

# A City Which Hath Foundations, Whose Builder and Maker Is God

**Intro:** In the great chapter on faith the writer first informs that faith is based upon proper evidence (Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is **the substance** of things hoped for, **the evidence** of things not seen.”), so we have a proper understanding (Heb. 11:3 “Through faith **we understand** that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”) The proper evidence is based upon revelation from God and involves trusting Him (Heb. 11:7-8 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, **prepared an ark** to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. <sup>8</sup>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.”) We also see that this is great word is an action word in that they obeyed (Noah prepared an ark, Abraham went out, etc.) We observe that this faith discriminates (Heb. 11:25 “**Choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”). We are also given the motive for having faith (Heb. 11:10, 13-16 “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God... <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. <sup>15</sup>And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. <sup>16</sup>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.”) Verse 10 will serve as a basis for our study.

## I. MAN’S DUTY.

### A. Man looks.

1. “Looked” is from the Greek word ἐκδέχομαι (*ekdechomai*) meaning expect or wait for.
2. Man expects that city based on man’s faith and God’s promises.

### B. Man obedience.

1. This statement was made about Abraham.
  - a. God called him to go to a land He would show him.
  - b. Abraham obeyed.
    - (1) Heb. 11:8 “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.”
    - (2) We must obey to enter God’s city.
      - (a) Based upon our faith which comes through hearing God’s Word:
        - (i) Rom. 10:17 “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
        - (ii) Heb. 11:6 “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
      - (b) We must repent of our sins; Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
      - (c) We must confess our faith in Christ; Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
      - (d) We are immersed in water for entrance into that city.
        - (i) Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

- (ii) 1 Cor. 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”
    - a) The body is the church; Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.”
    - b) The church is that city built by God; Heb. 12:22-23 “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,<sup>23</sup>To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,”
2. Abraham lived as a stranger in a strange land.
- a. Heb. 11:9, 13 “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:...<sup>13</sup>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.”
  - b. We live as strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
    - (1) 1 Pet. 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”
    - (2) Phi. 1:27 “Only let your conversation [manner of life—ASV; conduct—NKJV] be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”
      - (a) *Conversation* means “to be or behave as a citizen.”
      - (b) Phi. 3:20 “For our conversation [citizenship—ASV, NKJV] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:”
    - (3) We are different from the world.
      - (a) Tit. 1:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
      - (b) 1 Pet. 4:4 “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*:”
      - (c) We have different attitudes and actions.
        - (i) 2 Pet. 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
        - (ii) Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
      - (d) Our goal’s are different.
        - (i) Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.”
        - (ii) Phi. 3:13-14 “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, <sup>14</sup>I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
        - (iii) Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

### C. God's promises.

1. God is faithful to what He says.
  - a. Tit. 1:2-3 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; <sup>3</sup>But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;"
  - b. Heb. 6:17-19 "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: <sup>18</sup>That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: <sup>19</sup>Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;"
2. To those obedient—life, salvation
  - a. Heb. 5:9 "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
  - b. Rom. 6:17-18 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. <sup>18</sup>Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."
  - c. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
  - d. Rev. 22:14 "Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

## II. GOD BUILT A CITY.

### A. Prophesied.

1. Psa. 48:8 "As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah."
2. Isa. 52:1 "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean."

### B. Fulfilled.

1. Heb. 12:22 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,"
2. Rev. 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name."
3. Rev. 21:2 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."
4. Rev. 21:10-11 "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;"
5. Rev. 22:19 "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book."

### C. That city includes the church.

1. Heb. 12:22-23 "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup>To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"
2. Rev. 21:2 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Cf. the bride is the church; Eph. 5; Rom. 7:4 "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.")

3. The Father sent His Son into the world to build the church.
  - a. Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”
  - b. Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
4. That church is a glorious city.
  - a. Eph. 5:26-27 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,<sup>27</sup> That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
  - b. 2 Cor. 11:2 “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.”
  - c. With Christ as its King.

#### D. That city includes heaven.

1. Heb. 13:14 “For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”
2. 1 Pet. 1:3-4 “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”
  - a. Incorruptible
    - (1) It is not subject to decay, will not be brought to a worse state.
    - (2) Mat. 6:19-20 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup>But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
    - (3) 1 Cor. 15:52-57 “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup>O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - b. Undefiled
    - (1) It is free from all contamination or pollution.
    - (2) It is free from all sin, and no sin can enter into heaven.
  - c. Fadeth not away
    - (1) Used to describe a flower which will never lose its beauty or aroma.
    - (2) Heaven is everlasting, never losing its beauty.
  - d. Reserved in heaven
    - (1) It is kept in heaven, not something that we now possess.
    - (2) This is the ultimate glory
      - (a) Rom. 2:7, 10 “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:... <sup>10</sup>But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:”
      - (b) Rom. 8:18 “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Conclusion: What a wondrous city we can look for. If we are obedient we can enter into that city, the church and finally enter into that heavenly realm to eternally live with God.