

Pilgrims on the Earth

Peter is writing to the **paredidemos** – the pilgrims passing through. **paredidemos** – alien, foreigner, stranger; one living in a foreign country not his true home; state of ambassador representing the king; living in the nation where he is sent.

1. The NT Greek uses 4 different words to describe the idea that Christians do not belong in the world as citizens of the earthly kingdoms.

paredidemos – **para** + **epi** + **demos** – to live beside one's own people; to live in a place parallel to one's own people – to live as a foreigner in a place not with your own people

Heb 11:13-16; 1Pt 2:11

Paroikos – **para** + **oikos** – the house beside yours; neighbor, to live w/out citizenship; to live on earth but not belong on earth; aliens, foreigner

Act 7:6 Abraham's offspring to live in a land belonging to others – Egypt

Act 7:29 Moses belonged in Egypt but lived as an alien in Midian

Eph 2:19 no longer strangers & aliens – now fellow citizens & members of God's house

Xenos – stranger, outsider, lodger, different; one who doesn't belong where he/she lives

Mt 25:35 Jesus as a stranger – you took me in – someone different, an outsider

Mt 27:7 30 pieces of silver bought Potter's field to bury strangers - foreigners

Act 17:18 Athenians spoke of Paul as one discussing different gods, foreign gods

Act 17:21 visitors to Athens – foreigners who were temporarily living in Athens

Eph 2:12 Gentiles were strangers/outsiders to the covenants of promise

Allotrios – belonging to another; belong to another person or place

Mt 17:5 kings don't expect tribute from their own people but from other nations

Lk 6:12 property belonging to another person

Jn 10:5 sheep follow the voice of their master, not the voice belonging to another

- a. These Greek words all describe a person living where they don't belong and away from the place where they are truly at home.
- b. They describe believers in their residence on the earth instead of heaven.
- c. We are truly citizens of heaven before citizens of USA – Phil 3:20
- d. We are members of God's family more than our earthly family – Eph 2:19

2. The book of Hebrews discusses OT bel's who understood they were pilgrims.

Heb 11:13 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 - strangers (**xenos**) and pilgrims (**paredidemos**) on the earth

Vs.13 Died while trusting, w/out receiving the promises of a new home while on earth;

- Missed earthly blessing but continued trusting because they were looking ahead

Vs.14 those who say such things – acknowledge they are strangers and pilgrims

- looking for a home of their own – eternal home with God in heaven

Vs.15 If they were referring to their earthly country, they would have returned

Vs.16 They desire a better country, a heavenly one – God has prepared a city for them

- a. Bel's Ch 11 realized they belonged in heaven not on the earth – strangers/pilgrims
- b. They never received the earthly blessings they wanted – died w/out them
- c. They were not discouraged, but continued to trust God for His promises.
- d. They trusted that what God didn't give them on earth, He would give in heaven
- e. Their eternal blessings were more real / important than earthly blessings.

3. Our 1st birth made us children of darkness - 2nd birth children of God.

Col 3:13 – delivered from the kingdom of darkness into kingdom of beloved Son

- a. We were born into the kingdom of darkness – Gen 3:15 seed/serpent; Eph 2:3 – natural children of wrath; Eph 4:22 – OM belief –behavior system – lifestyle.
- b. Salvation delivered us from the devil’s kingdom – seed/woman; 2Pt 1:4 partakers of the divine nature; Eph 4:23-24 – renewed beliefs/behaviors – Christian lifestyle
- c. The change of beliefs from darkness to light – live as foreigners on the earth

1Pet 2:11 – beloved, I urge you as aliens & strangers – to abstain from flesh lusts

Vs 9-10 God’s chosen, royal priesthood called out of darkness into light; from belonging to the kingdom of darkness to now being aliens/strangers who belong to God’s kingdom

- Because your life & citizenship has changed, live your life appropriately
- Col 3:1-2 Indulge in the Lord, things above; don’t indulge fleshly desires

Vs 12 keep your conduct good among the unbel’s – glorify God for your good lifestyles

Eph 2:19 – no longer aliens & strangers but fellow citizens with all the saints and members of God’s household

- Born as aliens/strangers from God into devil’s kingdom – nature & lifestyle
- Born again as aliens & strangers into God’s household – nature & lifestyle

4. Children at home in the kingdom of darkness are slaves to the master.

Jn 8:44 Children of the devil naturally want to do the desires of the devil

- Seed/serpent à sin nature à adopt self serving beliefs-behaviors à produce the fruit

Eph 2:1-3 spiritually dead in trespasses & sins in which you walked - lifestyle

2 prepositions - kata – down - dominated by; en + inst – by means of

Kata – dominated by the pattern of this world – cosmic system

Kata – dominated by the ruler of the kingdom of the air – the devil

En – by means of who (devil) we conducted ourselves – lusts/flesh, doing the wishes of the flesh and the mind

- The unbeliever is dominated by the world & devil – influenced to pursue desires
- The unbeliever tries to make his home here on the earth and in the world.

5. Children reborn into the Kingdom of light must relearn where they belong.

Rom 6:16-19 – slavery to sin / death or righteousness/life

Vs.16 to whom you yield you become slaves – give in to sin and become a slave of sin

Vs.17-18 were slaves to sin – obeyed the gospel and became slaves to +R

Vs.19 presented your body as slaves to impurity & lawlessness à increased lawlessness, so now present body as slaves to +R à maturity

- Unbel’s are slaves to sin by nature and build beliefs-behaviors to justify sin
- OM is committed to self and believes whatever serves immediate desire of self is justified, even the right thing, maybe the only thing – anger/grudge at being hurt
- Bel’s are freed from slavery to OM and free to build-apply NM beliefs-behaviors
- NM beliefs are enslaved to God to produce +R behavior to honor Him.

6. All of us are one breath away from being at home with the Lord – 2Cor 5:1-6