

WEEK 3: "... IN THIS PLACE"  
Land & Exile

## I. Introduction

→ What does it mean to be a 'foreigner'? What associations do we have with 'foreigners'?  
What experiences have we had where we felt 'foreign'?

## II. "The Land" for the People of God – a Biblical Fly-over

### A. Genesis 1-3

1. The garden a gift for human beings for purposes of relationship with God.
2. Humans sinned → exile

### B. Genesis 12 & 15 – God's covenant to Abraham

1. God promises to make him a great nation, to bless him, to bless all nations through him; God promises an heir, descendants more numerous than all the stars in the sky, to give the land to him and his descendants as their possession/inheritance
2. Abraham is called to leave his land and go to a new land as a 'foreigner'

### C. Exodus – God calling his people to Sinai to worship him

1. Ex 19:5-6 – The context for bringing Israel into the land is relationship, God's gracious gift as the one who owns all things
2. Ex 23 – Describes how God will bring them to take "possession" (to inherit)

### D. Deuteronomy – Israel getting ready to enter the land (finally!)

1. The land is God's gift & the fulfillment of his promise to Abraham (Deut 1:5-8)
2. Their possession / inheritance of the land is conditional, even though it is also God's gracious gift to them (Deut 4:1)
3. They are to live in the land in such a way that their conduct points to God (Deut 4:5-8)
4. If they break covenant with the Lord (disobey), they will not be able to stay in the land. (Deut 4:25-31; Deut 28:38-63).
5. Part of living in the land was to show kindness to 'foreigners' (Deut 10:17-19)
6. The land was never meant to be ultimate (Deut 8:10-18)
7. The Temple was the primary place of worship in the land (Deut 12:1-4a)

### E. Exile – A Nation Scattered and Shattered

1. Not just about land, but about the loss of the Lord's presence with them
2. Ezek 47:21-23 e.g. – prophecies that the nations will come to share the "inheritance" previously thought to be just for Israel (Paul picks up on this in Gal 3-4)
3. "Diaspora" – the nations of Israel scattered outside of the land, a reality even when some enter back into the land. Peter draws on this consciousness with a twist...

### III. “Place” in 1 Peter – Grab Your Bibles!

For each of the passages below, discuss the following questions:

What echoes of Deuteronomy or other books in our “biblical flyover” do we hear in this passage (if any)? What “places” show up in these verses, and what significance does this place or places have for Peter?

1 Peter 1:1-2, 1 Peter 5:13

1 Peter 1:3-5

1 Peter 1:17

1 Peter 2:4-5

1 Peter 2:9-10

1 Peter 2:11-12

1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 3:22

→ What is Peter saying to his audience about land, place, and their identity as Christians?

### IV. Living as ‘Resident Aliens’ and Foreigners

*What might it look like for us to be “A People in This Place,” and how do we really do that?*