**A BETTER COUNTRY - A BETTER CITY**

**Hebrews 11:13-16**

[**13**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-11-13/)**These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** [**14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-11-14/)**For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.** [**15**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-11-15/)**And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.** [**16**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Hebrews-11-16/)**But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*The key verse is Hebrews 11:16.**

 **A. Notice it is a Country**

**1. My country here is a Troublesome Country, but not over there!**

**2. My country here is a Temporary Country, but not over there!**

 **B. Notice it is a City**

 **1. No other city has ever been so Beautiful!**

 **2. No other city has ever been so Blessed!**

**SONG: OH WHAT A CITY**

**There’s a city, over yonder, not made with human hands.
 A place where no heartaches will ever trouble man
All the poets and great authors can never really describe All of the beauty that’s waiting inside.**

**Now there’s no need for the sun there,
For it’s light will be too deem
Compared to the glory of the Light that shines within.**

**For the Lamb slain on Mt. Calvary shines brighter than the sun**

**For all of God’s Children who now overcome!**

**CHORUS**

**OH, WHAT A CITY. WHAT A LAND.
ON THOSE HILLS OF ZION I KNOW I'LL STAND.
NO MORE DYING, NO MORE CRYING.
NO MORE PAIN FOR US TO BEAR.
OH, WHAT A CITY HE'S GONE TO PREPARE.**

**\*\*I’m going to a better country and a better city than any country or city here on earth, and let me tell you why it’s so much better!**

**I. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LOVING TOUCH**

**\*\*There’s not a lot of love here in this country or city, but there’s a better country and a better city where there is Perfect Love because Jesus is there!**

 **A. It’s a country and a city where Love is Expressed!**

 **1. Love is expressed for the Sovereign.**

 **2. Love is expressed for the Savior.**

 **3. Love is expressed for the Spirit.**

**\*\*We can express our love for the Sovereign, the Savior, and the Spirit here, but not everybody will participate. Oh but in that heavenly country and city everybody will express their love for the Lord!**

 **B. It’s a country and a city where Love is Eternal**

 **1. This Place has a Little of Love**

**\*\*There’s a little love here, and a whole lot more of Bitterness, Bullying, Backbiting, Backstabbing, and Brokeness.**

 **2. That Place has a Lot of Love**

 **a. It’s Love that is Unmatched**

 **b. It’s Love that is Unending**

**II. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LUXURIOUS TREASURES**

**\*\*My heavenly home is a place filled with treasures! I know because I’ve been doing my best to lay my treasures up there, and I’ve seen some of you doing the same!**

 **A. There are Lasting Treasures over there!**

**\*\*The treasures in heaven last!**

 **1. The Streets will never be REPAIRED!**

 **2. The Structures will never be REMODELED!**

 **3. The Stones will never be REPLACED!**

 **4. The Saved will never be REBIRTHED!**

 **5. The Savior will never be REMOVED!**

 **B. There are Lowly Treasures over there!**

 **1. Our Crowns will be laid low before the Lord!**

 **2. Our Crosses will be laid low before the Lord!**

 **C. There are Lost Treasures over there!**

 **1. Family Treasures we’ve lost here will be found over there!**

**Illustration: Over here we’ve lost our saved family members to death, but over there we’ll find Mom and Dad, Grandmother and Grandfather, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles are treasures waiting for us on the other side!**

 **2. Faithful Treasures we’ve lost here will be found over there!**

**Illustration: Here are the faithful treasures we’ll find over in that heavenly country and city. We’ll see that preacher who introduced us to Jesus. We’ll see that brother deacon who encouraged us to live for Jesus when things went wrong. We’ll see that Sunday School teacher that taught us God’s Word every Sunday. We’ll see that dear saint of God who would shout and remind us that Jesus is so very real!**

**\*\*All those precious saved people we treasured yet lost to death here, we will find them over there in that better country and city!**

**III. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LOST TROUBLES**

**The Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

 **A. There’s No More Sea**

 **1. That means no more Separation**

 **2. That means no more Storms**

 **B. There’s No More Sadness**

 **1. No more Tears**

 **2. No more Trials**

 **3. No more Troubles**

 **C. There’s No More Suffering**

 **1. There’s no more Disease**

 **2. There’s no more Death**

 **D. There’s No More Sundown**

 **1. The SON will Rise**

 **2. The SON won’t Rest**

**\*\*I’m going to a better country and city where all the troubles have been lost!**

**IV. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LOVELY TEMPOS**

**The Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

 **A. We’ll Sing About Redemption**

 **B. We’ll Sing About Righteousness**

 **C. We’ll Sing About Resurrection**

**V. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LUSCIOUS TABLE**

**The Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**

 **A. Notice the Celebration**

 **1. We’ll Celebrate this Holy Occasion**

 **2. We’ll Celebrate this Homecoming Occasion**

**\*\*The Blood is Holy, The Book is Honored, and The Bride is Home!**

 **B. Notice the Catering**

 **1. The Marriage Supper will be Spread.**

 **2. The Marriage Supper will be Served.**

**\*\*In this vision, John the Revelator saw a spread and a servant like he had never seen before!**

**Illustration: Our folks here at church know how to put on a spread and serve a meal, but one day we’re going to a better country and city. The Lord will provide the Supper and the Service, and it will be unlike anything you’ve ever seen before!**

**VI. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LACKING TIME**

**The Revelation 10:6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein . . . that there should be time no longer:**

 **A. That Loving Touch will Last Forever**

 **B. Those Luxurious Treasures will Last Forever**

 **C. Those Lost Troubles will Leave Forever**

 **D. Those Luscious Tables will Last Forever**

**\*\*Why? Because there should be time no longer!**

**VII. IT’S BETTER BECAUSE OF IT’S LAMB’S TESTIMONIAL**

**\*\*The Lamb’s Testimonial will be recorded in the Lamb’s Book of Life! If your name is written in this book, then the Lamb of God has testified on your behalf that you are indeed saved by the grace of God!**

**The Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

**\*\*This country and city is for Members Only!**

 **A. Only Members who have this Savior!**

 **B. Only Members who have this Salvation!**

 **C. Only Members who have this Spirit!**

**Illustration: Not one unsaved imposter will be invited nor able to come into that country or that city! There will not be one unforgiven, filthy mouth, dirty, rotten, drinking, gambling, fornicating, adultery, wicked worldly loving, church going good ole boy, pill popping drug addict that will get through the gates of heaven and go into that heavenly country or city! It’s only for those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb!**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*Are you a citizen of that better country and that better city?**

**\*\*There’s only one way to be for sure, and that is to repent and ask the Lord to save you!**

**\*\*Come and make sure you are going to a better country and city! It’s by invitation only, and the invitation is being extended to you right now. Will you accept it?**

**\*\*If you know you are going to that better country and better city, then come and thank the Lord that you are a part of His bride!**