### Eternity

- to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 25
- the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: <u>Isa 57:15</u>
- "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" Ps. 90:1-2
- Conclusion: God is the center & reality of eternity
  A never changing standard

## Eternity

- Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. 27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. Ps. 102:25-27
- "For I am the Lord, I do not change; Mal 3:6
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. <u>Heb 13:8-9</u>
- An unchanging and absolute standard for us.

# God is Love, Just & Righteous

- He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1Jn. 4:8
- Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. Ps. 89:14
- For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright. (Righteous) Ps 11:7
- For all eternity, God and all who are with Him dwell in love (best interests) and righteousness (fairness and justice). Always telling the truth.
- This is the eternal world God inhabits.

## God Created man In His Image

- So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Gen 1:27-28
- Being in His image, the earth was filled with the same love, righteousness, justice and concern that existed in heaven. They were mirror images!
- Eve's choice changed the image of our world.
- ▶ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. 1Jn 2:15-17

### The New Image of This World

- ▶ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 1John 3:11-12
- Two fathers and two sons and tow images.
- You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44-45

#### The True Destination of Sin

- Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence, ... for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth." Gen. 6:5-11
- What a dismal and wicked place it became.
- How different from eternity and God's dwelling. It grieved God to see the evil of man's nature.

### The Flood: God Revealed His Feelings

- So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'
- The flood is God's giant billboard indictment:
- "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
- All who think God has not openly manifested His displeasure "wilfully forget" this flood. *Rom.* 1:18, 2Pet. 3:3-13).

#### Don't Forget: Reserved for Fire

- For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
- the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2Pet. 3:5-10
- They might forget ... We must never forget!

# Aliens (Sojourners) & Exiles (Pilgrims)

- The World has become a paradox... What we see here is not reality but a temporary mirage. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 2Pet. 3:11
- In order to do this, we must recognize ourselves as strangers, exiles and pilgrims.
- Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, <u>1Pet. 2:11-12</u>

#### Now the Majority – But Not into Eternity

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Rom 1:18-22

## The Amazing Paradox

- God's True children cannot feel at home in the creation He created for us.
- The vast majority of Adam's children want nothing to do with God or His lifestyle.
- Paul revealed the sad reality charting the ever repeating cycle.
- The "knew God," but "refused to glorify Him as God" or even "give thanks" for all His gifts.
- As Cain they too "leave the presence of the Lord," they "refuse to retain have God in their knowledge" and "exchange the truth of God for a lie" of their own devising and enter a selfish and unrighteous lifestyle. (Rom. 1:24-32).

# God Chose Abraham to be the Father of all the Strangers and Exiles

- Yet, always some seek to leave this selfish and cruel lifestyle to live as "strangers and exiles."
- They leave the unloving and unmerciful to serve God as His loving and just children.
- God Made Abraham the father of all who feel this.
- Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE. <u>Heb 11:12</u>

#### Do We Want to Be Among Them?

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. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 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. Heb 11:13-16

### True Strangers & Exiles

- Scattered all over the earth in small pockets of local churches.
- Scattered throughout time. Appearing as exiles
- But don't be deceived!
- Those who want to love, be just and righteous and be in His image and likeness will ultimately be as the sand of the seashore in number.
- We may appear small here, but if we long for the lifestyle and eternity of God.
- He has prepared a city for us.
- Soon the image of the country and the image of God will be the same again remining for eternity.