

THE SCATTERED STRANGERS

I Peter 1:1

Introduction:

- A. We have studied something of the character of Simon Peter, the author.
 - 1. A saved man.
 - 2. A baptized man.
 - 3. A called man. "fisher of men."
 - 4. An honored man. "Peter, an apostle."
 - 5. A bragging man, a boastful man.
 - 6. A quitter who took some with him.
 - 7. A repentant man.
 - 8. A forgiven man.

- b. The recipients of the letter.
 - 1. "scattered strangers."
 - 2. The specific countries - large area.
 - 3. Some believe them to be Jews.
 - 4. Some believe them to be Gentiles.
 - 5. I believe they are Christians, whether Jews or Gentiles. I Peter 2:11-12.

I . STRANGERS

- A. strangers = a by-resident, so-journer among a people not one's own.
 - 1. The Jews were strangers in Egypt.
 - a. Exodus 23:9.
"Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger; for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."
 - b. heart = soul.
 - 2. Listen to meaning of stranger.
 - 3. Israel among Egyptians.

- B. How were the Israelites different?
 - 1. They had a different food.

2. They spoke a different language.
 3. They had different laws.
 4. They had different values.
 5. They looked for a different deliverance.
- C. People of faith have always been strangers.
1. Heb. 11:13-16,
 2. They could have quit and gone home. vs. 15.
 3. They desired something better. "therefore." vs 16.
- D. The Jews knew they did not own the land and thus were strangers.
1. Lev. 25:23- "The land shall not be sold forever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me."
 2. This was the land of their inheritance, they should view their stay as temporary!
- E. Jesus was not a stranger. Matt. 17:24-27.
1. He was a King, He created this earth.
 2. He will come back to His own.
- F. Jesus said we would be strangers.
1. Matt. 25:34-46.
- G. Jesus, a stranger to His disciples. Luke 24:13-18.
1. vs. 16 New English Bible = "but something held their eyes from seeing who it was."
 2. We do not know what this "something" was.
 3. Rev. 3:18. Laodicean = "anoint thine eyes with eyesalves, that thou mayest see."
 4. The stranger who glorified God.
 - a. Luke 17:11-19.
 - b. vs. 18.

A. diaspora = dispersion = a sowing hither and thither, a scattering as of seed.

1. The Jews knew full well what Peter meant.
2. Lev. 26:11-46. (vs. 33) "and I will scatter you among the heathen."
3. Jeremiah 31:10 "Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth a flock."

B. Jesus saw Israel as scattered Sheep.

1. Matt. 9:36-38.
2. Why? Why the dread of being chosen?
3. Would you want me to pray that your son would be a preacher or daughter marry one?

C. Jesus saw the disciples scattered.

1. John 16:32.
2. "every man to his own home."
3. When Jesus wanted them to stand, they wouldn't, when He wanted them to scatter, they stayed.

D. The church was commanded to scatter.

1. Acts 1:8.

"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

2. If everyone had done God's will, would there have been problems in the Jerusalem church?
 - a. Acts 6:1.
3. God had a contingency plan!

E. The church was scattered.

1. Acts 8:1-4.
2. "Preaching" = vs. 4 = to bring a joyful message, to proclaim something to somebody as a glad message of salvation.

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3. We live in an age that despises preaching and preachers.
4. The church is not a Spiritual Country Club but a staging area for invading the world!
 - a. England before D-day.

F. Did this scattering work?

1. Acts 11:19-21.
2. God's way always works. He is not a fool.

I I I . G O D ' S P E O P L E A R E T O S C A T T E R A N D G A T H E R .

A. Scatter = let God sow us as seed in this area and in all the world.

1. Why shouldn't preachers leave this area and go to spiritually destitute areas?
2. Too many come and stay.

B. The purpose of scattering is to gather.

1. Luke 11:23.
2. Matt. 12:30.

