

# THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD



**(John 17: 16; Ephesians 2:6;  
Hebrews 11: 16; 13:14)**

If you belonged to the world, the world would treat you with affection and would love you as its own, but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you (John 15:19).

Called and chosen out of the world, the believer has an eternal heavenly passport. The moment that a person becomes a child of God by the new birth, or being born again, he/she receives the right to become a child of God. It is not a birth from flesh, but of the Spirit. YAHSHUA told Nicodemus, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (Jn. 1,3). This passport is signed, and sealed by and with the Holy Spirit. As a foreigner carries his passport as the proof of his citizenship somewhere else, the believer also carries his heavenly passport as the proof of his heavenly identity in this world. This Seal guarantees the believer his entrance into his heavenly country, as Paul confirms:

The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance, an anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it – to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:14). One sign of a true believer is the antagonist attitude the world displays against him/her. YAHSHUA said, Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account. Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great, for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matt. 5:11-12). In their persecution, the believers are sustained by the promise that the glory which will be revealed to them, will be greater than the sufferings he has endured in this world. In reference to the heroes and heroines of the faith, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews says, These people all died controlled and sustained by their faith, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of [God's] promises, only having seen it and greeted it from a great distance by faith, and all the while acknowledging and confessing that they were **strangers and temporary residents and exiles upon the earth...**they were yearning for and aspiring to a better and more desirable country, that is, a heavenly [one]. For that reason, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them (Heb. 11:13,16).

Another sign of a true believer is the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul says, For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. He is the Spirit of adoption which we cry, Abba Father! The Spirit Himself testifies together with our own spirit that we are children of God. And as children then we are heirs also; heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory (Rom. 8:14-18).

The Holy Spirit is the Seal on our heavenly passport. The new birth, YAHSHUA confirms that is what gives us the right to enter the kingdom of God; for it is the means of our adoption into the family of God. Therefore, the heavenly passport is issued at the moment when the Holy Spirit makes His abode in the believer. He then stamps our spirit with His stamp of approval and gives us an entrance to our new country. No one can take that away from us. YAHSHUA promised He was going to prepare a place in our heavenly country when He ascended to heaven. This heavenly citizenship should become a part of the believer's life until the end. It should compel him to yearn for heaven and to hate this world and its lifestyles. I am going to prepare a place for you, said YAHSHUA. He will not only do that but will come back to take us to Himself, for His desire has always been for the

believer to be where He is (John 14:1-3). When He prayed for us, His desire expressed to the Father was that we would be with Him where He is, so that we may see His glory (John 17: 24). John, in one of his epistles said, Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world- the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]- these do not come from the Father but are from the world (1 John 2:15-16).

The world has many entanglements to deviate the believer from his spiritual journey to his eternal home. One of the causes is when he focuses on the things of this world, allowing anxieties and worries to rob him of his joy. YAHSHUA left words of warning concerning anxieties and worries about life and redirected us to seek God and His kingdom first of all things for all our needs to be supplied. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, emphatically said, And He (YAHSHUA) raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Messiah YAHSHUA (Eph. 2:6). To think that we are spiritually positioned with YAHSHUA in the heavenly sphere right now is more than we can fathom. Christ in us, we in Him, that makes us all one in Him- our hope of glory. Why aren't we believers holding on to this position given us by our Lord YAHSHUA, when the Bible teaches us how to be victorious? Let us, it is an invitation to **strip** off all that entangles us and prevent us from running the course that leads us to our heavenly home, always **looking to** Him who is the author and finisher of our salvation, the only true God, YAHSHUA, Who purchased us with His own blood and has given us the right of a heavenly citizenship. He endured all while here on this earth, even the suffering and shame of being beaten to the point of shedding His blood and the pain of crucifixion. When He completed our redemption, then He sat at the right of the throne of God (Heb. 12). That's where He came from and where He returned to. We, believers, must remember that we do not have a permanent city here in this world, either. Our focus should be on our heavenly city to be able to be overcomers and endure all sufferings, following the example YAHSHUA our Lord and Savior left for us. If YAHSHUA positioned us seated with Him in the heavenly sphere, what are we doing worrying about the earthly things when it is not our home? What earthly things have held us prisoners and alienated from our heavenly destiny?

Many prodigal sons and daughters of God have been feeding themselves with the “carob pods” of the world. They have lowered themselves to eat with the hogs, because they lost focus of their heavenly citizenship and their position in their heavenly Father, just like in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The world entangled them with its temptations and held them prisoner to worries, anxieties. But God is merciful and willing to forgive and to restore them to Himself. All they need to do is to come to the realization of whom they are in Christ, abandon their way of life with repentance in their heart, and return to the heavenly Father. That’s the right way home, where God will be waiting to bless them with the abundance of His goodness in forgiveness, a white robe, which is His righteousness imputed on them, with a ring, which is the Holy Spirit seal stamped in their heavenly passport – their entrance to heaven. These are facts told by our Lord YAHSHUA in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The application of the parable is for today also, for our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. His arms are extended to receive all who come to Him. He wants to issue the heavenly passport to all who desire His gift of salvation and to adopt them into His family. Are you spiritually homeless, lost in hopelessness, finding yourself in a pig’s pen? There is a home and a hope beyond all that and God wants to give you both. Come to Him!