

This World Is Not My Home

Introduction

Begin with Area 51 story. We are a people obsessed with aliens. There seems to be a psychosis that effects some people to the extent that UFO's and space aliens are all they can see when they cast their eyes heavenward. Here's the interesting thing, the Bible makes a connection between us as Aliens and Christians- but perhaps not in the way many of us may think.

I. Christians Are Aliens In This World

A. Notice:

1. 1 Peter 1:1-2

- An interesting word is used here: **pa-roi-ke-a**
- Strangers, pilgrims, exile
- It carries the meaning that since we have become new creations in Christ we are now in essence- in exile in this world. We are pilgrims, strangers.

2. 1 Peter 1:17

- Same word is used here as in verse 1.
- Peter reminds us that as strangers, pilgrims, a people in exile we are to live as strangers in this world. Meaning- we live with the understanding that this world is not our home.

3. 1 Peter 2:11

- Here Peter uses two words to describe who we are as the people of God:
- We are **pa-roi-kos**: *foreigners, sojourners, aliens* and **pa-re-pe-da-mos**: *strangers, pilgrims*.
- These two words give us the understanding that Peter wants us to know that we are just visiting this beautiful ball of rock that we live on. Our residence is just temporary.

- B. Here is the funny thing: All those people looking for aliens in Area 51 or up in the night sky, need only to go to the local assembly of the church of Christ and there they can see all the aliens they want- and some of them are a little odd looking to boot: PAUL!

II. As Aliens We Live Differently

A. We are to live as an uprooted people

- The pilgrims that came to America had left their homes and traveled to a land that was foreign to them. A land where they had no history, no connection. As Christians we have been uprooted from the world: from the evil actions of our old lives, and have been transplanted into a new life:
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (Paul talks of an uprooting: "And such WERE some of you...")
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come."* We need to live like we have been uprooted from our sinful past.

B. We are to live as a longing people

- As new creations in Christ we now have a new home that we long for: heaven
- Philippians 3:20 *"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."*
- In the heart of every Christian is the same longing felt by every pilgrim, every sojourner, and every alien in a foreign land- the longing to be at home. For us, we long to be with God and to look into the eyes of the one who hung on the cross. To touch his wounds and to feel the texture of his beard. To see for ourselves the nail pierced flesh: 2 Cor. 4:18 / Heb 13:14

C. We are to live as an obedient people

- Just because we are in a strange land, does not excuse us from living in obedience to our master's will. As an uprooted, longing people we are to produce those things in our lives that are pleasing to God: Galatians 5:19-26
- Obedience is an expression of our love: John 14:15, 23-24