



The desire to be home for Christmas is a very common hope. For most, looking forward to being with Family and being safe at Home is a desire that ties our hearts to Eternity.

Somewhere deep within each of us is a desire, a longing for a world very different from our own. It is there first of all because we have been created in the image of God and were intended to live with Him in a world of love. Though His image has been defaced by the fall, there are still remnants of it within us. The stunning beauty of a sunset, the awe of starry heavens, a deeply moving story or poem, can arouse within us. The stunning beauty of a sunset, the awe of starry heavens, a deeply moving story or poem, can arouse within us for a brief moment an awareness and desire for your true home. This is even stronger once we have been born of the Spirit, for God plants eternity in our hearts.

The writer of Hebrews tells of others who were longing for home in a different way. Instead of looking backward, they were looking ahead with faith to their home in heaven. Even though what they hoped for seemed a long way off, they trusted that God was faithful to keep His promise to bring them to a place where they would be with Him forever. See Hebrews 11:13-16.

## CHRISTMAS: Longing for Home! – Jeremiah 31:10-17; 31-34

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable  
www.MensTable.com

**Summary:** A Man understands that Christmas is about finding his way to his true Home!

**Bible Verses:** Hebrews 11:13-16, Jeremiah 31:10-17; 31-34, Hebrews 13:10-15, II Corinthians 4:1-6.

**Music:** Take The Challenge And Try Not To Cry Happy Tears Part 1 (US Troops Coming Home) 2014

**Videos:** Cast Away - The Plane Crash; Cast Away – Never Again

**Resources:** The Longing for Home – sermon by Timothy Keller

December 8, 2016

### Christmas: We are all Exiles!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > Jeremiah lived in a fragmented culture and lots of competing realities. He was an exile to Babylon who had defeated the Jews. Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah were God's voice to His people during this time. Seventy years later, God brought the Jews back to Jerusalem.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ > What is our identity? Who are we? Every human being lives in a place that is not really ours. We have been made for a Home we have lost! We are all exiles! (Genesis 2 & 3).

### Christmas: Why We Long for Home - Jeremiah 31:10-14.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > We were meant for Home (Genesis 2).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ > When we chose to be our own Lord, we lost it (Genesis 3)!
3. \_\_\_\_\_ > We are going to die! This world will not last. This world cannot sustain our basic needs.

### Christmas: How to Get Home! - Jeremiah 31:15-17.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > The definition of sin! It causes us to isolate and alienate.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ > All sin drives you out and banishes you away from home! Example:
  - a. The Scape Goat.
  - b. Tears of Rachael > 3 places. Rachel's tears—tears of a Mother—are the tears of all those who have wept for loss.
  - c. Model of Jesus > Jesus is always an exile. Luke 19 – Weeps for Jerusalem. Jesus is the ultimate scapegoat. Hebrews 13:10-15 – the cross was outside the camp.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ > Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you!"

### Christmas: What Life Will be Like? – Jeremiah 31:31-34

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > You are now in a Covenant Relationship—a relationship of intimacy and beauty.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ > Show Me!
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ > You must regularly practice prayer. You were built for Glory (II Cor. 4:1-6 > gaze on Jesus). Create time to experience His love. You are not Home until the most important thing in your life is your relationship with God.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ > Take action! Revelation 21 – Home becomes the City of God. The whole world becomes the Garden of Eden.

### Action: Journal This!

1. What aspect of Christmas makes you feel at Home?
2. How does being Home effect the way you live?

### Bible Verses

#### Hebrews 11:13-16

**13** Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. **14** People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. **15** If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. **16** But they were after a far better country than that - heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.

#### Hebrews 13:10-15

**10** The altar from which God gives us the gift of himself is not for exploitation by insiders who grab and loot. **11** In the old system,

the animals are killed and the bodies disposed of outside the camp. The blood is then brought inside to the altar as a sacrifice for sin. **12** It's the same with Jesus. He was crucified outside the city gates - that is where he poured out the sacrificial blood that was brought to God's altar to cleanse his people. **13** So let's go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is - not trying to be privileged insiders, but taking our share in the abuse of Jesus. **14** This "insider world" is not our home. We have our eyes peeled for the City about to come. **15** Let's take our place outside with Jesus, no longer pouring out the sacrificial blood of animals but pouring out sacrificial praises from our lips to God in Jesus' name.

## Bible Verses

### Jeremiah 31:10-17; 31-34

**10** "Hear this, nations! God's Message! Broadcast this all over the world! Tell them, 'The One who scattered Israel will gather them together again. From now on he'll keep a careful eye on them, like a shepherd with his flock.' **11** I, God, will pay a stiff ransom price for Jacob; I'll free him from the grip of the Babylonian bully. **12** The people will climb up Zion's slopes shouting with joy, their faces beaming because of God's bounty - Grain and wine and oil, flocks of sheep, herds of cattle. Their lives will be like a well-watered garden, never again left to dry up. **13** Young women will dance and be happy, young men and old men will join in. I'll convert their weeping into laughter, lavishing comfort, invading their grief with joy. **14** I'll make sure that their priests get three square meals a day and that my people have more than enough." God's Decree. **15** Again, God's Message: "Listen to this! Laments coming out of Ramah, wild and bitter weeping. It's Rachel weeping for her children, Rachel refusing all solace. Her children are gone, gone - long gone into exile." **16** But God says, "Stop your incessant weeping, hold back your tears. Collect wages from your grief work." God's Decree. "They'll be coming back home! **17** There's hope for your children." God's Decree.

**31** "That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. **32** It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master." God's Decree.

**33** "This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them - write it on their hearts! - and be their God. And they will be my people. **34** They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!" God's Decree. If This Ordered Cosmos Ever Fell to Pieces

### II Corinthians 4:1-6

**1** Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. **2** We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God. **3** If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. **4** All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get. **5** Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. **6** It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

## I'm Coming Home

By J. Cole

*[Chorus]*

I'm coming home

I'm coming home

tell the World I'm coming home

Let the rain wash away all the pain of yesterday

I know my kingdom awaits and they've forgiven my mistakes

I'm coming home, I'm coming home

tell the World I'm coming

Hey, confusion like I was losing my mind

but one thing I never lose is my grind

my closet need a lot of cleaning now

I can't sleep cause I don't like the sh-t I dream about

hey Dear Lord please help me get the demons out

and then help me get my genius out

and get back to what I had

if my good's outweigh my bads, do you think my mistakes is gon  
even out (even out)

I guess try and see, it's on my diary, I'm living for my kids

now they is just as fly as me

talk well, wonder if Andre Harrell knew how great I would be when  
he fired me

*[Chorus x2]*

I'm coming home

I'm coming home

tell the World I'm coming home

Let the rain wash away all the pain of yesterday

I know my kingdom awaits and they've forgiven my mistakes

I'm coming home, I'm coming home

tell the World I'm coming...home

I'm coming home

I'm coming home

tell the World I'm coming home

Let the rain wash away all the pain of yesterday

I know my kingdom awaits and they've forgiven my mistakes

I'm coming home, I'm coming home

tell the World I'm coming

Back where I belong

I've never felt so strong eh

feeling like there's nothing that I can't try

and if you feel me put your hands high, high, high, hey

and if you feel me put your hands high, high, hey

This is my story this is my song

if you aint got the heart, don't attempt to try this at home

it's just a poem from a man once living wrong

now I'm in the zone, tell the World I'm coming home

been a long time coming, been a long time coming

this song feel like the greatest of all time coming

cause I do it B-I-G, I remember we would be high

who'd have thought we'd be running rap when we was knee high

to appreciate the sun you gotta know what rain is

or cause I'm famous you don't gotta know what pain is

but I bounce back, would ya look at that

I take my spot at the top and I aint looking back

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# CHRISTMAS

Longing for Home!

*Jeremiah 31:10-17; 31-34*

# CHRISTMAS: Longing for Home! – Hebrews 11:13-16.

The desire to be home for Christmas is a very common hope. For most, looking forward to being with Family and being safe at Home is a desire that ties our hearts to Eternity.

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# Christmas: Why We Long for Home

- Jeremiah 31:10-14.

1. Beginning > We were meant for Home (Genesis 2).
2. Lost > When we chose to be our own Lord, we lost it (Genesis 3)!
3. Death > We are going to die! This world will not last. This world cannot sustain our basic needs.

# Christmas: How to Get Home!

- Jeremiah 31:15-17.

1. **Acknowledge Self-Centeredness** > The definition of sin! It causes us to isolate and alienate.
2. **Resolve Separation** > All sin drives you out and banishes you away from home! Example:
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