

The Christian Life on Display: *Pilgrims on a Journey*

Text: *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.* 1 Peter 1:1

Aim: To explain what should be the believer's attitude in facing an unknown future.

I. We Should Consider Ourselves Pilgrims

Peter wrote to:

Strangers scattered (KJV) vs. 1

Strangers and pilgrims (KJV) 2:11

Pilgrims of the dispersion (NKJ) vs. 1

Sojourners and pilgrims (NKJ) 2:11

Those who are the elect exiles of the dispersion (ESV) vs. 1

To the chosen who are residing (LEB) vs. 1

Generally – to Jews who lived outside of Israel – John 7:35; James 1:1
Jewish settlers in Asia because of the Syrian-Babylonian Captivity
Populous of Hellenistic Jews – Jews conforming to the Greek culture
Jews by birth or religion who spoke Greek (Acts 6:1; 9:29; 11:20)

Specifically – to mixed believers (church of both Jews and Gentile)
1 Peter 1:4, 18; 2:9, 10; 4:1-4

Method of dispersion:

Possibly after Pentecost – Acts 2:9 – Returned with the Gospel

Possibly after Persecution – Acts 8:1-4 – Paul's persecution of the Church
Acts 11:19 – Scattered ... as far as Phoenicia

II. We Should Consider Biblical Examples of a Pilgrim

ABRAHAM – Hebrews 11:8-16

⁸ *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.* ¹¹ *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.* ¹² *Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.* ¹³ *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar*

off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ *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.* ¹⁶ *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.*

■ **Consider Abraham's Actions**

Left his earthly home in obedience to God

Dwelt in tents (temporary)

Waited for the City with foundations (permanent)

Heb. 11:10 For he waited for the City which has foundations

Heb. 12:22 ...to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem

■ **Consider Abraham's Attitude**

They regarded God faithful – Heb. 11:11

They saw God's promises afar off – Heb. 11:1; 11:13

They confessed publicly their citizenry – Heb. 11:13

They sought a homeland – Heb. 11:14

They desire a heavenly country (a better country) – Heb. 11:16

JESUS AND BELIEVERS – John 17:16

¹⁶ *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

III. We Should Consider the Mindset of a Pilgrim

We are travelers here – not residents. Acts 8:4; 9:2

...asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Our citizenship is in heaven. Phil 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Focus on eternal things. Col. 3:1-4

¹ *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.* ³ *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴ *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

Summary

In facing an unknown future, we should view ourselves as pilgrims and strangers in this world, as Abraham did, with our minds set on things of eternal value.