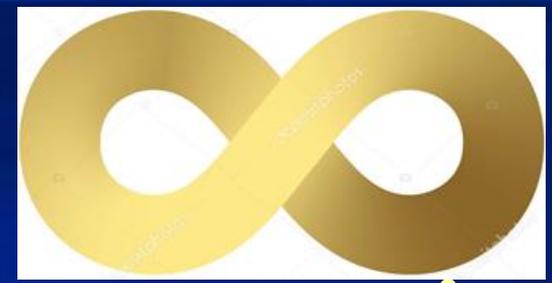


Eternity



- *the High and Lofty One Who inhabits **eternity**, whose name is Holy: Isa 57:15*
- *to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 25*
- *“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*
- Have we meditated and considered the proper applications to these things?

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 all eternity, God and those dwelling with Him have lived this life of always acting in the best interests of others.
- They have lived with fairness and equity. Always telling the truth, and feeling a combination of pity/desire to help.
- 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.
- The desire to eat of the tree of knowledge changed all that. It made man selfish and in his selfishness, love, righteousness, justice and concern vanished.

Cain & Abel

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Gen. 4:1

Evil, murder, no love, no righteousness and no justice were already in Cain's heart.

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

No longer of God, now a son of the evil one.

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

Aliens (Sojourners) & Exiles (Pilgrims)

- *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, 1Pet. 2:11-12*

An 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 there were some wanting 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.
- *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. Heb 11:12*

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

- We are scattered all over the earth in small pockets of local churches.
- We want to love, be just and righteous and be in His image and likeness.
- With all our heart, as part of those who will ultimately be as the sand of the seashore in number, we appear to be small here, but we long for the lifestyle and eternity of God in the city He has prepared for us.