

Aliens Among Us

I Peter 1:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

ILLUSTRATION:

I searched the internet this week looking for people who believed that there were "Aliens Living Among Us". I was not surprised to find that there were many articles that confirmed this belief. Nor was it surprising that the articles differed greatly concerning what they looked like, how many exist, how long they have been here, and where they live.

One believer is Paul Hellyer, who is a former defense minister of Canada, he stated, and I quote, "some of them look just like us and they could walk down the street and you wouldn't know if you walked past one".

Some believe that there may be hundreds of thousands of them living right here in the United States, both male and female, and they have been inhabiting earth for thousands of years. They claim that they are everywhere. They could be living next door to you; many of them are probably working in the same offices, on the same construction sites, and in the same factories as regular human beings. In many cases they are almost indistinguishable from regular humans. Some believe that it is their mission to overrun and eventually control the world. Others believe that they mean no harm and are just trying to keep us from destroying the earth.

Now, I don't know about you, but I found this idea of "Aliens Among Us" to be really fascinating. And, do you know why? Because I believe that it is 100% true. I personally believe that there **are** aliens living among us. I believe that this planet has been invaded. In fact, I believe that there are some sitting right here in this church, in these pews this morning. In fact, I would go so far as to say, that if there are not I would be greatly disappointed.

I can see the local newspaper headings now, "**Minister in Greenwood, MO Believes There are Aliens Living Among Us and Several of Them Attend His Church!**".

Now, before you come to the conclusion that I have gone completely insane, turn with me to 1 Peter 1:1-2. Starting this morning, we are going to begin a new sermon series. For the next few months, we will be looking at the books of I and II Peter.

All Stand and Read Scripture

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NASB)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the

sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Prayer

For the most part, the articles on the internet are referring to what **they** believe are extraterrestrial beings that have come to earth in a spaceship from another galaxy. But, the facts that I shared with you are true nonetheless. There really are aliens living all over the world. In fact, **WE are them!** Peter says very clearly that we are residing as aliens. Some of your Bibles may translate the word to be "Pilgrims" or "Strangers."

I am happy to report that I also saw a few sites on the internet that reported the Biblical perspective of aliens as well!

When Peter wrote these words, he was not referring to people who were living in a foreign land, but to people who do not belong **to** this earth. The Christians who were scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (which is now most of modern day Turkey) were legal residents of those regions, but (and this is the important distinction) their **true** citizenship was not of this earth. Truly our citizenship is in another world (the Kingdom of God) – and for that reason – in the truest sense of the word, we are aliens!

BODY:

I. The Father has Chosen Us.

As Peter opens his letter, let's take a quick look at **how we identify ourselves as "aliens."** First of all, we are not of this earth, because we were **chosen** for another world. Look at verse 1 and the first part of verse 2:

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NASB)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen**² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,

From the beginning of time, thinkers have puzzled over the paradox of **predestination** verses **free will**.

The Bible has extensive scriptures to support both positions.

So are we to conclude that this is a conflict in the scriptures?

No! The Bible does teach that God is sovereign, and that believers are predestined and elected by God to spend eternity with Him.

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Revelation 13:8 (NASB)

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written **from the foundation of the world** in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

If you were to just read these two verses in the Bible, you would, no doubt, feel that there was NOTHING that you could do to reverse your predestined fate. We are either chosen or we are not!

BUT, the doctrine of limited atonement, that Jesus did **not** die for the sins of the whole world, is clearly contrary to biblical teaching. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus died for everyone's sins and that everyone is able to be saved if they will place their faith in Christ.

John 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Limited atonement is not a Biblical teaching. God sent His Son into the world so that the **world** through Him might be saved.

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:4 (NASB)

God **desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

SO, the scriptures are clear that God wishes everyone would accept His Son.

When Peter was asked on the day of Pentecost what one must do to be saved, Peter tied both doctrines together.

Acts 2:38-41 (NASB)

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, **as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.**" ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on **exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"** ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

The 3000 converts were called by God and all had the free will to seek salvation or reject it.

Also the scriptures tell us that God is a righteous judge.

1 John 4:14-17 (NASB)

¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

How unloving and unjust would God be if before we were born, he predetermined the course we would take and then held us responsible for our actions! He does not do this, for "God is love," and "all His ways are just".

As I considered the predestination versus free choice dilemma for this message, a scripture came to mind.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB)

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Not everything has been fully revealed to us and OUR FEEBLE MINDS cannot understand God!

One of the biggest mistakes for anyone is ignoring parts of God's word in order to support our current understanding. It **IS** difficult for us to understand how God could know everyone who will be saved and already have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life and yet each of us have the free will to determine our destiny. But the scriptures say it is true and we have to accept that truth through faith!

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Do you know **why** we do not belong to this earth and **why** we are truly aliens? It is because our heavenly Father has chosen us for His kingdom.

I think it would be best to say it this way. God didn't choose **who** would be saved and **who** would be condemned. Instead, God chose the instrument of our salvation – knowing that there would be those who would choose to accept Christ and those who would choose to reject Him.

Jesus told a parable illustrating this:

Luke 14:16-24 (NASB)

"A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; ¹⁷ and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' ¹⁹ Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' ²⁰ Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' ²¹ And the slave came *back* and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring

in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’²² And the slave said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’²³ And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel *them* to come in, so that my house may be filled.’²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’”

You see, God has given all of us an invitation. In a very real way, we have all been chosen. But, only those who are willing to accept the invitation are truly His children.

We are not of this earth, first because we have been chosen by God the Father and second, because we have responded to His invitation and have been cleansed by the blood of the Son.

II. The Son has Washed Us.

Hebrews 9:22 (NASB)

²² And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Throughout history, the blood of lambs and goats was used to cover our sins. God accepted sacrifices on our behalf – looking forward to the perfect sacrifice. That day came when Jesus Christ – God’s only begotten Son – offered his perfect life as a sacrifice for our sins.

Now, think about that for a minute. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life – without sin. He is the only person ever to do so. He “earned” all claims to heaven. He is the only person to ever “earn” eternal life. And then, He took his perfect life, and accepted death on our behalf. He didn’t have to die, he chose to. He didn’t have to go to the Cross – He chose to. He didn’t have to offer His blood as a payment for our sins, He chose to.

Today, our obligation is not to offer sacrifices for our sins. We no longer have to offer the blood of lambs and goats. Our obligation is to accept the invitation of the Father to apply the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf.

It is like an invitation to a party, only it is written in blood – the blood of Jesus Christ. You didn’t do anything to deserve the invitation, it is offered out of the **grace and mercy** of a loving Father. In fact, you couldn’t do anything to deserve it. All you can do is accept it or reject it.

The third reason we are not of this earth is because we have been set apart by the Holy Spirit.

III. The Spirit has Sanctified Us.

Listen again to the words of I Peter:

1 Peter 1:1-2 (NASB)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as **aliens**, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **by the sanctifying work of the Spirit**, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood:

Notice the phrase: “by the sanctifying work of the Spirit.”

These are very important words for the believer. The word “sanctify” means to “be made holy.” When a person accepts the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment for their sins, something really special happens. At that very moment, that man or woman becomes a child of God and God sends the Holy Spirit to them as a seal of their relationship.

At that very moment, the Holy Spirit entered into your life and set you apart for the Father. In that instant, in that twinkling of an eye, you became Holy. At that very moment, you became a citizen of heaven.

You see, it is the Holy Spirit that helps you live your life as an alien. He is the one who sets you apart, who tells you when you are stepping out of line with the will of the Father.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

That makes you an **alien** in this world. You see, you do not belong to this world, you belong to God.

CONCLUSION:

Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

From the very beginnings of time, God has chosen you to be His child. He did so by choosing to allow Jesus Christ to die on your behalf. He did so by inviting you to accept His sacrifice so that you could become a child of God.

Perhaps, you have never accepted that invitation. Perhaps, you didn't even know you were invited. Well, you are. God's desire is that none would perish, but that all would come to the knowledge of salvation. This morning, I would offer the invitation.

By accepting it, you are saying; “I realize that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I cannot offer myself to the Father as a perfect sinless person, therefore, I accept the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on my behalf.” When you do, God washes away your sins with the blood of Jesus Christ.

If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, why not do it today?

God Be with You till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet...Till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet...Till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.