

SEEKING A BETTER COUNTRY AND NOT TURNING BACK

(Heb 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. (Heb 11:9 KJV) By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: (Heb 11:10 KJV) For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

(Heb 11:14 KJV) For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. (Heb 11:15 KJV) And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

1. THERE IS A BETTER COUNTRY.

1. ***A better ministry based upon a better covenant.*** (Heb 8:6 NIV) But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.
2. ***The prize of the high calling (Obtaining to the power of the resurrection.*** (Phil 3:11 KJV) If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (Phil 3:12 KJV) Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13 KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (Phil 3:14 KJV) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
3. ***The more excellent way.***
 1. **Apollos instructed by Aquila and Priscilla.** (Acts 18:24 KJV) And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. (Acts 18:25 KJV) This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. (Acts 18:26 KJV) And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
 2. **The Holy Spirit Baptism.** (Acts 19:2 KJV) He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. (Acts 19:3 KJV) And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. (Acts 19:4 KJV) Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:5 KJV) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:6 KJV) And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
4. ***Deeper depths; higher heights.***
 1. **The knowledge of God.**
 1. *His nature.*
 - (1) Who is He?
 - (2) What is He like?
 - (3) What are his attributes?
 2. *His power.*
 - (1) What does He do?
 - (2) How does He do it?
 - (3) Manifestation or demonstration.
 3. *His will.*

2. Our relationship with God.
 1. *Should be closer; more intimate.*
 2. *A greater sense of His abiding presence.*
 3. *Higher dimension of worship.*

2. OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN FROM WHENCE WE CAME.

1. ***Abraham sought for a city which had foundations built by God.***
2. ***Had he been mindful of the country from whence he came, he could have had plenty of opportunities to turn back.***
3. ***Mindful.***
 1. Thoughts still there; still dwelling on the past.
 2. Affections still there.
 3. Going back is still an option.
 4. Walking toward the promise land with your heart still back in Egypt. (Exo 16:3 KJV) And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.
 1. *Eventually, you will go back there if you get half a chance.*
 2. *If things aren't going well where you are you'll seek to fall back on option of going back from whence you came.*
4. ***The country from which they came.***
 1. Abraham.
 1. Ur of the Chaldees.
 2. Represented religion.
 2. Children of Israel.
 1. Egypt.
 2. Represented the world.
 3. Each of these represent the old life.
5. ***There will always be plenty of opportunities to turn back.***

3. WHAT DID THE OLD COUNTRY REPRESENT?

1. ***Familiar surroundings.***
 1. Old friends.
 2. Know what to expect--few uncertainties.
 3. What you are accustomed to; what you have always done all your life.
 4. Traditional.
2. ***Comfort Zone.***
 1. ALeave me alone; I'm comfortable where I am.@
 1. Reason don't grow.
 2. Reason remain in bondage.
 2. ADon't rock the boat.@
 3. Easier to conform than to be different; be on the cutting edge of what God is doing and saying.
 4. No exertion of special effort.
 1. No real exertion of mental or spiritual energy.

2. Compromise--give in to demands--easier to not resist. Resistance takes special effort.
 3. No special effort to not take risks.
3. **Security.**
1. AIt may not be much, but I know its there. @
 2. There is security in drinking from the bottle or being spoon-fed, but have to grow up someday. (Heb 5:12 NIV) In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!
 3. Security in being waited on hand and foot; have to stand on own two feet one day.
4. **Bondage.**
1. Children of Israel would rather have been in Egyptian bondage than to have been brought out into the desert to die.
 2. Some don=t seem to think they can make it on the outside.
4. ABRAHAM LOOKED FOR A CITY.
1. ***Would have been easy to have found a city with just buildings.***
 2. ***Looked for a city built by God.***
 1. Built upon a foundation which was made by God.
 2. A city where God was the ruler; Jesus was Lord.
 3. A city where Jesus was the light.
 4. Looked for that which brought honor and glory to God.
 5. He looked for something spiritual.
 3. ***What did this city represent?***
 1. The presence of God.
 2. The righteousness and the holiness of God.
 3. Joy, peace, happiness, contentment, wholeness.
5. IT TAKES FAITH TO BREAK LOOSE AND LAUNCH INTO A NEW DIMENSION.
1. ***For Abraham it meant breaking from everything that was important to him.***
 1. Cultural center of the world.
 2. His father=s religion (idol worship).
 3. Worldly prosperity and security.
 4. Even his own family.
 2. ***For children of Israel:***
 1. The place where they were born and reared.
 2. It took faith for them to believe that Israel was where their future was.
 3. ***For those who come out of the world.***
 1. Old friends.
 2. Those things which are substitutes for the real thing.
 1. Pleasure.
 2. False security of dependency agents (drugs, alcohol, etc.).

6. LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP.

1. ***Let down your nets.*** (Luke 5:4 KJV) Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. (Luke 5:5 KJV) And Simon answering said unto him,
 1. Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: (We=ve always done it this way).
 2. nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. (We=re at least willing to try something different).
2. ***Waters to swim in.*** (Ezek 47:3 KJV) And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. (Ezek 47:4 KJV) Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. (Ezek 47:5 KJV) Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.
3. ***Step into the water.*** (John 5:1 KJV) After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. (John 5:2 KJV) Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. (John 5:3 KJV) In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. (John 5:4 KJV) For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. (John 5:5 KJV) And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. (John 5:6 KJV) When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? (John 5:7 KJV) The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. (John 5:8 KJV) Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. (John 5:9 KJV) And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.