

# FOREIGNERS, SCATTERED ON A MISSION

## 1:1-12

### 1. Aliens and Foreigner Scattered, Yet Divinely Placed (vv.1-2)

- a) **Foreigner that are scattered**, Aliens are foreign to the cultural ways, and who have not right or privileges in the land where they dwell. Christian can feel like strangers because of the belief, values and purpose that differ from the surround culture. They may feel like seeds scattered or thrown to the wind where they reside as foreigners, but...
- b) **According to God's Foreknowledge and Choice**- We are not here by chance or coincidences. As God's people we are His "elect sojourner," literal meaning emphasizes God's choice in placing His people in particular place out in the world.
- c) **Through the Sanctifying** (set apart for a specific purpose) **work of the Spirit**. Please note that God is not so much interested in sanctifying places, buildings, but people. The "sanctifying work of the Spirit is needed so we can obey Jesus Christ whatever place you are/reside. When you and I became a believer the Holy Spirit took up residence in us in order that Jesus Christ may be exhibited through us.

**Question:** Have you found yourself in difficult situations where you felt like an alien? Describe! The Lord want to sanctify you there... by providing you what is needed to set you a part for His purpose.

Peter will illustrate some different settings that Christians resided in, and where they felt like aliens. Our faith and obedience to God brings an influence into these settings...

- In Human Institutions and Government views: (2:13-14, 17)
- In your Workplace by the way you do your work: (2:18)
- A Home where a believing Wife (alien) with an unbelieving Husband. (3:1-2)
- A Society where aliens face ostracism: (4:3-4; 3:16-17)

Do you find yourself in a difficult situation, where you feel like an alien? (describe it) The Lord want to sanctify you...there, by providing you what is needed to set you a part for His purpose.

### 2. As God's chosen Foreigners/Aliens we possess a Divine calling and inheritance (vv.3-5)

Interestingly, Peter uses this term "**inheritance**" and applies it to Alien. Usually Aliens possess little or nothing in a foreign land. Peter explains though the world treat us as foreigners, however as God's children we have Divine rights, privileges and resources, that Nations and Rulers cannot give to people. This Inheritance God give, provides us...

- a) **New Birth!** Born again into an inheritance and not of this world, makes us a special breed: (vv.2:9-10) Not a race issue, nor a country's sovereign rights. Though we might feel a little better off than another... But spiritually speaking we all received a New Birth in the same way... by priceless work of Christ, that took us from a doom inheritance and placed on that give us eternal worth. (v.18-19)
- b) **A living Hope**- The Christian faith is just not based on tradition or myth, it is based on a real person who is alive and presently involved in our everyday lives and is working to conform us (Romans 8:29)

- c) **Protection by God's power...** this inheritance is both future and present, the word "protected" is a perfect passive participle meaning... being kept or started at point in the past and continues on.
  - i) **Future...** it is being **reserved in heaven** for you to receive someday. Where it cannot be taken away, fade away or be compromised.
  - ii) **Present now...** it is **being work out**, by the power of God, in us and being displayed through us, for people to see (vv.6-9)

### 3. **Our Trials and Testing are producing, Maturity and our Mission (Vv.6-9)**

God has told us that we have a rich inheritance (spiritual). He is not interested in placing us in a secure isolated museum. These spiritual riches are drawing a contrast with those in the world watching us. **How? (4:12)**

Through the "**proof of our faith.**" This is not about whether our faith is real faith or not. But rather **the proof or test of our faith**, is to show the authenticity of our faith. Our faith is **not** to be a **showcase exhibit- museum**, or a lab test, but a field test out in the world.

- a) Our faith presents a contrast to the world and will face confrontation, but this is not to destroy it, but rather to purify us like fire purifies gold.
  - i) We are called to such suffering 2:21; 3:9; 4:1,7 For at least two purposes?
    - a) Show God's excellences (2:9) by His mercy showers on the unjust through the scattering (v.1) of Christians in foreign places. (Matthew 5:45)
    - b) Give us an opportunity to presents a reason to other of our Hope (3:15)
- b) Our faith becomes evident to others as we learn to **rejoice** when being tested. In doing so we declare our future hope as foreigner here and now.
- c) The outcome of your faith will have Final Results- when Christ returns. But now "you are receiving the goal of your faith...the **saving** of the soul" (Note: here the present tense makes this **continual** experience, and is different than our receiving salvation in its final state someday. We are being saved now as foreigners and ultimately someday.

The final point of Peter's doxology (vv.10-12) More than just local news of the time...

### 4. **"Concerning this Salvation"** (1:10-12) the grand arrangement of this salvation has continuity with the past... it was not just an afterthought, or a passing thought, or plan B because plan A failed! God's initiated it through His agents

- a) First were the **Prophet**, then the **Evangelist** of present who announced the message; and **Angel** longed and desired to know it and used to magnify the message at times.
- b) Prophets made **careful search "seek out"** to understand, in order to declare it with great care.... They were **more than** passive instrument through whom the Spirit used to deliver this message... they also intensely searched it out.
- c) It tells us that the prophet's life was full of deep thoughts as he was lead to declared God's word to people.