

Theme: In this age Christians are sojourning exiles, serving with unbelievers in our common kingdom and culture, as we long for our heavenly home.

## I. Moses' Change in 10 Commandments

- A. Cecil B. DeMille's movie - Moses Egyptian prince
- B. Discovers he is actually israelite - slave
- C. Changes Moses' whole life - for the better!
- D. Wrong perception of our place and calling can be disastrous
- E. Many today assume we are like Israel in promised land
- F. I want to help us get a revelation like Moses had

## II. God's Sojourning Exile People

- A. Abraham - God's sojourning exile
  - 1. Abraham was called by God (v8)
  - 2. Called into the promised land (vv8,9)
  - 3. Lived like a stranger in the land (v8,9)
  - 4. Isaac, Jacob also like strangers - but heirs!
- B. Aliens and strangers on earth
  - 1. They were aliens & strangers on earth (v13)
  - 2. Abraham an alien and stranger (Gen 23:4)
  - 3. Had promise of the land - but had to buy burial plot!
  - 4. Our pattern - aliens, strangers, exiles
  - 5. Aliens and strangers - on earth

6. We are sojourning exiles here on earth

## C. Consistent NT theme - sojourning exiles

- 1. 1 Peter 1:1 - strangers/sojourners; scattered (Diaspora)
- 2. 1 Peter 1:17 - live as strangers/sojourners here
- 3. 1 Peter 2:11 - aliens and strangers in the world
- 4. 1 Peter 5:13 - Babylon - probably Rome - we are exiles!
- 5. Consider Babylon in Revelation - we are exiled in Babylon
- 6. James 1:1 - dispersion - OT exiles
- 7. Philippians 3:20-21 - citizenship in heaven; sojourners here

## D. Deeply rooted in early church mindset

- 1. 1 Clement 1:1 - Church sojourning at Rome to church sojourning at Corinth
- 2. Polycarp 1:1 - church sojourning at Philippi
- 3. Martyrdom of Polycarp - sojourning - 3 times!
- 4. Diognetus - sojourners, strangers, foreign
- 5. Could give more - they thought of themselves as sojourners!

## III. Sojourning Exiles Looking For Home

- A. These sojourning exiles were looking for home
  - 1. Abraham wanted heaven - not Palestine (Heb 11:10)
  - 2. Did not receive, saw & welcomed from distance (v13)
  - 3. Looking for a country of their own (v14) - it is not here!
  - 4. Longing for heaven - and God will give it! (v15)
- B. Pervasive biblical call to long for home - heaven

1. Phil 3:20-21- eagerly awaiting, transform us
2. It is what shadows of tabernacle, promised land pointed to
3. Longing of the Psalmist, vision of the prophet
4. Hope of suffering church
5. Glorious vision to close canon of Scripture

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see that we are sojourning exiles?
  1. Do we see this pervasive theme in NT, early church?
  2. If sojourning exiles - not in the land!
  3. The only Christian nation is the church!
  4. America - and every other nation - is Babylon
  5. Doesn't mean we do not work for good culture
  6. Does mean we know it is partial, temporary
- B. Do we view ourselves as culture warriors or sojourning servants?
  1. Israel in the land - culture warriors!
    - a. No common kingdom - all redemptive kingdom
    - b. No compromise - enact God's law!
    - c. Destroy the immoral unbelieving enemy
    - d. Not just Satan - people are enemy
    - e. Any deviations will bring God's immediate judgment
  2. Exiles from the land - sojourning servants

- a. Our country is common kingdom - Church is redemptive kingdom
- b. Work with everyone for better culture
- c. Serve those who revile, love enemies
- d. All culture is Babylon upheld by common grace
- e. (More on this next week)

3. Which typifies my attitude, actions?
4. What would "they" say about which I am like?

- C. Do we long for our true home - heaven?
  1. That is where we will be home - and not before
  2. This is where righteousness will dwell
  3. This is where there will be rest, contentment
  4. Or do we really think America is home?
- D. Communion - Longing for the Marriage Supper
  1. This meal is reminder that we are sojourners
  2. Foretaste of marriage supper of the Lamb
  3. Reorients our thoughts and attitudes
  4. Renews our hunger for home

#### God's Sojourning Exile People (Part 1)

Hebrews 11:8-10; 13-16

Advent Readings

November 28, 2010

Communion

Psalm 67:1-3 (Paraphrase)

"I am an **alien and a stranger** among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead." Genesis 23:4

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, **strangers in the world, scattered** throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,  
1 Peter 1:1

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live **your lives as strangers here** in reverent fear. 1 Peter 1:17

Dear friends, I urge you, as **aliens and strangers in the world**, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11

**She who is in Babylon**, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 1 Peter 5:13

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To **the twelve tribes scattered among the nations**: Greetings. James 1:1

But **our citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20-21

The Church of God sojourning at Rome to the Church of God sojourning at Corinth..... 1 Clement 1:1 (Probably written circa 95 AD)

Polycarp and the presbyters that are with him, To the Church of God that sojourns at Philippi.... (From the Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians, probably written circa 110 AD)

The Church of God which sojourns at Smyrna, TO the Church of God which sojourns in Philomelium, and to all the communities of the holy and catholic Church sojourning in every place...  
(From the Martyrdom of Polycarp, probably written circa 165 AD)

For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of mankind either in locality or in speech or in customs. For they dwell not somewhere in cities of their own, neither do they use some different language, nor practice an extraordinary kind of life.... They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign. - Epistle to Diognetus, Chapter 5

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:20-21