

*THE KINGDOM OF  
GOD*

**Augustine of Hippo :**

***As Christians, our primary allegiance is to the heavenly city, not to the earthly city in which we live. In the earthly city, we are pilgrims never fully at home, because our ultimate destination is the heavenly city. We ought not to expect to find ourselves at home in this age, nor ought we expect the earthly city of which we are a part to embody our love of God. Our hope cannot lie in the earthly city but in Christ alone. Because of this hope, we no longer need to cling to the present age, its institutions, and its blessing as do those who only know citizenship in the earthly city. We can live through complex turmoil without anxiety, trusting that God's redemptive work is bigger than a particular politic arrangement. Christians are to follow the laws, customs and institutions of the earthly societies in which they find themselves-provided that those laws , customs and institutions do not hinder their worship of God. Ensuring the success of one particular nation is not incumbent upon us as Christians. Nations may come and go, but our citizenship in the heavenly city remains.***

## **Hebrews 11:13-16.**

**13** These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

### 3 Kingdom Truths

The Kingdom of God is very different than the kingdoms of men. (Hebrews 11:16, Matthew 6:33, John 18:36)

Followers of the King become exiles and sojourners. (Hebrews 11, 11:13)

Followers of the King are seeking a homeland (Hebrews 11:14, 13:14), where their citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

## Followers of the King become exiles and sojourners.

(Hebrews 11, 11:13)

- **Hebrews 11:13** having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
  - Acknowledge = Declare, Confess
- **Hebrews 11:14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a **homeland**
  - Seeking = craving
  - Homeland = foundation (somewhere permanent)
  - Made it clear by....
    - V.14 Speaking differently
    - V.15 Thinking differently
    - V.16 Having different desires

**The Kingdom of God is very different than the kingdoms of men.  
(Hebrews 11:16, Matthew 6:33, John 18:36)**

- **The kingdom of God has different policies than the kingdoms of men**
  - Time
  - Relationships
  - Success
    - **Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.**

**Daniel preferred to die a citizen of the kingdom of God as opposed to being alive as a citizen of the world.**

**Followers of the King are seeking a homeland (Hebrews 11:14, 13:14), where their citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).**

- **Choosing God as our king means we....**
  - **Look to him for salvation**
  - **Spend the majority of our time thinking about his policies**
  - **Spend the majority of our time talking about his kingdom, his country**
  - **Worship him and him only**
- **Result of crowning God as our king (Hebrews 11:16)**
  - **Approval by God (not ashamed to be called their God)**
  - **An eternal city, prepared by an eternal king who is like no other the world has ever known**