

Welcoming the Promise from a Distance

(June 28, 2026, Glen G. Scorgie)

Scripture Readings: Heb 11:8-16

SERMON SUMMARY

Against the backdrop of a troubled and uncertain world, this sermon explores the perennial challenge of living by faith—that is, of keeping our focus on a promised future that is still off in the distance and not yet a reality. From the extended list in Hebrews 11 (the faith chapter) of those who have lived by faith, we focus on Abraham as an inspiring example of those who look beyond the fragile securities of this life to the better and more firmly founded home that God has promised for those who are in Christ. Like Abraham, we will be wise not to become excessively attached to anything in the here and now, but instead to renew our commitment to live as foreigners and strangers in this present time and place. Like the many earlier heroes of the faith, we too must welcome from a distance the better place we have been promised and of which we have been assured—our true and enduring home.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. Read slowly through Hebrews 11:8-16, the biblical text for this past week's sermon again. What stands out most to you as you reflect on it?
2. What was your main personal takeaway from the message this past Sunday?
3. Philippians 3:20 reminds us that as Christians "our citizenship is in heaven." How will we approach life any differently if we believe this and take it seriously?
4. What difference will it make if we think of ourselves as "foreigners" and "strangers" on this earth? Can you suggest any specific examples?
5. Some people worry that we can be so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good. C. S. Lewis argued the opposite. He wrote: "If you ready history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this." Are you inclined to agree or disagree with C. S. Lewis, and if so, why?
6. Abram's wife Sarah was confident that God would keep his promises to her because "she considered him faithful who had made the promise" (Heb 11:11). What profound truth do we find embedded in this statement?
7. What most appeals to you about "the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" that we read about (Heb 11:10)?
8. The Bible tells us that we are all "dual citizens" now. How can God's promise of a future heavenly homeland calm our anxious thoughts and worries at this present moment in history?