



Seasons of Change Devotionals

My Upside Down World

For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. 2 Corinthians 5:2

Do you feel like you've been transported to some lost planet where nothing looks or feels familiar? I had written in my journal: "Who am I? Where am I? Friends who used to amuse me, now I find irritating and annoying. My sleep patterns are totally out of synch with time. Is there time here? I have spatial confusion. I have a foot on the stairs and can't remember if I'm going up them or down."

Frequently I'd question where I'm driving to, and why. When I got there I would lose my car in the parking lot. (Okay, I still do that!) Lost, lost, everything lost.

Josiah, my son, identified with this alien feeling. He had stickers and shirt that said: "Alien." In fact the night he died he tore a page out of my Bible and highlighted the following verses: Hebrews 11:13-16

All died in faith without receiving the promises ... having confessed that they were strangers and aliens on the earth. Those who say such things make it clear they are seeking a country of their own ... they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

We inscribed this verse on his gravestone: "He was looking for a better country, a heavenly one." (Notice that those who are seeking a heavenly country, God is not ashamed of them!)

The journey of grief that psychology describes sounds so cut and dry: Denial – Anger – Bargaining – Depression – Acceptance. But in real grief it's all scrambled – inside, outside, upside, down side. Scrambled all the time.

The truth is, this world should not fit. Randy Alcorn, in his book *Heaven*, describes this world as: "an uncomfortable garment that never feels that it fits just right, and when we get to heaven, clothed in the righteousness of God we'll go 'Ah ... this fits just right!'"

Perhaps death just accentuates our irritability and un-comfortableness with this planet. Paul describes his body as a temporary dwelling place that will one day be torn down. Peter describes Christians as aliens and strangers, foreigners, pilgrim and sojourners in this world.

Can we use this "out of place" feeling to increase our faith and longing for a "better place" where our King reigns over the perfectly fitting kingdom?



DIGGING DEEPER or FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

The Israelites wandered around lost in the wilderness for 40 years. They ate a strange unfamiliar food: manna. The word "manna" actually means, "What is it?" They longed for the leeks and onions of Egypt.

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord! Deuteronomy 8:3

What was God's purpose in this? Are you learning to feed on the Word of the Lord? As you read, ask God to feed your soul with His heavenly manna, the Bread of Life.

How does Hebrews 11:37-40 describe some of the "aliens" in the Bible?

