

The Letter to the
Hebrews

Chapter Eleven



Wednesday Series
June – August 2020



The Book of Hebrews:

Introduction

■ “Better” in the Epistle:

- 1) Christ **BETTER** than angels **1:4**
- 2) Confident of **BETTER** things concerning you **6:9**
- 3) The lesser is blessed by the **BETTER** **7:7**
- 4) A **BETTER** hope **7:19**
- 5) Surety of a **BETTER** covenant **7:22**
- 6) Mediator of a **BETTER** covenant **8:6**
- 7) Established on **BETTER** promises **8:6**
- 8) **BETTER** sacrifices **9:23**
- 9) A **BETTER** and enduring possession ... in heaven **10:34**
- 10) A **BETTER**, that is, a heavenly country **11:16**
- 11) A **BETTER** resurrection **11:35**
- 12) Something **BETTER** for us **11:40**



Hebrews

The Book of Hebrews: Outline

▪ Contrasts made in the epistle:

- The Son / Angels **1:4 – 2:4**
- The Son / Moses **3:1-6**
- Canaan rest / God's rest **3:12 – 4:13**
- Christ / Aaron **4:14 – 5:10**
- Spiritual infancy / maturity **5:11-14**
- Apostasy / Faithfulness **5:11 – 6:20**
- Old Law / New Law **8:1-13**
- Offerings of old law / Christ **9:1 – 10:18**
- Faith / sight **11:1-40**
- Mt. Sinai / Mt. Zion **12:18-29**

The Hall of Fame of Faith

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- A familiar passage
- We know **what's** there...
- In a survey of the book of Hebrews, it's important that we understand **why** it's there...

The Full Assurance of Faith

[Ch. 10:19-39]

- **19ff** *“Therefore... since we have confidence...”*
 - Better High Priest, sacrifice, tabernacle, covenant...
 - *“draw near with a true heart in full assurance of **faith**” (22)*
- **32-38** *“Do not throw away your confidence...”*
 - Look what you have already endured
 - You endured knowing you have a “better” possession
 - *“... my righteous one shall live by **faith**” (38)*
- **39** *“But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of **those who have faith** and preserve their souls.”*

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“One thread is a sure belief in what God had said. Our author will demonstrate that people of faith have always been convicted of the certainty of what God promised. As such, faith is forward-looking, and it manifests itself as absolute commitment to God above all else in life... Another thread is that true faith endures even to the point of death, as faith carries us past this life in expectation of the reward that comes later. People of faith, because of the nature of faith itself, do not quit”

- David McClister

Now Faith...

[11: 1-3]

- **Faith** - a working description
 - *assurance* - substance (NKJV), reality (CSB)
 - *conviction* - evidence (NKJV), proof (CSB)
 - turns hope from a wish to confident expectation
- The “*people of old*” were commended for their **faith**
- “*Faith*” is tied to the “*word of God*” (Rom. 10:17)
 - The powerful word that created the world

By Faith

7 By faith Noah, **being warned** by God

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he **was called**

11 By faith Sarah... considered him faithful who **had promised.**

“the people of old” acted upon the word of God

Now... Faith

[11:1-3]

- Faith - a “working definition”
 - *assurance* - substance (NKJV), reality (CSB)
 - *conviction* - evidence (NKJV), proof (CSB)
 - turns hope from a wish to confident expectation
- The “*people of old*” were commended **for their faith**
- “*Faith*” is tied to the “*word of God*” (Rom. 10:17)
 - **The powerful word that created the world**
- God has always been pleased with those who trust Him and His word and endure
- The “*cloud of witnesses*” in Ch. 11 provide proof...

Without Faith It is Impossible...

(11:4-7)

- A reminder of the faithful from before the Law
- **Faith** formula: By faith (**somebody**) did (**something**)
 - Abel offered / **God accepted**
 - Enoch “*walked with*” God (Gen. 5:24) / **God took him**
 - Noah built the ark / **became an heir of righteousness**
- **Faith** is what pleases God
 - We must **believe** God is
 - We must **trust** that He rewards those that “seek” Him
 - We must **seek** Him
- **Despite suffering, disappointment, temptation, etc.**

By Faith He Looked for a City

[11:8-16]

- **Abraham**
 - He went out, not knowing where he was going
 - Lived in tents in a foreign land
- **Sarah**
 - Unbelievable promise, but believable **Promiser**
- They all died in **faith**, with the promise still far off...
 - This world didn't feel like home
 - But they persevered
 - Their desire was for a better, heavenly country
- Therefore, their God has prepared for them a city

By Faith He Offered His Heir

[11:16-22]

- Abraham
 - Was in the act of offering up the “son of promise”
 - He **trusted** the Promiser was able to raise him
 - Isaac
 - Blessed his sons with **faith** in future blessings
 - Jacob
 - Blessed his grandsons **believing** God would bring them out of Egypt to the Promised Land
 - Joseph - made plans for his “exodus”
- Abraham’s descendants acted on the promises of God

They Ran the Race Before Them

[11:23-38]

- Moses' parents
- Moses
 - Better to suffer for Christ than be content in "Egypt"
 - *"he endured **as seeing Him who is invisible**"*
- By **faith**, the people did the undoable
- Rahab chose **faith** in God over fear of reprisal
- And we could go on listing examples...
 - But time would fail (me too 😊)
- The world was not worthy of them
 - Them that "live by **faith**"

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“They all believed the unseen, they all trusted a promise, they all waited patiently for God to fulfill his word. One grand characteristic holds this list together and in a sense makes them all kin to one another. That commodity is called *faith*. Their names are here inscribed upon a mortal scroll on account of their willingness to endure adverse conditions, face matters contradictory to themselves, experience pain and suffering, wait sometimes many years to see the fulfillment of their hopes, and all the while refuse to allow their faith to be quenched by any of the things that would have caused lesser men and women to lose heart and surrender in the the face of such overwhelming odds.”

- Mike Willis

God Provided Something Better for Us

[11:38-40]

- ***“all these”***
 - Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses... **us**
- ***“commended through their **faith**”***
 - Their commendation was *“apart from works of law”*
 - They trusted in God’s promises
- ***“did not receive what was promised”***
 - They received: mocking and flogging, chains... etc.
- **Because they were looking for what we have “seen”**
- **Their hope is *“made perfect”* with us**
 - **And they are watching (12:1)**



The Book of Hebrews

**Next Time:
Chapter 12**

