



Hebrews 11:13–16 (ESV)

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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 for them a city.

What if the deepest problem in our life is not that we have too little faith— **but that you have become too comfortable in the wrong home?**

We spend so much of life trying to make earth feel permanent.

We build. We accumulate. We protect. We plan.
And none of that is wrong.

But Hebrews 11 introduces us to people who lived faithfully in the present **without ever confusing the present with their final destination.**

Their faith did more than help them endure.
Their faith changed what they called home.

Hebrews says they saw the promises **“afar off.”**

They could not touch them yet.
They did not fully possess them yet.

But they had seen enough to become convinced that what God had prepared was greater than what surrounded them.

Hebrews 11:10 says Abraham:

“looked for a city which hath foundations,
whose builder and maker is God.”

Abraham lived in tents.

And I love the contrast.

A tent has stakes.

A city has foundations.

Stakes are temporary.

Foundations are permanent.

Could it be, one of our problems **is that we keep driving our stakes deeper into something God told us was temporary.**

We spend our lives trying to make
the tent feel like the city.

But faith keeps whispering:

Don't mistake the tent for the city. Enjoy what God
has given you.

Build. Dream. Raise your family.
Do meaningful work.

But remember— **this is still the tent.**

There is a city coming. There is a better country.

THE BIBLE BEGINS WITH HOME

And that longing for home began long before Abraham. **It began in Eden.**

God created a garden full of beauty, life, provision, and peace. But the greatest thing about Eden was not the garden. **God was there.** (Don't get so enamored with the **creation** that you forget the **creator**).

Before Scripture ever speaks of streets of gold or gates of pearl, paradise is defined by one simple reality:

God and man together.

That is home.

Then sin enters.

Adam and Eve are driven out.

Genesis 3:24 says cherubim guarded the way to the tree of life. Humanity lost access.

And from that moment forward, Scripture becomes the story of God bringing humanity **back into His presence.**

Maybe that is why nothing here completely satisfies.
Why even our best moments feel temporary.
Why every goodbye hurts.
Why death feels so offensive to the human soul.

Something in us knows:

We were made for more than this.

We were made for God.

WATCH THE CHERUBIM

And this is where the biblical imagery becomes beautiful. **Cherubim guard Eden.**

Then centuries later, God tells Moses to build the Tabernacle. Inside is the Holy of Holies.

And what is embroidered on the veil?

Cherubim.

Once again, behind the cherubim is the presence of God. **God is near.**

But there is still a barrier. Still separation. Still restricted access. **The veil stood between the presence and the person.**

Only the high priest could enter. Only once a year. And only with blood. That veil silently preached:

Home is close—but we are not home yet.

THEN JESUS DIES - Calvary.

Matthew 27 says Jesus gives up the ghost, and: “the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.”

The veil marked with cherubim— **opens.**

Hebrews 10 says we now enter: “by a new and living way... through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.”

Calvary was not merely forgiveness and atonement for the remainder of your life here on earth...

Calvary was God reopening the way home.

The gospel is reconciliation.

God bringing humanity back into His presence.

That is why His presence feels like home to the believer.

When worship becomes deep... when prayer becomes real... when the Spirit of God fills a room...

Something in the soul recognizes:

This is what I was made for.

THEN READ THE END OF THE BIBLE

Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22 gives us a river.

The tree of life. The throne of God.

What heals the nations? Not politics. Not Income class. Not race. It is focusing on the only unifying agent in existence appointed by the Lord from the foundations of the earth.

1 Peter 1:19-20 (ESV)

... But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times **for the sake of you**

**We heal by the blood. We unite by the blood.
We live in faith by the blood. We aim for heaven
through the blood.**

Getting our eyes off of the atoning work of Jesus Christ only perpetuates the lost nature that is found in a broken human system.

Eyes on Jesus, Eyes on His Kingdom, Yearning for Heaven = HEALING FOR THE NATIONS.

And then says:
“there shall be no more curse.”

Do you see it?

Genesis begins with: God. Man. A river. The tree of life. **Then sin separates them.**

Revelation ends with:

God.

Man.

A river.

The tree of life.

And this time— no curse.

The Bible begins with paradise lost. The Bible ends with paradise restored. But even greater than Eden.

Because Eden could be lost.

The final kingdom cannot.

No second fall. No serpent. No grave. No goodbye. No body failing. No paradise slipping away.

Home is finally secure. And suddenly Hebrews 11 makes sense. No wonder they desired a better country. They had seen where the story was going.

ETERNITY CHANGES THE SCALE

When placed in perspective - things we fretted about start being baptized in faith. Things that once bent us out of shape are yielded to the reality of a better day coming.

Why? **NOTHING** is worth getting between me and my view of the Kingdom.

This is where heaven begins building faith in us now.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:18: “the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

That means:

Visible does not mean permanent.

The **sickness** is visible. But temporary.

The **disappointment** is visible. But temporary.

The **pressure** is visible. But temporary.

The grave is visible.

But even the grave is temporary.

Faith does not deny reality.

Faith simply refuses to let temporary reality speak permanent conclusions.

The promise is eternal.

The Kingdom is eternal.

The presence of God is eternal.

Jesus is eternal.

So Church— don't let one bad season define the whole story.

Don't let one grave convince you death has won.
Don't let one disappointment become your theology.
Don't let what is temporary tell you what is eternal.

WE ARE WALKING HOME

Hebrews calls us strangers and pilgrims.
That does not mean we stop living.
It means we live with perspective.

We build, but we don't worship what we build.
We enjoy, but we don't cling.

We love deeply, but we know this world is not the final chapter.

Abraham saw it afar off. Paul measured suffering against it. John saw it coming down. Jesus opened the way into it.

And the Church has carried the same confession ever since: **There is a better country.**

The more you know Jesus, the harder it becomes to believe that this broken world is all He has prepared.

The more you experience His presence, the more you begin longing for the day when His presence is no longer something you enter and leave.

And one day— the tent will be folded.

Faith will become sight. The veil will never return. The curse will be gone. The tree of life will stand before us. The river of life will flow.

And we will enter the country our souls have been longing for since Eden.

A better country.

But when we get there, I don't think our first thought will be:

Look at the streets.

Or:

Look at the gates.

Or even:

Look at the city.

Because after all the years of praying to Someone we could not see...

worshiping Someone we could not see...

trusting Someone we could not see...

following Someone we could not see...

there will come a moment when we lift our eyes—

and **faith will no longer be necessary.**

And I believe every other wonder of eternity will become secondary to one overwhelming realization:

There... He... is...