

An Eye for the City with Foundations

Hebrews 11:10

"For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

This verse is in relation to Abraham and how he could (1). Dwell in a strange and hostile land as one who is passing through, (2). Trust that God had an eternal purpose for him. The kingdom of God is compared to a city, and Abraham lived with a sense of God's reign; the kingdom of God is in the heart (Luke 17:21). *"If you have been raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth**"* (Colossians 3:1-5).

In AD 814, just before his death, the Roman emperor Charlemagne asked to be entombed sitting upright on his throne. He asked that his crown be placed on his head and his scepter in his hand. He requested that the royal cape be draped around his shoulders and an open book be placed in his lap. Nearly two hundred years later, Emperor Othello determined to see if the burial request had been carried out. He sent a team of men to open the tomb and make a report. They found the body just as Charlemagne had requested. Only now, nearly two centuries later, the scene was gruesome. The crown was tilted, the mantle moth-eaten, the body disfigured. But open on the skeletal thighs was the Bible. One bony finger pointed to Matt. 16:26: *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?*

C.S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

I. Our final destination is a city of fellowship – *"For he was looking for a city ..."*

When the Bible gives information about heaven it does so under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

A. Heaven is compared to a city because it is a place of **connection**.

One of man's great needs is the need to connect; to be loved for who one is, not what one does. Heaven is a place where the connection with others is based upon the everlasting love of God.

B. Heaven is compared to a city because it is a place of **confidence**.

When the authors of Scripture spoke of cities, they understood them to be "walled cities." The cities of today may be places of crime in need of protection, but the ancient cities were secure.

C. Heaven is compared to a city because it is a place of **comfort**.

No more sorrow. No more pain. No more disease. No more death. No more stress. No more sin.

II. Our final destination is a city with foundations – *"a city with foundations ..."*

That is, it is something that is abiding. No more tents. No more moving. No more unknown future. Those things that you take there should be what you work for here. *"Seek first the kingdom of God."* Get heaven into your heart here and now or you will not get your heart into heaven then and there. *"Heaven has foundations, earth has none. That's why things are said to be **on** earth, but **in** heaven"* John Trapp.

III. Our final destination is a city ever so fabulous—*"whose Architect and Builder is God"*

When you settle for a city with no foundations (this life on earth), and reject the city of foundations (His kingdom), then you will find this life empty ("the sound of fury signifying nothing" Shakespeare). This is real life works: The things you long for from life are only found by looking outside of this life. Does this sound like a riddle? *"Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it"* (Matthew 16:25). Keep your eye on the city with foundations and live!