

# INTRODUCTION TO TYPOLOGY

The Church Prefigured in the OT

# Introduction

## □ *The Septuagint*

- The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the OT translated about 200 years before Christ.
- The Septuagint is important because it contributes to much of the thought and language of the NT.

# Introduction

## □ *1 Peter 2:11*

- **1 Peter 2:11** “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”
  - Alien=Paroikos= A resident foreigner (BDAG).
  - Stranger=Parepidemos= One who stays for a while in a strange or foreign place (BDAG).
- The only two place in the OT (Septuagint) where you find these two words together are: Gen. 23:4 and Ps. 39:12

# A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT

## □ *The City of Enoch*

- **Gen 1-2** God created man and woman in his own image. Man was at home with God and God was at home with man. Man lived in the presence of God. Man was created to live in Eden.
- **Gen 3** When man sinned, he was estranged from God. The movement in Genesis 3-4 is one of greater and greater alienation from God.



East



Adam & Eve

# A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT

## □ *The City of Enoch*

- **Gen 4:16** This is as much a theological statement as it is a historical or geographical statement. Cain leaves God’s presence and settles in the land of Wandering.



East




Adam & Eve



East



Cain &  
City of Enoch



**Jacques Ellul:** “It is God’s absence which is the never-ending sting planted in his [Cain’s] heart... The search for home, the search for Eden, is in the end a constant desire for God’s presence. But the search appears to be without hope... We are told very precisely that he is to be a wanderer and a vagabond. As such he can find no rest. He is therefore condemned to a perpetual searching for God’s presence, the God with whom he wanted nothing to do and in whom he does not believe, and his very condition keeps him from ever finding him.



# A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT

## □ *The City of Enoch*

- **Gen 4:17** Cain’s response to being alienated from God is to build a city. This is the first mention in the Bible of a city.
  - **Jacques Ellul:** “The city is a direct consequence of Cain’s murderous act and his refusal to accept God’s protection. Cain has built a city. For God’s Eden he substitutes his own.”

# A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT

## □ *The City of Babel (Gen 11)*

- The second time the Bible focuses on a city is after the flood. Nimrod, one of the descendants of Ham, Noah’s cursed son, initiates the building of a city called Babel.
  - They traveled east.
  - They are afraid of being scattered.
  - They are seeking significance for themselves, a name for themselves.
- **Result:** They are further alienated, not just from God, but from each other.



East



Adam & Eve



East



Cain &  
City of Enoch

East



City of Babel

# A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT

- ***The City of Sodom (Gen 13:8-13)***
  - The third city focused on in the Bible is the city of Sodom.
    - The text specifically draws a connection between the Jordan valley and the garden of the Lord. These cities are pseudo-gardens, false Edens.
    - Lot travels eastward.
    - Lot settles in the city of Sodom, a place of great wickedness.



East



Adam & Eve



East



Cain &  
City of Enoch

East



City of Babel

East



Lot &  
City of Sodom

# A Background to “Aliens & Strangers” in the OT


## □ **Summary:**

- Because of his sin, man has been driven from God’s presence and is a stranger to God.
- Man seeks to overcome his sense of alienation from God by building a home for himself on earth, a city.
  - The city of man is a place of self-protection and self-trust.
  - The city of man is a place where man seeks glory and significance.
  - 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. The city is a place where man makes his own rules, he does not submit himself to the law of God.

# Abraham

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- ***The Call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)***
  - Abraham's call is to become an alien, a stranger, a sojourner. This is a movement away from the city and away from an earthly home.



**Howard Vos:** “As I understand the chronology, Ur was in control of an empire in the days of Abraham and was enjoying one of the most brilliant periods in the history of Mesopotamia...There was no earthly reason why he should have wanted to leave Ur!”



# Abraham

- ***The Call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)***
  - ▣ Abraham's decision to become an alien and a sojourner is in response to God's call. God initiates by calling Abraham.
  - ▣ Abraham is told to move west.
  - ▣ God's covenant blessing towards Abraham and, through him, to the world depends on his becoming a foreigner, an alien, and a sojourner.

# Abraham

## □ ***Abraham's Confession (Gen 23:4)***

- **Genesis 23:4** "I am a stranger (paroikos) and a sojourner (parepidemos) among you; give me a burial site among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight."
- Why did Abraham choose to live this way? It is because he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God (Heb. 11:10). In other words, Abraham was seeking a home, he was seeking to belong to God's city, he was going back to Eden God's way.

# Abraham

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- ***Abraham's Legacy***

- Abraham's life becomes a paradigm for the lives of his descendants. Abraham's descendants inherit the status of being aliens and strangers.

# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **Isaac:** Genesis 26:3 **Sojourn (Paroikeo)** in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.”

# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **Jacob:** Genesis 47:9 And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my **sojourning (Paroikeo)** are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning."

# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **Israelites in Egypt:** God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be **strangers (paroikos)** in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years."

# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **Moses:** Ex. 2:22 Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a **sojourner (ger=paroikos)** in a foreign land."

# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **Israelites in the Promised Land:** Leviticus 25:23  
“The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and **sojourners (paroikos)** with Me.”



# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **David:** Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a **stranger (paroikos)** with You, A **sojourner (parepidemos)** like all my fathers.
  - 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, spiritual homelessness, a homelessness which he shared.

# Abraham

## □ *Abraham's Legacy*

- **The Church:** 1 Peter 2:11 “Beloved, I urge you as **aliens (paroikos) and strangers (parepidemos)** to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”

# Significance and Application

- ***God's people are those who have confessed that they are aliens and strangers before God.***
  - ▣ Only those who confess that they are aliens and strangers find their way home out of the land of Nod, the land of Wandering.
  - ▣ Why can we go home? Jesus, God's son, left his home and became a stranger so that he might save strangers. Jesus lived the life of an alien and a stranger, and as a stranger, he was rejected and crucified outside the city walls.
    - **Ephesians 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
    - **Ephesians 2:19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

# Significance and Application

- ***God's people are those who have become aliens and strangers to the world because they have ceased seeking a home in this world.***
  - ▣ What does it mean to live as an alien and a stranger in this world?
    - We stop believing the lie that this world is all there is.
    - We cease living for the goal of building a secure environment for ourselves.
    - We cease searching for significance outside of God and his purposes.
    - We are not duped by the glitter and glamour of this world's riches and pleasures.
    - We cease living anyway we please and submit to God's law as citizens of his kingdom.

# Shepherd of Hermas:

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He saith to me; 'Ye know that ye, who are the servants of God, are dwelling in a foreign land; for your city is far from this city. If then ye know your city, in which ye shall dwell, why do ye here prepare fields and expensive displays and buildings and dwelling-chambers which are superfluous?...

# Shepherd of Hermas:

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, instead of fields buy ye souls that are in trouble, as each is able, and visit widows and orphans, and neglect them not; and spend your riches and all your displays, which ye received from God, on fields and houses of this kind. <sup>9</sup>For to this end the Master enriched you, that ye might perform these ministrations for Him. It is much better to purchase fields [and possessions] and houses of this kind, which thou wilt find in thine own city, when thou visitest it.

# Significance and Application

- ***God's people are those who have become aliens and strangers to the world because they have ceased seeking a home in this world.***
  - ▣ The fulfillment of God's promise 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 hope to this world.

# Significance and Application

- ▣ ***God's people are those who long for a better country, a heavenly home.***
- **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. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> 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.



# Significance and Application

- ▣ ***God's people are those who long for a better country, a heavenly home.***
  - God is not against cities, he is against cities that promise men and women a sense of security, and belonging, and purpose without Him, apart from Him.
  - God's people understand that what makes Eden Eden is not the fruit trees, the animals, or the meaningful tasks, but that God is present. This is why God's people long for new heavens and a new earth in which they will live in the light of God's presence.