2** God created man and woman in his own image. Man was at _____ with God and God was at _____ with man. Man lived in the presence of God. Man was created to live in Eden.
2. **Gen 3** When man sinned, he was estranged from God. The movement in Genesis 3-4 is one of greater and greater _____ from God.
3. **Gen 4:16** This is as much a _____ statement as it is a historical or geographical statement. Cain leaves God’s presence and settles in the land of _____.
4. **Gen 4:17** Cain’s response to being alienated from God is to build a _____.

B. *The City of Babel (Gen 11)*

1. They traveled _____.
2. They are _____ of being scattered.
3. They are seeking _____ for themselves.
4. **Result:** They are further _____, not just from God, but from each other.

C. *The City of Sodom (Gen 13:8-13)*

1. The text specifically draws a connection between the Jordan valley and the garden of the Lord. These cities are pseudo-gardens, _____.
2. Lot travels _____.
3. Lot settles in the city of Sodom, a place of great _____.

D. *Summary:*

1. Because of his sin, man has been driven from God's presence and is a _____ to God.
2. Man seeks to overcome his sense of alienation from God by building a _____ for himself on earth, a city.
 - a) The city of man is a place of self-protection and self-trust.
 - b) The city of man is a place where man seeks glory and significance.
 - c) The city of man is a place of great wealth and great appeal while at the same time a place of great wickedness and immorality.

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III. **Abraham's Life as an "Alien and Stranger"**

A. ***Abraham's Call (Gen 12:1-3)***

1. Abraham's call is to become an alien, a stranger, a sojourner. This is a movement _____ from the city and away from an earthly home.
2. Abraham's decision to become an alien and a sojourner is in response to God's _____.
3. Abraham is told to move _____.
4. God's covenant _____ towards Abraham and, through him, to the world depends on his becoming a foreigner, an alien, and a sojourner.

B. ***Abraham's Confession (Gen 23:4)***

1. **Genesis 23:4** Why did Abraham choose to live this way? It is because he was looking for the _____ which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Heb. 11:10).

C. ***Abraham's Legacy***

1. Abraham's life becomes a _____ for the lives of his descendants. Abraham's descendants inherit the status of being aliens and strangers.
2. _____: Gen 26:1-3
3. _____: Genesis 47:9
4. _____ **in Egypt:** Gen 15:13
5. _____: Ex. 2:22
6. _____ **in the Promised Land:** Leviticus 25:23
7. _____: Psalm 39:12 David understood that Abraham's life as an alien and stranger, living in tents in a foreign land, was simply

an outward indication of a deeper, _____ homelessness, a homelessness which he shared.

8. **The _____**: 1 Peter 2:11

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IV. Significance and Application

A. God's people are those who have _____ that they are aliens and strangers before _____.

1. Before you can go home, you have to recognize and confess that you are far from home. Only those who confess that they are aliens and strangers find their way home out of the land of Nod, the land of Wandering.

B. God's people are those who have become aliens and strangers to the world because they have _____ seeking a home in this _____.

a) We stop _____ the lie that this world is all there is.

b) We cease living for the goal of building a _____ environment for ourselves.

c) We cease searching for _____ outside of God and his purposes.

d) We are not duped by the glitter and glamour of this world's _____ and _____.

e) We cease living anyway we please and _____ to God's law as _____ of his kingdom.

2. The fulfillment of God's _____ to bless all the families of the earth still depends on his people living as aliens and strangers. By refusing to live for this world, the church gives _____ to this world.

C. God's people are those who _____ for a better country, a heavenly home.

1. **Hebrews 11:13-16** All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. ¹⁵ And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

What does it mean to live as an alien and a stranger in this world?