

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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God: Builder and Maker

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Abraham is brought to our attention in Hebrews 11 as an example of one living his life by faith. *“By faith he became a sojourner in the land of promise, as in a land not his own, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for the city which hath the foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11: 9-10).*

The contrast is made between the transitory sojourning in tents with an abiding city with foundations. The land to which he traveled, some 400 miles away, was not his own, and in this land he sojourned in tents which have no permanent foundations. He obeyed God and began his sojourning while looking for a future abode or city with permanent foundations fashioned and constructed by the same almighty and faithful God who called him. We with Abraham should be seeking *“after the city which is to come” (Hebrews 13:14).* This city is heaven.

Two words describe the activity of God in preparing for us this permanent city: “builder” and “maker.” The word,

“builder” is from the Greek word, “TECHNITES, denoting one who does things by art, therefore a craftsman (Acts 19:24,38), or as some versions translate the word: “architect”. The word “maker” is from the Greek word, DEMI-OURGOS, denoting “one who works for the people” or the one who does the actual work.

God is therefore both the architect and actual framer of the city that is to come. Being of God, our heavenly abode is *“not made with hands” (2 Corinthians 5:1).* It is eternal, having permanent foundations crafted after the wisdom and power of God.

The heavens and earth upon which we now live have the same architect and maker. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).* Jeremiah exalts God in his creative work by writing, *“He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and by his understanding hath he stretched out the heavens” (Jeremiah 51:15).* By God’s power, the earth came into existence manifesting the blueprint produced by God’s wisdom and understanding. God as the architect used the Word—Jesus

Christ as the instrument to carry out His plan. Speaking of Jesus as the eternal word, John claims, *“All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that hath been made” (John 1:3).* Psalms 33:6 reveals, *“By the word of Jehovah were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth” (Psalms 33:6).* Jesus Christ is the eternal Word or God who carried out the Father’s plan.

The fact that we and animals breathe the oxygen that plants give out, and plants use the carbon dioxide that we and animals can not use indicates a planner or architect behind this exchange. The fact that we can send spaceships to the moon and beyond depending upon laws which allow men to calculate the time of their trips within the specificity of a fraction of a second speaks of one who sets the laws in motion.

Believers in God see design and say this “necessarily implies” that a designer exists. The Hebrew writer reminds us that such truth is not just implied, but specified and claimed in Scripture. God is both the architect or builder and maker of not only this world but the one to come.