

2. The Church: Strangers in a Foreign Land

Summer MNM 2015: The Church Prefigured in the OT
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NOTES:

I. Introduction

A. *The Septuagint*

1. The Septuagint is the _____ translation of the OT translated about 200 years before Christ.
2. The Septuagint is important because it contributes to much of the thought and _____ of the NT.

B. *1 Peter 2:11*

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

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 _____. This is the first mention in the Bible of a city.

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

1. 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.
 - a) They traveled _____.
 - b) They are _____ of being scattered.

- c) They are seeking _____ for themselves.
- 2. **Result:** They are further _____, not just from God, but from each other.

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

- 1. The third city focused on in the Bible is the city of Sodom.
 - a) The text specifically draws a connection between the Jordan valley and the garden of the Lord. These cities are pseudo-gardens, _____.
 - b) Lot travels _____.
 - c) 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 _____.
 - b) The city of man is a place where man seeks _____ and significance.
 - c) The city of man is a place of great _____ and great appeal while at the same time a place of great _____ and immorality. The city is a place where man makes his own rules, he does not submit himself to the law of God.

III. **Abraham**

A. **The Call of Abraham (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 _____. God initiates by calling Abraham.
- 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** "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."
2. 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). 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.

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

IV. **Significance and Application**

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

1. Only those who confess that they are aliens and strangers find their way _____ out of the land of _____, the land of Wandering.
2. Why can we go home? Jesus, God's son, left his home and became a _____ so that he might save _____. Jesus lived the life of an alien and a stranger, and as a stranger, he was rejected and crucified outside the city walls.

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

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

- 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 long for a better country, a heavenly home.

1. **Heb. 11:13-16** God is not against cities; He is against cities that promise men and women a sense of _____, and belonging, and _____ without Him, apart from Him.
2. God's people understand that what makes Eden Eden is not the fruit trees, the animals, or the meaningful tasks, but that God is _____. 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.

Next Week:

The NT describes the church as God's Temple (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21). What is the significance of this imagery? How does the OT help us understand this description of the church?