

Is It Really?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Often when people talk about getting older and the problems that come with age, someone will say, "Well, it is better than the alternative." They're saying that it is better to live with the health problems that come with age than to leave this life. Thinking on this I have come to ask the question, "Is it really?"

We should all realize that except for those who will be living when Jesus comes back and will rise to meet him, all the rest of mankind will die a physical death. This is not something that many people like to think about, much less talk about, but it will happen. We will continue to live and be here in this life until the Lord calls us to come home. Except for the effect it will have on our families we shouldn't worry about leaving this world behind.

I have heard several elderly saints say that they were old, sick, tired, and wanted to go to be with the Lord. They believed in the promise of God that there was a better world waiting for them and a life where there would be no sickness, sorrow, death, or any pain. It makes all the difference to a person whether, or not, he believes in the words of God. Why would

anyone want to live in this sinful world with its corruption, pain, and grief, when there is a better life waiting for the child of God?

Paul desired to leave the world and the trials of this life behind and to see Jesus. He served the Lord and was going to continue as long as the Lord wanted him too, but he was weary of the persecution and the opposition that he had faced for so long. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." **Philippians 1:21-24**. This saint of God believed in the promise of God that there would be a rest for the faithful. It was his hope and comfort that after a life of faith in God and trusting in the grace of Christ Jesus that he would be at peace and rest in heaven.

Yes, we are here in this life and we are to live for the Lord until he is ready for us to come home. While this body of flesh gets weaker with age and disease, the body that the Lord will give to his saints will not get old, or sick, and will never die. "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself?" **Philippians 3:21**. I'm sure that none of us can imagine what it will be like to have

a body that will not weaken, age, and have the problems that our bodies of flesh have.

Those who hate the thought of leaving this world have not got the vision of heaven. There is no way to compare the glory of heaven with this fallen, dark, world. Here there is not a day that we don't hear of violence, corruption, greed, and all kinds of sin and suffering. In heaven there will be none of the sorrows of this world and no sin to tempt and destroy. Death and disease will not be there to bring hurt and grief as it does here in this life. God will wipe all tears from our eyes and there will be joy and peace for evermore. How can anyone think that existing here in this body of failing flesh could be better than going to be with the Lord?

Here people have different lives and various amounts of time in this life. Some are healthy and live well while others live with many problems. Often those who are wealthy look down with disdain on those who can't do as well. Remember the rich man and Lazarus? When the Lord takes his church to heaven and the faithful are home with him, all will live forever and all will be happy. No one will be poor, sick, or treated badly by anyone like they did on earth. Staying here is better than the alternative? I don't think so. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us," **Romans 8:18**.

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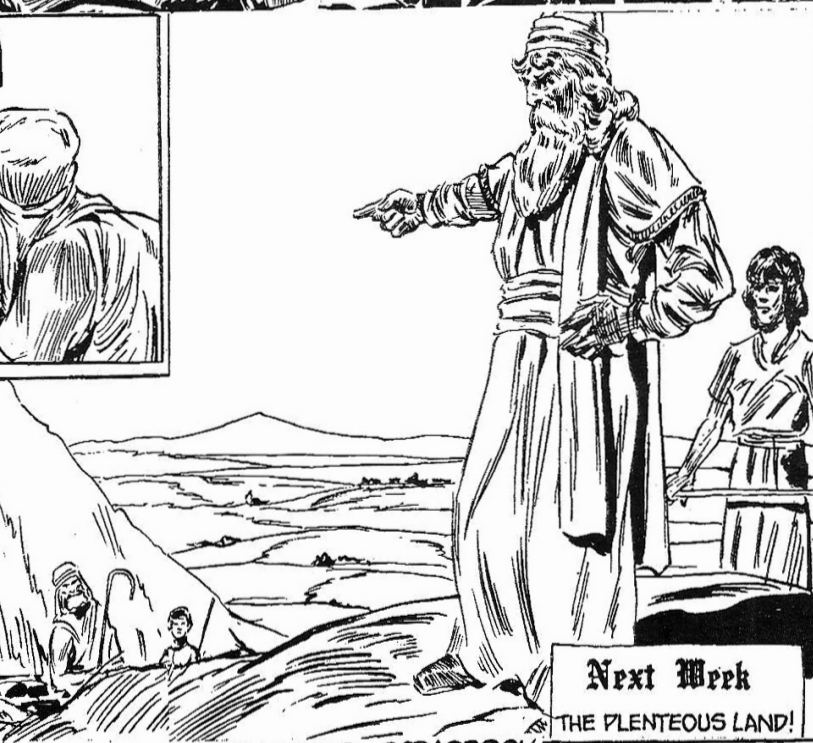
ABRAM IN EGYPT
WHEN THE LORD SPOKE TO ABRAM, TELLING HIM TO JOURNEY TO A FARTHER LAND, ABRAM TOOK WITH HIM ALL HIS SERVANTS, FLOCKS, SARAI HIS WIFE, AND LOT, HIS NEPHEW....



...HE HAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE LORD WILL GUIDE HIM, AND HIS FAITH IS STRONG....



...BUT SOON A FAMINE HITS THE COUNTRY--THERE IS LITTLE OR NO FOOD FOR MAN OR BEAST....



...IT IS SAID THAT IN THE LAND OF EGYPT THERE IS FOOD AND ENOUGH FOR ALL TO EAT! AND ABRAM, WITH HUGE FLOCKS, AND MANY OTHER ANIMALS, AND SERVANTS, MUST FIND A PLACE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THEM ALL--SO HE POINTS SOUTHWARD TO HIS HERDSMEN--THEY WILL ALL GO TO EGYPT!

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