

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

What makes this study special is the way the writer gave a doctrinal principle of the faith cycle in each of the four groupings of Old Covenant believers listed in Hebrews, chapter 11.

There are two doctrinal principles of the faith cycle are taught in Heb.11:13-16.

- The doctrinal principle of “Without Receiving the Promises.”
- The doctrinal principle of “Spiritual Pilgrimage.”

Note also that Heb.11:13-16 is part of the second grouping of people (Heb.11:8-22) (The Patriarch Period).

We will study four aspects of the second doctrinal principle - “Spiritual Pilgrimage” (Heb.11:14-16).

1. Our second doctrinal principle of (Heb.11:13-16) comes from the Old Covenant believer’s confession of being strangers and exiles on the earth.

(Heb.11:13b) “And **having confessed** that they were strangers (xenos) [foreigner] and **exiles (parepidemos) [pilgrim]** on the earth”

Vines describes parepidemos as a “sojourner in a strange place, away from one’s people.”

(Heb.11:14) “For those who say such things make it clear (emphanizo/ p.a.ind.3pl) (doctrinal clarity) that they are seeking (epizeteo/ p.a.in.3pl) a **country (patris) [fatherland] of their own.**”

Old Covenant believers had to doctrinally understand that they were spiritual pilgrims on the earth from the point of salvation until the point of death.

(Heb.11:16a) “But as it is, they desire a **better country**, that is, a heavenly one.”

2. Noah was a good example of the doctrinal principle of Spiritual Pilgrimage. He was listed in the first group, Antediluvian period (Heb.11:4-7).

Noah experienced it twice on earth before dying.

- The first time was **when he boarded the Ark** as a Spiritual Pilgrim and left the Antediluvian world to travel to a new world.
- The second time was **when he departed from the Ark**, it was to be a Spiritual Pilgrim for a second time on the earth (Gen.6-9). This time it was postdiluvian world.

The next time you see a **rainbow**, let it remind you that you are a Spiritual Pilgrim on the earth (Gen.9:13-16).

Earth is not the believer’s fatherland (country). If time permits, we could explain it with Abraham and Joseph as well.

3. The Spiritual Pilgrim, whether Old Covenant or New Covenant believer, is seeking a country or fatherland not on earth.

(Heb.11:16a) “But as it is, they desire (orego/ p.m.ind.3pl) [to reach and stretch out] a **better country**, that is a **heavenly one**.”

(Heb.11:14) “For those who say such things (confession) make it clear (emphanizo) [doctrinally clarity] that they are seeking a country of their own.” (John 4:44)

They were looking for the heavenly one that could not be occupied until Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and raised on the third day, and then ascended and seated in His resurrection body. New Covenant believers live in the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(John 14:1-6) “I go to prepare a place for you.” “That where I am, there you may be also.”

(1 Cor.15:49) “Just as we have borne the image of the earthly. We will also bear the image of the heavenly.”

(2 Cor.5:8-9) “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer to be absent from the body and to be at home with Lord. Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”

4. The Third Heaven is the Throne Room of God (2 Cor.12:1-4).

- **The Son God descended** from the third Heaven to the earth by means of virgin birth (Luke 1:34-35; Matt.1:20; John 6:38, 42, 46).
- **The Son of God ascended** back to the Third Heaven to be seated in session until the Second Advent (Acts 1:11; Heb.4:14; Eph.1:20-23; 4:10; Col.3:1-4).
- **The Son God will return** in the air or sky to reunite His Church in the Rapture. (1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-58; 1 Thess.1:10).
- **The Son of God will descend** to the earth a second time to reign in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant in the Millennium kingdom on earth (Rev.17:14; 19:16) (Lord of lords and King of kings) (1 Tim.6:15; Rev. 20-22; Rom.14:9).