

Strangers for Now

And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land. ~Exodus 2:22

The life of Moses is one of the longest biographies in the Bible and gives us much detail from his birth to his death. He was born in Egypt during a time when the Hebrew people were subject to hard bondage. Through divine circumstances, Moses finds himself adopted into Pharaoh's household. After learning of his Hebrew heritage and identifying with his Hebrew brethren, he defends one of his fellow Hebrews against an Egyptian and eventually flees into the land of Midian. There Moses marries Zipporah, who gives birth to Gershom whose name means "stranger or foreigner." On their journey through the wilderness and after entering the Promised Land, the Israelites find themselves strangers amid all the varied cultures with which they came into contact.

Believers should be able to identify with this account of Moses because we are strangers to the world in which we live. Our earthly homes, possessions, and positions are all temporary and will be left behind when we enter God's eternal kingdom. As we seek to follow the Savior and incorporate His teachings into our lives, we will appear strange to many people. In 1Peter 1:3,4 we read: *For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.* Believers will often be excluded from conversations in the workplace, school, and family gatherings. The weekly church attendance that once was accepted practice decades ago has been replaced with carnal pleasure-seeking, indifference, and apathy. Going to church on a Sunday morning seems strange to the secular world, and to attend a Sunday evening service as well is incomprehensible to them. Christian beliefs often are contrary to the teachings of modern science, causing the world to stereotype believers as ignorant simpletons. Believing that our God created the world goes against the curriculums of contemporary education. Many of the foundational accounts in the Bible, such as the dividing of the Red Sea, Daniel in the lion's den, Jonah and the whale, and a host of other miracles, are either laughed at or rationalized away. The Christian belief that life begins in the womb is vilified by angry pro-abortion groups who justify the termination of the most innocent lives. God's children find themselves in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile against Christianity.

Every day as pilgrims in a foreign land, we must remind ourselves to be lights in this dark world. Our Lord clearly warned us that His kingdom is not of this world and until He returns to set up His kingdom, we will have tribulation here. We should be of good cheer because He who overcame this world will be our guide Who will lead us to our permanent heavenly home.

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