



The City – A Gift from God
Genesis 10-11

Curt Deming
Melbourne Community Church
July 10, 2016

Genesis = origins

- ❖ Work
- ❖ Marriage
- ❖ Sin
- ❖ Cities

Who lives in large cities?

- ❖ In 1800 – 2.5 %
- ❖ In 2000 – 50%



Cities = a gift from God

- ❖ We need cities.
- ❖ Cities are populated by fallen people.
- ❖ God will restore the city.

Genesis 1-11

- ❖ Creation (1)
- ❖ Creation (2)
- ❖ Fall (3)
- ❖ Cain and Abel (4)
- ❖ Genealogy (5)
- ❖ Flood (6-9)
- ❖ Genealogy (10)
- ❖ Tower of Babel (11)

Examples to avoid/follow:

- ❖ Noah's sin – extreme drunkenness
- ❖ Ham's sin – dishonor
- ❖ Shem's and Japheth's honor

Genesis 11:1-2

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Genesis 11:3

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly."
They used brick instead of stone,
and tar for mortar.

Genesis 11:4

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

We need cities:

- ❖ Refuge for the weak
- ❖ Human development
- ❖ Spiritual seeking

Ziggurat



Thomas Jefferson:

“When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.”

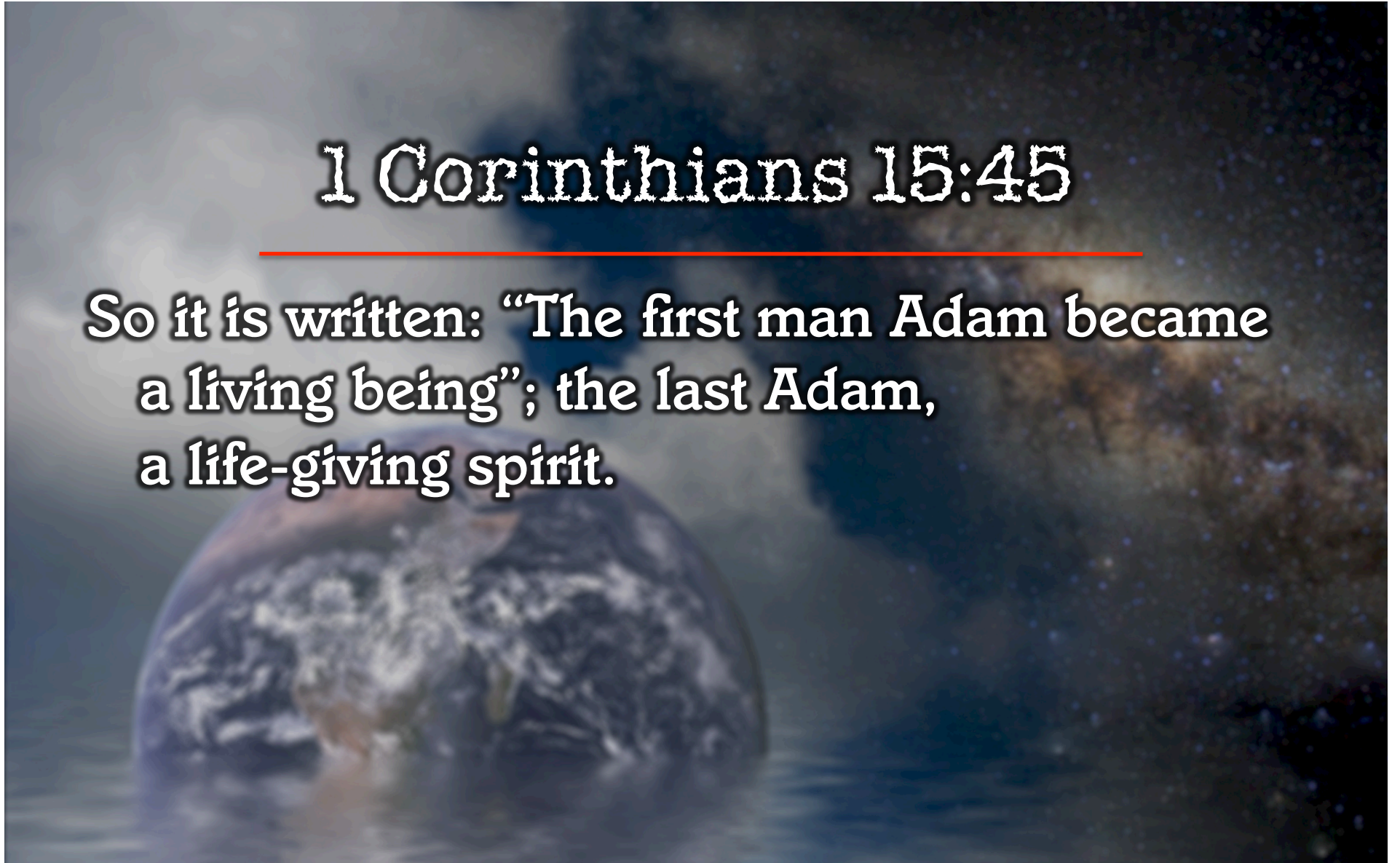
Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them,
“Be fruitful and increase in number;
fill the earth and subdue it.”



1 Corinthians 15:45

So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.



Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.

Revelation 22:2-3

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.

Tim Keller:

History started in a garden,
and it will end in a city.



Why build a city?

- ❖ Refuge for the weak
- ❖ Technological advances
- ❖ Spiritual seeking

Refuge for the weak / social power:

- ❖ Diversity
- ❖ Unity
- ❖ Community

Human development:

- ❖ Challenge
- ❖ Stimulation
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Collaboration

Cities = ideological markets

- ❖ Jonah at Ninevah
- ❖ Paul's missionary journeys

Genesis 11:4

Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

Genesis 9:7

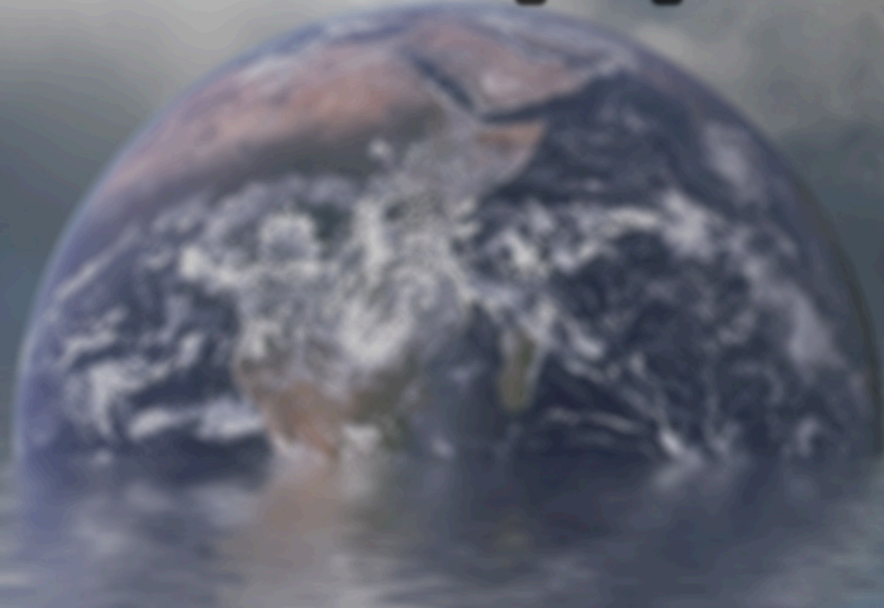
[God to Noah and his sons]: “As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

Tallest building?

- ❖ Ancient Near East: temple towers
- ❖ Medieval Europe: cathedrals
- ❖ Modern U.S. cities: bank buildings
- ❖ Washington, DC: government buildings

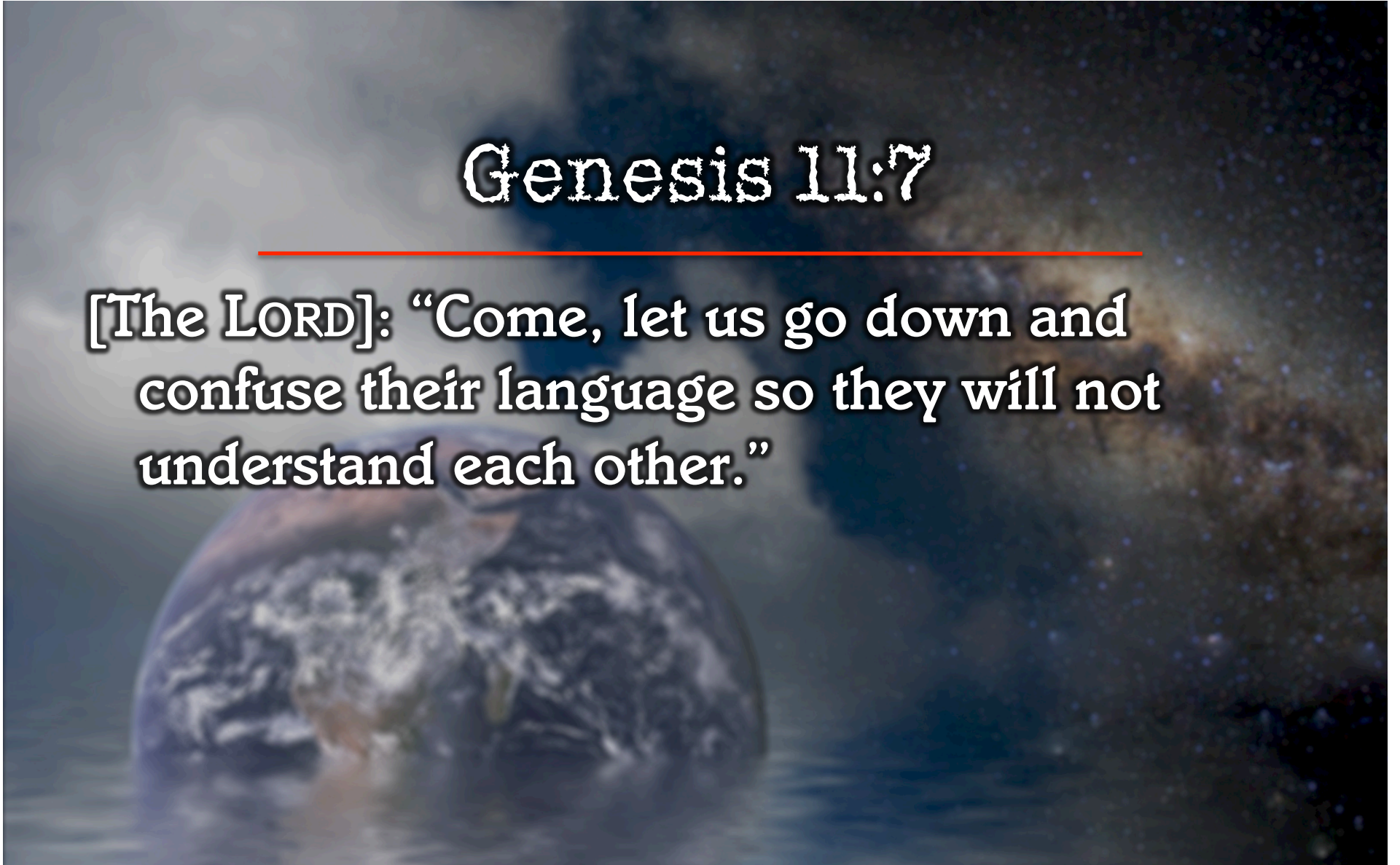
Genesis 11:5

But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.



Genesis 11:7

[The LORD]: “Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”



Genesis 11:8-9

So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel — because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Hebrews 13:12-14

And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Revelation 21:1-2

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.

Revelation 22:2

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:3-4

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Revelation 22:5

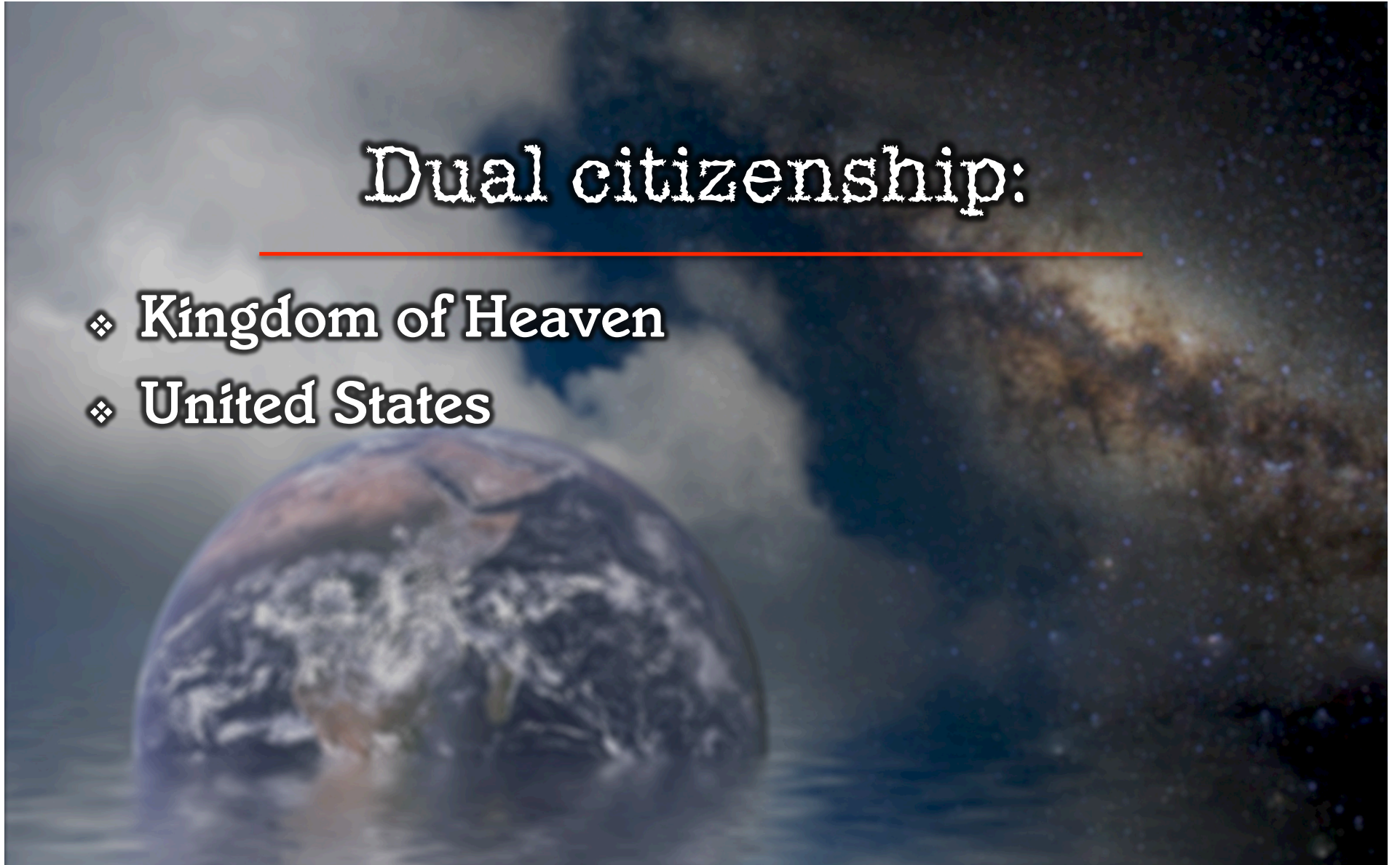
There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the LORD God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Acts 2:5-6

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

Dual citizenship:

- ❖ Kingdom of Heaven
- ❖ United States



2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,
as though God were making
his appeal through us.

Matthew 5:13

[Jesus]: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

Matthew 5:14-15

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Matthew 5:16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Cities = a gift from God

- ❖ We need cities.
- ❖ Cities are populated by fallen people.
- ❖ God will restore the city.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper