

# **BASIC BIBLE TEACHING**



A Heavenly  
Country

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### **A Heavenly Country**

- **WHEN** men call themselves 'strangers and pilgrims', they plainly indicate that they are seeking a country where they will be at home. This was the position of the forefathers of the Israelites:

*Hebrews 11:13 (KJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they SEEK A COUNTRY. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better COUNTRY, that is, an HEAVENLY: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

- **Their desire was based on the PROMISE of God, who had called Abraham from Ur.**

*Hebrews 11:8 (KJV) By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a PLACE WHICH HE SHOULD AFTER RECEIVE FOR AN INHERITANCE, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

- **When he reached Canaan, God gave him a PROMISE:**

*Genesis 13:15 (KJV)... all the LAND which thou seest, TO THEE WILL I GIVE IT, and to thy seed for ever.*

- **That promise was not fulfilled in the lifetime of Abraham, or Isaac, or Jacob: yet all these men lived in the faith that God's promises could not fail: they 'saw them afar off'.**

*Hebrews 11:13 (KJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having SEEN THEM AFAR OFF...*

- **Abraham had found the land, but not a home: There needs to be a great change in the world, before he can receive his inheritance. He looked for a new order of things.**

*Hebrews 11:10 (KJV) For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

- **Assurance is given that God in his purpose has such a city in preparation.**

*Hebrews 11:16 (KJV)... he hath prepared for them a city.*

It will be 'heavenly' not because it is *in* heaven, but because its origin is *from* Heaven, and not from man. The new order in which that city will be founded is the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth.

- **The Kingdom of God is to be set up in the land which in Abraham's time was called Canaan and today is split between Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and parts of Syria and Jordan.**

*Micah 4:8 (KJV)... THE KINGDOM shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.*

*Obadiah 1:21 (KJV)... saviours shall come up on mount Zion... and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.*

*Isaiah 24:23 (KJV)... the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem...*

*Isaiah 25:6 (KJV)... in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things...*

- **When the Kingdom of God is set up, the land promised to Abraham will be made glorious.**

*Isaiah 60:13 (KJV)...I will make the place of my feet glorious.*

*Isaiah 61:4 (KJV)... they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.*

*Ezekiel 36:35 (KJV)...they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden...*

*Isaiah 51:3 (KJV) For the Lord shall comfort Zion... he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord;*

- **The land will be restored and the glory of God manifested in it. Jerusalem will be rebuilt and established as the centre from which the world will be governed by God's laws.**

*Isaiah 66:18 (KJV)... I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.*

*Ezekiel 39:21 (KJV)... I will set my glory among the heathen...*

*Isaiah 59:19 (KJV) So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun...*

*Micah 4:2 (KJV)... for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

*Isaiah 42:4 (KJV)... the isles shall wait for his law.*

*Jeremiah 3:17 (KJV)... neither shall they (the nations) walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.*

- **A new Sanctuary and Temple of God will be built to the north of Jerusalem as described in Ezekiel 40 - 42. It will be 'a house of prayer for all nations'**

*Zechariah 6:12 (KJV)... the man whose name is The BRANCH... shall build the temple of the Lord:*

*Haggai 2:9 (KJV) The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.*

*Zechariah 8:22 (KJV)... many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.*

*Zechariah 14:16 (KJV)... all the nations... shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts...*

- **The people in the land will be all righteous; and the nations of the Gentiles who gather to it from year to year will also learn and do the will of God, causing the earth to be filled with glory and joy.**

*Isaiah 60:21 (KJV) Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever...*

*Jeremiah 31:34 (KJV)... they shall teach no more every man his neighbour... saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them...*

*Isaiah 2:3 (KJV)... many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths...*

*Habakkuk 2:14 (KJV)... the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

- **It will be an age of understanding, love, peace and prosperity. The people will be governed by the righteous Laws of God. Evil will be restrained. Men and women will live longer, healthier lives and be blessed in Abraham and his seed.**

*Isaiah 33:6 (KJV)... wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times...*

*Zechariah 9:10 (KJV)... he shall speak peace unto the heathen...*

- **Of those who are raised from the dead and 'accounted worthy to obtain that world' (or 'age') it is said: 'Neither can they die any more'**

*Luke 20:35-36 (KJV)... they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.*

- **They shall have 'power over the nations'**

*Revelation 2:26 (KJV)... he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*

- **Those who follow man-made religions will become aware of their folly**

*Jeremiah 16:19 (KJV)... the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies...*

- **Nations will be converted to the true God.**

*Zechariah 2:11 (KJV)... many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people...*

- **Christ will be a blessing in the earth.**

*Psalms 72:17 (KJV)... men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.*

*Genesis 22:18 (KJV)... in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...*

- **Jesus taught his disciples to pray:**

*Matthew 6:10 (KJV) THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE in EARTH, as it is in HEAVEN.*

This prayer will be answered when the **Heavenly Country** desired by the fathers, and **promised** to them in the days when they lived in it as strangers, is **established** as the **Kingdom of God on earth** at the **return** of JESUS CHRIST.