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The Trust of The Gospel

Elder Keith Ellis

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

Some of God's people struggle grasping the nature of God's kingdom. Many have been taught that it will not even manifest itself until a millennial reign is setup on the earth, which is to begin at the end. They have a desire for an earthly rule and reign of Jesus with an address in old Jerusalem at some point after the resurrection.

Personally I have always thought this to be a diversion from the reality that Jesus is ruling and reigning now, in the hearts and minds of His people (for the kingdom of God is within us). Even though it is admirable to desire to rule and reign with Jesus in a physical millennial kingdom on the earth, I trust that the next stage we can expect is something far better than an extended existence on earth.

I cant speak for you, but I do not have a desire to continue on the earth. My hope and expectation is for the next phase of the kingdom to be in heaven, in the very presence of God. I do not see this world as my home, but feel to be a poor wayfaring stranger and pilgrim just passing through.

Paul speaks to this issue in the book of Hebrews regarding our ancestors and what their hope and expectation were. We read about them here.

Heb 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

You see friends, God has prepared for us a city. Not the old Jerusalem, but the new Jerusalem in heaven. The old Jerusalem served its purpose as a type of that which is to come. There is something far better awaiting God's people. Embrace it and

seek it friends. We desire something better, and what could be better than being in the fullness of God's presence in heaven itself.

Go ahead if you wish and lower your expectations to spend more time on the earth. But I look for something better. A heavenly country. Perhaps you should too.

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

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