

## Hebrews Overview

Our Lord

- the promised Seed of the woman
- the Son of David...
- the Lion of the Tribe of Judah...

is Jewish (Titles devotion)

The early Church was Jewish

- The apostles
- The disciples
- The writers of the NT (except Luke)

Salvation was given

- to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 15:21-28)
- of the Jews (John 4:3-9, 19-26)
- to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Rom 1:16)
- all are the seed of Abraham by faith (Gal 3:26-29)

The growth of the Church was (Acts 1:8)

1. Jerusalem
2. Judea
3. Samaria
4. Uttermost parts of the world

During his missionary journeys, the Apostle Paul's *modus operandi* was

1. First to the synagogue to preach to the Jews
2. From the synagogue to preach to the Gentiles...

resisted and violently opposed by the religious Jews at every step

Paul's heavy burden was for his people (Acts 21-28)

Acts 20:16, 21-24

Acts 21:10-13, 26-31

Acts 22...ending in v20-23

So...many Jewish believers suffered intense pressure to

- renounce their faith in Jesus Christ
- abandon The Way
- return to Judaism...the Law of Moses...the system of worship and sacrifice
  1. that pointed to Jesus (John 5:39)
  2. that He fulfilled

Thus, a letter written to those Jewish believers to shore up their faith in Jesus Christ  
...and fundamental in growing the faith of every believer

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)
2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
3. To Moses (Ch 3)
4. To Joshua (“Jesus” in Greek, “entering in”, Ch 4)
5. To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood (Ch 5-7)
6. To the old covenant (Ch 8-10)

Who Alone can be superior to all them/that? Only God...

Who wrote this book? When?

We do not know

Some evidence for Paul

- No one had a greater burden for the Jews
- a brilliant work to the Jews, as Romans was to the Gentiles  
a “bullet-proof” legal brief...  
classic Jewish teaching via the asking of questions...  
Paul’s style of writing
- Heb 13:23-24 with 2 Tim 4 (urging Timothy to come quickly)
- Most compelling...the “Just shall live by faith” trilogy

Hab 2:4

The just shall live by faith

Rom 1:17

the just

Gal 3:11

shall live

Heb 10:38

by faith

Nonetheless, I do KNOW who wrote the book...the Holy Spirit

## Hebrews Chapter 1

Theme: Jesus is God

Teachings about Jesus:

- God spoke to us thru Him (v2)
- He is the heir of all things (v2)
- He is the Creator (v2)
- He is the brightness and image of God (v3)
- He sustains His creation (v3)
- He purged our sins (v3)
- He sat down at the right hand of the Father (v3, 13)
- He is so much better than the angels (v4)
- He is not an angel (v5)
- the angels worship Him (v6)
- He is God (v8)
- His throne is forever (v8)
- His righteousness is the power of His kingdom (v8)
- He loves righteousness and hates sin (v9)
- He is anointed by God the Father above His creation (v9)
- He will “out live” His creation (v11)
- He will “fold up” His creation (v12)
- He never changes (v12)

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)

...Samuel – prophet and Judge, “Better to obey than sacrifice”  
...David – prophet and King, a man after God’s own heart  
...Elijah – called fire down from heaven, “raptured” in a fiery chariot  
...Elisha – brought the dead back to life, even when he was dead & buried  
...Isaiah – the great Messianic prophet  
...Jeremiah – the weeping prophet  
...Daniel – beloved, carried into captivity, given end times visions  
(70 weeks)  
...Ezekiel – the watchman, the Magog Invasion, the Millennial Temple  
...Joel – God will pour out His Spirit, the Day of the Lord  
...Hosea – marry a harlot, betrayed, buy her back in the slave market  
...Zechariah – end times visions  
...John the Baptist – silence breaker, “none greater among them born of women”

The very foundation...the cornerstone...the starting point...of this book on the superiority of Jesus Christ is the establishment that...

Jesus Christ is God Almighty

This foundation MUST be understood if our faith is to grow and be impervious to relentless attack

v1 God...spoke:

God spoke...to whom?

Wicked, whining and complaining, rebellious man

That God would bother to speak to such vile creatures is incredible evidence of His love and grace

not only did He speak, He spoke

- at sundry times...“in many, various times”  
...repeatedly
- in divers manners...“in many, various ways”  
visions  
dreams  
The Angel of the Lord  
similitudes  
audible voice in man’s ears  
small, still voice in man’s heart  
circumstances
- in time past...the previous 4000 years...a long time...  
a display of His longsuffering
- by the prophets...various “inspired speakers”...chosen  
mouthpieces of His words

The OT is the inspired Word of God...holy men of God  
spoke as moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21)

- to His chosen people...the sons of AI&J...who were wicked  
husbandmen of the words of God

all leading up to

1. the Crescendo of the revelation of God to man...
2. the most dramatic display of His love and grace...
3. the very manifestation, the physical appearing of
  - the promised Seed of the Woman
  - The Word of God
  - the Son of God

v2-3 in these last days spoken unto us by Son:  
now, in these last days, God has spoken most clearly and powerfully...  
revealing Himself...to us thru a Son

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.  
Is 7:14

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.  
Is 9:6

God did not give up on rebellious man, but rather saved the very best communication for last...  
just Jesus did with the wine in John 2...  
vs Satan who tempts us with the best first

which means...

- Jesus is the “end of the line” of God’s communication with man
- There is no other revelation of God we should look for  
John 6:53-60, 66-69
- There is no other person or place we need go but to Jesus

Jesus is the last thing God has to say to a rebellious world...and every man is accountable to God for what he does with Jesus Christ in these last days

“last days” are the days between the departure from earth and return to earth by Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords

The Son came...revealed God to man...and rebuked man for corrupting the previous “communications”/revelations  
Mark 7:1-13

Therefore, it is absolutely essential that we know the truth ...not the traditions...about God

He has clearly and simply revealed Himself to us in

- His Word
- His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

7 facts about Jesus:

1. Heir

the Son of Promise, heir of all things (Isaac)

Matt 21:33-44

And we have been declared joint-heirs (Rom 8:16-17)

2. Agent of Creation/Creator

John 1:1-4a

The heir of all things... Who made all things

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega

First and Last

Beginning and End

3. Brightness of God's glory

The "outshining"...the Shekinah glory of God

Matt 17:1-5

Acts 9

...and we are the Temple!

4. Express image of His person

"the figure stamped or engraved, an exact copy"

John 1:14

1 John 1:1 we have heard, seen, handled the Word

John 14:6-11

John 10:30

The same essence of God the Father...but a different person

5. Sustainer of creation by the power of His Word

"And God said..." in Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26  
(8 days + man)

Col 1:16

and ever since, Col 1:17

upholding = "to bear or carry"

6. Purged our sins

Is 53:4-10

Dan 9:25-26a

Gen 22:8

1 Peter 1:18-21

by Himself: the just shall live by faith...  
not by works  
our salvation is Jesus' work, not our own...  
He saved us with NO help from us!

Note: "purged" is past tense

7. Sat down at the right hand of God

Sitting because the redemptive plan of God is complete  
John 19:30...

the priests NEVER sat down in the Temple...  
the furniture of the Temple did not include a chair  
because the work of the priest was never  
finished...  
the sacrifice for sin was continuous...  
but Jesus is finished...and sitting down

Right hand...the hand of power and pre-eminence  
The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right  
hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.  
Ps 110:1

[ Communion ]

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. **To the prophets of God** (Ch 1:1-3)
2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
3. To Moses (Ch 3)
4. To Joshua ("Jesus" in Greek, "entering in", Ch 4)
5. To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood (Ch 5-7)
6. To the old covenant (Ch 8-10)

In Jesus Christ is a better way...of

- Worship
- Sacrifice
- Forgiveness of sin

Matt 26:17-29

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v4 Being made so much better than the angels:

“having become”...”being found”...by His incarnation, the revelation of God to man (v3)...”Immanuel” is better than the angels

This is saying something to a Jew because angels occupy a prominent place in their history...and their future!

- Michael the Archangel...who fights for Israel
- Gabriel...with Messianic messages
- Cherubim and Seraphim...always in the presence of God, sit atop The Ark, appeared in visions of the prophets
- The host that surrounded the great army of Syrians...surrounding Elisha and Gehazi (2 K 6)...  
”Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”
- The angel that appeared to Joshua...the captain of the Lord’s army (Joshua 5)
- The angel, with sword drawn, that stopped Balaam’s donkey (Num 22)
- The single angel that slew 185,000 Assyrians besieging Jerusalem during Hezekiah’s reign (2 K 19)
- Satan...Lucifer...the greatest of the angels

Jesus is superior to them...all of them...no exceptions listed

This is more significant than we realize because our “understanding” of angels is tainted by

- Cartoons
- Products (made to sell) in Christian book stores

Would Paul need to make this comparison between Jesus and angels if those representations were true?

The Jew, because of their history as God’s chosen people, and angelic involvement in that history, have a much deeper appreciation for the comparison Paul is making...the superiority of Jesus Christ to “mere” angels



a more excellent name:

“name” is a very important concept to God – authority and possession

Matt 18:15-20

John 14:13-14, 26

Rev 3:12

Rev 14:1

Jesus has a

1. most excellent name

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6)

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

2. most excellent way...

Love (1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13) that overcomes

- persecution
- ridicule
- suffering
- humiliation
- rejection
- death

Jesus is NOT an angel.

NOT Michael the Archangel as the JW's believe

NOT Lucifer's brother as the Mormon's believe

Jesus is the Creator...not a creature

v5-6 unto which...said he at any time:

There are things that were not ever said to any angel...that were said to only Jesus.

1. Thou art my Son...this day I have begotten thee (v5a)

quoting Ps 2:7

how is “begotten” used relative to Jesus...Creator?

Jesus was begotten...born supernaturally...to enter into His creation...to be “God with us”...the incarnation of God in human flesh

but Jesus is also first begotten

Col 1:15-17, “firstborn” means “first begotten”

- a positional attribute...not a sequential attribute (e.g. Joseph)
- “pre-eminent”...supreme
- v3...at the Right Hand
- the Creator is different from and far above His creation

2. I will be to him a Father and he shall be to me a Son (v5b)

quoting 2 Sam 7:14...in the promise to David  
and recited in Ps 89:18-27, 34-37

Gabriel informed Mary...a daughter of David...that her child would be called the Son of God  
(Luke 1:26-35)

3. Let all the angels of God worship Him (v6)

quoting Ps 97:7...and declared in Neh 9:6

Thou, *even* thou, *art* LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all *things* that *are* therein, the seas, and all that *is* therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth thee.

When he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world...

somewhat obscured in the KJ translation is the Greek word order:

“And when He bringeth in AGAIN the firstbegotten into the world...”

this is a statement about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ...not the 1<sup>st</sup>...about the return...not the incarnation

firstbegotten: pre-eminent position (at the Right Hand), not sequential

Only God is to be worshipped...

Jesus said to Satan, quoting Deut 6:13, “Thou shall worship the Lord thy God, and Him alone shall thou serve.”

Ps 95:6 says, O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker. (...Jesus)

...angels are not to be worshipped.

Rev 19:10

Rev 22:8-9

Jesus is to be worshipped, therefore, Jesus is God

John 20:26-31

were He an angel, He would have rebuked Thomas

v7 the angels...his ministers:  
quoting Ps 104:4

What does God say angels are?  
His servants...creatures at His beckon call

v8-9 But unto the Son...Thy Throne, O God:  
quoting Ps 45:6-7

Who does God say about Jesus?

- He is God  
Is 9:6...The mighty God, the everlasting Father
- He is the unchanging God (forever and ever")  
Jesus is not like the weather...if you don't like it, just wait  
Who He is...what He says...what He does...is forever
- He is the King of the kingdom...King of kings...  
NOT a servant

scepter was a symbol of authority...in the Hebrew  
connotation, the ruler was the shepherd of the  
people  
the authority of God's kingdom is the righteousness of  
God, the Lord Jesus Christ

- He loved righteousness and hated iniquity:  
Jesus loved that which is acceptable to God and hated sin  
He loved so much that He became and died for that which  
He hated!  
2 Cor 5:21    became sin  
John 15:13    no greater love
- He was anointed to rule...He is the only one qualified to rule...  
His fellows...His associates, companions, friends...us...  
His joint-heirs (Rom 8:16-17) vs His enemies (v13)

Consider the words in the ears of a Jew...

"Therefore God, thy God"  
"O God" (v8) has a God, "Your God"!

in the Jewish mind, these words echo:

Hear O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD  
Deut 6:4

v10-12 Thou, Lord...laid the foundations of the earth and the heavens are the works:  
Paul could "cut and paste" with the best of us pastors today!  
Here, he is quoting Ps 102:25-27

This is also the answer to God's questions to Job in Job 38

Jesus Christ is the Creator (v2)...everything else is part of His creation

this creation

- is corrupted by sin...and groans awaiting the redemption
- at the appointed time, will be worn out and obsolete...
- ...then will be folded up...thought about no more by the Creator and Sustainer  
when it is forgotten by the Lord, it will cease to exist  
**Note:** our sins are forgotten...they cease to exist

When will the Lord forget/fold up His creation? When every jot and tittle of His Word is fulfilled (Matt 5:18)

Then,

- this corrupted universe will cease to exist...and will not be remembered
- Jesus will create from nothing...again...a new, pure universe

**2 Peter 3:10, 13** say, But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up...(you would think Peter is an atomic scientist!) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

**Is 65:17** says, For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

**Rev 21:1** says, And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Awesome truth: we will be eyewitnesses of this re-creation!

However...the Creator will never

- change (Heb 13:8)
- cease to exist..."thou years will not fail"

v13 But to which of the angels said he at any time:  
quoting Ps 110:1

Right Hand: the position of pre-eminence

footstool: putting His feet on the neck of His enemies

Jesus quoted this when shutting down all the “tricksters” in Matt 22:41-46

How is it David’s son is David’s Lord?

the Messiah...is God Himself

Jesus Christ...is God Almighty

The LORD said this to the Lord...NOT to an angel

the JW doctrine that Jesus is Michael the Archangel is false...

the Mormon doctrine that Jesus is the brother of Lucifer is false

Note: Has v13 happened yet? No

Therefore, with v3 in mind, the word “until” presents the Mormon with a problem –

- How could Jesus have appeared in North America if He were sitting at the right hand of the Father?
- How many times does Jesus get up from the right hand? Once!

v14 ministering spirits...for...heirs of salvation:

inferior to Jesus are the angels, God’s servants (v7)...sent to minister to who will inherit salvation...redeemed man

e.g. Peter’s jail break in Acts 12:11

...and to this day they are ministering (Heb 13:2)

angels

- have no inheritance with Jesus Christ  
we are the heirs of salvation (v14) and joint heirs with the heir of all things (v2)
- are not saved from their sin
- are God’s servants, therefore, inferior to Jesus
- are not to be worshipped...

Jesus is superior to the angels...and is to be worshipped

1. He is God (v8)
2. He is righteous (v8, vs Rom 3:10)
3. He loves righteousness and hates iniquity (v9)
4. He is pre-eminent (v9)
5. He is Lord (v10)
6. He is Creator and Sustainer of all creation (v10-12a)
7. He is eternal (v12b, Mal 3:6)

## Hebrews Chapter 2

v1 give the more earnest heed:

Therefore, given

- Jesus is superior to the prophets and the angels...(Ch 1)
- Who Jesus is according to God the Father...(Ch 1:8-12)  
The eternal Creator, God, and King
- And because time is short (RFID technology articles)  
(imagine what Paul would be doing today!)

we had better pay very careful, thoughtful attention to the Gospel of Jesus Christ...lest we drift away from God's grace.

Written to the believing Hebrews, Paul is warning against slipping away... slowly and quietly like a boat from its moorings...from the truth of God's Word and back into the traditions of men

the 1<sup>st</sup> covenant had failed...not because God failed but because man failed to keep it...

therefore, God brought a 2<sup>nd</sup>...superior and final...covenant

the 1<sup>st</sup> was given to lead us to the 2<sup>nd</sup>...

God has never desired a legal relationship with man...

He has always desired a loving relationship...

which could not be expressed any louder or clearer than the Cross!

Let's not drift away from the desire of our Creator...let's be "clingie"

v2-4 For if the word spoken...How shall we escape...so great salvation:

Acts 7:53 (received the Law by the disposition of angels)

Gal 3:19 (the Law was given to man by angels)

the word "angels" (= "messengers") could refer to the prophets...but in context...the Law was given by God to man thru angels i.e. the voice heard by man were the angels

Which ever...the Law was given not as the gateway to reconciliation with God by our performance but as the "impossible burden" to lead us to God's promised Messiah by faith

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is greater than the Law

Matt 5:17 ("I came not to destroy L&P, but to fulfill")

Rom 5:20-21 (with Law, sin abounded...but grace more abounded)

Gal 3:24-26 to a church that was "slipping away" into legalism

Hab 2:4...relate to God by faith in Him, not by our works

God's salvation is so great because it is for "whosoever's"

- Whosoever will may come
- Whosoever will believe shall be saved and will not be cast out

God's salvation is greater than the lowest sinner...the Law as condemning as the lowest sinner

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of God's grace

1. Involves the entire Godhead
2. Was most clearly and powerfully spoken by God the Son  
And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.  
Matt 7:28-29
3. Was confirmed by eyewitnesses  
Acts 2:32      the writers of NT  
Gal 1:11      including Paul
4. Was confirmed by God the Father thru miracles and signs  
Acts of the Apostles
5. Was confirmed by God the Holy Spirit thru gifts to redeemed men  
1 Cor 12-14

How can we possibly flee the righteous wrath of a holy and just God if we are careless or negligent of His great...and personally "certified"...salvation...by grace thru faith?

Therefore, with the receipt of the Gospel, man has a greater accountability  
Before God than ever before  
Luke 12:48      much is given, much is required

v5      angels hath not put in subjection the world to come:  
the angels will not rule in the kingdom of God to come, God will!  
Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

angels are servants in the kingdom...  
born again, Christ-believing men are joint-heirs...  
more on why that is so in a moment



v6 What is man that thou art mindful of him?  
quoting David from Psalm 8

Why bother with pathetic man, a fragile creature of clay with a hard heart  
and a stiff neck?

Why Ch 1:1-2?

v7-8 made him lower than the angels...crowned him with glory...put all things:  
God created the universe for man, a spiritual and physical creature  
And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:  
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the  
fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over  
every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created  
man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male  
and female created he them.

Gen 1:27-28

Man is the “top of the heap” of ALL of God’s creation!?

Including angels!

We just cannot yet see that this is the case

Man’s life is so fragile...and the universe is so precise to encompass that  
frailty

God designed, created, and maintains the universe...for man

So what does it mean that we are “made a little lower than the angels”?

Hold that thought....

We do not yet see all things put under man...

v9 Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death:  
...but we see Jesus!

Who was made a little lower than the angels...

- took on the physical form of man (non-descript)
- tasted physical death for (“in place of”) every man
- so we could see God...with eyes of faith

yet Jesus is superior to the angels

- angels cannot die, they are spiritual beings (Heb 1:14)...  
helpless when it comes to salvation
- man, a spiritual and physical being, died (Gen 3)...  
hopeless and helpless when it comes to salvation
- God is Spirit (Heb 1:8, John 4:24) but took on physical so He  
could die in order to provide THE path to salvation for  
man...salvation can come no other way

Man’s salvation from death and hell is possible only by the grace of God  
Because God the Creator of heaven and earth personally  
intervened to save man

How did God did personally intervene...Jesus’ humiliation (Phil 2:5-8)  
from God Almighty  
to no reputation  
servant  
man  
death: physical and spiritual (separation from God)

Jesus was born to die...for His beloved creature, man

- as God...Jesus could NOT die
- as man...He choose to die...to pay the penalty for our sins

The grace of God is extended to unworthy man in Jesus Christ...and  
now we can never be separated from God!

But without Jesus Christ, sinful man is helplessly and hopelessly lost...  
grace

Yes, we ought to give more earnest heed...because we cannot escape if we  
neglect so great a salvation

v10 captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings:  
Great Salvation: who...for what purpose...how

an awesome mystery...it was deemed suitable and proper

- by our Creator
- that our salvation be made complete
- by the suffering of the author and initiator of that great salvation...Himself...(Is 53:10)
- ...in order to justly restore fallen man as His children and His friends

Jesus the Creator came on a search-and-rescue mission for lost man...  
for me and you!

And now, by faith, we are part of God's family! Forever

Note: since man's salvation was completed on the cross, there is nothing  
that can be added, no other works of man affect salvation  
all man can do is accept the gift of God's grace...and follow Jesus

v11-12 both...sanctifieth and...sanctified...not ashamed to call them brethren:  
Creator and saved creature are "One"

Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me.  
Because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I  
*am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 14:19-20

At that time Jesus called us friends if we do whatsoever He commands

John 15:10-17

Here...Jesus "sets us apart" and unashamedly calls us brothers!

What an amazing statement:

- Brothers..."Blood" relatives!
- Jesus is not ashamed of me and you!  
Yet we are ashamed of Him...ashamed to share Him with  
loved ones and friends...

saying, I will declare thy name:  
quoting Ps 22:22

since to Jews, 10 men = congregation, this was fulfilled

- at Last Supper
- on way to the Garden
- on the Cross

and is fulfilled whenever we gather as the Body of Christ

v13 And again, I will put my trust in him:  
quoting Ps 18:2

And again, Behold I and the children which God has given me:  
quoting Is 8:18...

...who are the object of the Lord's Prayer in John 17

v14-15 thru death he might destroy...Fear of death...bondage:

the children...His children...are men...not angels

God became flesh and dwelled among us

- In order to die...and take upon Himself His curse upon man  
(the corrupting effects of sin can only be reversed by death)
- In order to destroy the power of death and Satan over man

Jesus is greater than death...Jesus is God, Creator of death  
as God, outside His creation, Jesus could NOT  
die...

but entering into His creation as man, He choose to  
die in our place because we could not defeat  
death

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed  
me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to  
heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the  
captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at  
liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year  
of the Lord.

Luke 4:18-19...the Savior's first words

- To make possible another decision (by faith and submission) to  
correct the bad one in Gen 3 (of unbelief and rebellion)

the spiritual birth of man (a choice)...made possible by the  
death of Jesus...

is greater than the physical death of man (a certainty)

only those without Jesus have a fear of death

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

John 10:17-18

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

1 Cor 15:20-26

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

2 Cor 4:13-14

And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

1 Cor 6:14

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Rom 8:13-17

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Ps 23:4-6

“Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord...”  
will not be heard apart from death (if the Lord carries)  
dying...and how we die...is part of our calling

death is not to be feared because Jesus defeated it and Satan at the cross.  
John 14:6 with John 8:32-36  
Jesus is the Truth...and He sets us free  
He even took back the keys!

v16 took not ...nature of angels but...seed of Abraham:  
Jesus did not lower Himself to the level of the angels, but lower still to the  
level of man...the “seed of Abraham”

Why? What is man that You are mindful of him?  
Man is the “top of the heap” of **ALL** of God’s creation!?  
Including angels!  
So what does it mean that we are “made a little lower than the angels”?  
And why are You so mindful of man?

how do angels relate to God? By knowledge.  
What...WAS...the decision of angels:  
• Seeing and experiencing the very presence of God...  
to obey or not

how do men relate to God? By faith.  
What...ARE...the decisions of man:  
• Not seeing nor experiencing the direct presence of  
God...to **believe** or not  
• And then...to obey or not

From God’s perspective,  
• Which of those two decision sets is greater?  
• Which of these two decision sets is a greater expression  
of His self-denying love...His nature?  
• His children are men...not angels

Let’s think about that some more...  
• Man is the only creature created in God’s image...  
Triune nature (body, soul, spirit)...Light  
• Man was created a spiritual being...superior to the angels  
• ...that died for unbelief and disobedience  
• Oh, how far the fall!  
• Oh, how far God went to rescue the fallen!  
• How astounding is v6!  
• Something even more astounding will happen at the  
manifestation of the sons of God (Rom 8:19) that the  
whole creation groans for (Rom 8:22)!

v17 it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren:

Jesus did what no angel could do...

Jesus did what only God could do...

Jesus did what only a man could do

The great mystery – Jesus Christ is 100% God and 100% man

God had to become man in order to mediate between God and His most beloved creature

- God alone could not – without violating His unchanging nature (holiness, just)
- Man alone could not – incapable of bridging the separation from God caused by sin without the power of God
- God/man could...and did

So God willingly humbled Himself to do it....

- to represent us to God
- to reconcile us to God
- to relieve us when we are being tempted

the 2nd Adam restored what the 1st Adam destroyed

v18 himself...being tempted...able to succour:

Jesus knows temptation...

- suffered it (in the wilderness, in the Garden of Gethsemane)
- in every way

...so He is qualified to be man's High Priest

Jesus Christ is THE Mediator (1 Tim 2:5), THE High Priest

- tempted as are we
- defeated temptation and death...relieving the impossible burden upon us...via payment of our debt (Rom 6:23)
- thereby was able to effect reconciliation for all men who believed in Him and His work
- graciously giving reconciliation to those not deserving of it

The Gospel of Grace...

- the only way into the kingdom of God...
- the message from God that we had better pay careful attention to...

is made possible only by Jesus Christ, Who is

- God Almighty
- Superior to the prophets
- Superior to the angels
- The very fulfillment of the Word of God

“Take away” from this chapter:

- take seriously the gospel we have heard and take it to heart (v1)
- not be ashamed of Him but declare His name, sing praises to Him (v12)
- we cannot escape the Lord’s judgment if we neglect/fail to heed His Word and the gospel of Jesus (v3)



## Hebrews Chapter 3

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)
2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
3. **To Moses** (Ch 3)
4. To Joshua (“Jesus” in Greek, “entering in”, Ch 4)
5. To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood (Ch 5-7)
6. To the old covenant (Ch 8-10)

Context: Perseverance of the faith

Written to believing Jew, who were

- still bound with  
the Law  
the traditions of Judaism
- burdened with the baggage of religion and living defeated lives
- facing intense pressure from unbelieving Jews to abandon  
Jesus as the Messiah

In Ch 3, Jesus is exalted high above Moses...and everything Moses represented to the  
Jews

v1-2 holy brethren:

Divinely separated and cleansed

partakers of the heavenly calling:

a quick reminder of who the believers are and where they are...

those who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior/Messiah have responded to God's calling

- out of darkness into the Light
- out of death into eternal life
- to live by faith, not works

Consider the Apostle and High Priest:

Now, the focus is upon Jesus Christ, the object of their faith...

Every man has been given a measure of faith (Rom 12:3)...

Every man places his faith in self, someone, or something...

Is faith in Jesus Christ well-placed faith?

“Pay very careful attention to God's”

1. “sent one”

33 times in Gospel of John alone, Jesus refers to the Father who “sent Me.”

2. representative to man/man's representative to God

- THE Mediator Who is both God and man...(Ch 2)  
therefore uniquely qualified to mediate
- The Author and Finisher of our faith (Ch 12)

Who was faithful to him that appointed him:

Jesus was faithful to the Father Who sent Him...a faithful representative of God to man and of man to God

Moses was faithful:

Jesus is now going to be compared to the very pillar of Judaism and the nation of Israel

v3-4 counted worthy of more glory than Moses:

Jesus is superior to Moses...a radical statement that would

- Infuriate the Jew who was faithful to his religion...
- Comfort and calm the Jew who was faithful to the Lord

Jesus is

- more faithful – Moses struck the rock, misrepresenting God
- more faithful to a higher calling – Moses was not sent to die for Israel...Jesus' has a greater mission
- builder of the house of Israel – created the nation Israel for Himself (Is 43:1)
- builder of the Body of Christ, the Church (Matt 16:18)  
“Upon this rock (statement of faith), I will build My church.”
- Builder of God's house – the just who live by faith  
Gal 3:28  
Neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, bond or free, we are all one in Christ Jesus  
Rev 4:1-4  
24 elders = 12 (Israel) + 12 (Church)  
common denominator: faith in Jesus Christ
- builder of all creation – Ch 1:2, 10  
Jesus is first elevated over Moses...and then equated with God the Creator  
Created all things out of nothing (*bara*)...spoke them into existence by the power of His Word  
He created the dirt, rock, and trees from which man builds his house  
finally, Jesus built Moses

v5 Moses verily was faithful:  
quoting Num 12:7

God called Moses

- His servant  
Joshua 1:2 Moses my servant is dead
- His friend  
Ex 33:11 the Lord spoke to Moses face-to-face, as a  
man speaks to his friend  
John 15:14 “IF do whatsoever I command you.”

because Moses

- was mighty in words and in deeds (Acts 7:22)
- was available...once his whining was addressed
- believed the Word of God
- put feet to his faith (Ch 11:24-29)
- was meek (Num 12:3, Matt 11:28-30)

v6 But Christ as a son:  
a very significant contrast between The Heir and a servant...

Moses

- servant in the house
- Received the Law
- Led Israel out of bondage, but not into the Promised  
Land

Jesus

- Builder of the house
- Master of the house
- Fulfilled the Law
- Led all people who put their faith in Him out of  
spiritual bondage and into the inheritance

Whose house we are if we hold fast:

IF...a huge word! Speaking of a conditional truth

We are the Lord's house...if we faithfully persevere

God initiates...we have a responsibility to respond

The only acceptable response to God's work is...faith

We are

- The house of the faithful (John 6:29, Heb 11:6)
- The Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20, 1 Cor 3:16)
- God's abode (John 15:5, 1 Peter 2:5, 9)

...IF...

...if we hold fast to our hope until the end...

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious  
appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus  
Christ

Col 1:27 Christ in you, the hope of glory

2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight...  
I have finished my course...  
I have kept the faith

like Aaron Barr did

we must consider the letters Jesus dictated to the 7 churches...how they  
finished

we must be diligent to not to finish like

1. Ephesus...the Pre-Occupied church that lost its first  
love
2. Pergamos...the Politically Correct church that followed  
after false doctrine
3. Thyatira...the Prosperous church that also followed  
after false doctrine
4. Sardis...the Powerless church that lost sight of Jesus,  
wandered away, and died
5. Laodicea...the Putrid church that got lukewarm about  
Jesus

but we must be careful to finish like

1. Smyrna...the Persecuted church that was faithful unto  
death
2. Philadelphia...the Persevering church that kept God's  
Word and did not deny Jesus

With 1 Cor 10:6 in mind, we must not finish like so many of the kings of Judah...e.g. Joash (2 Chron 22-24)

- Saved from assassination by his aunt, wife of Jehoiada the priest
- Rightfully put on the throne at age 7 years by Jehoiada in a coup against an illegitimate queen
- Did what was right in the sight of the Lord
- Repaired the Temple
- But...when Jehoiada died, he listened to the people and turned from the Lord to worship wooden idols
- Killed the son of Jehoiada, who spoke against Joash's idolatry
- Wounded by the Syrians, who were sent by the Lord to chastise His rebellious people
- Killed by his servants in his own bed
- Was not buried in the tomb of the kings...died totally disgraced
- He looked so good starting out...but he could not finish because he did not abide in the Lord
- His faith was not real...it was not personal...it was Jehoiada's faith

...which should lead us to right now examine the soil of our heart  
Parable of the Sower in Matt 13:3-9, 18-23

1. hard...the seed is snatched away (unbelief)
2. shallow...an emotional burst of joy quickly withered by tribulation and persecution
3. thorny...unfruitful because the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke it out
4. good...hear and believe, and then live by faith, bringing forth 100x, 60x, 30x

v7-11 if ye will (v7-8):

quoting Ps 95:7b-11...a psalm written by David (Heb 4:7)...but authored by the Holy Spirit!

“IF” says a choice must be made

1. to hear his voice...by being still before the Lord in prayer and in The Word
2. not be stubborn, prideful, and disobedient...and provoke God
  - the nation rejected the counsel of the 2 faithful spies...and died in the wilderness
  - Moses struck the rock, misrepresenting God to the people...and was not allowed to enter into the inheritance

when your fathers tempted me (v9):

tested the limits of God’s patience by

- not believing God could do what He promised to do
- “pushing the envelope” of the Law
- by murmuring
- looking for legal loopholes
- not being grateful
- being stiff-necked, rather than bowing to Him and giving Him their hearts and lives

saw my works forty years (v9):

seeing miracles will not result in saving faith

Luke 16:19-31 If they hear not Moses and the prophets

(John 5:39)

neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead

faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God

I was grieved with that generation...do always err in their heart (v10):

they argued...they did not “do”...

they did not understand God...because they did not believe God

their hearts were not pure...but were evil because of unbelief

Israel’s problem in the wilderness...and even in the Land...was a deteriorating heart condition.

They preferred	independence	to	dependence
	self-sufficiency	to	God’s sufficiency
	resistance	to	submission

Have not known my ways (v10):  
unbelief

- hardens the heart
- makes the heart evil (v12)
- separates you from God

The more you know about the Lord

- the greater is your faith...
- the easier it is to trust Him

2 Peter 3:18

In my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest (v11):

Israel was led out of bondage (saved), but by unbelief were powerless to enter into their inheritance, thereby throttling the blessings God had for them

we do the same when we accept Jesus as Savior...but do not bow every day, all day to His Lordship  
(in the “upgrade” we lose self-centeredness and self-will)

men enter God’s rest (kingdom) by

- faith ([Heb 4:3](#))
- persevering faith...finishing the race

we too need God’s power to grasp all the blessings God has for us...  
by the baptism of the Holy Spirit

v12 Take heed:

Beware! Warning! Spiritual red lights and sirens

“You are being pressured by the sons of those very unbelievers to do just as their fathers did!

Does that make any sense?

No, that is insane...insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

Very clearly...Jesus Christ is referred to as...The Living God

a very sobering and frightening warning about the placement of our faith

- in a religion...disastrous results
- in a church...disastrous results
- in yourself...disastrous results
- in any man...disastrous results

only faith in the Living God leads to eternal life



v13 But exhort one another daily:

“Resist the lure of the traditions of men and the bondage of religion.

Don’t knuckle to the pressure of man...you have access to the power of God! Every day, all day!”

While it is called Today:

Still referring to Ps 95:7b...Ch 3:7-8

someday will be the last day!

The number of days is finite...2 Cor 6:2

lest...be hardened thru the deceitfulness of sin:

Satan

- desires to make hearts hard...worthless clay
- he makes promises but cannot produce results other than pain and suffering and misery...which he labors to hide
- he works outside in

God

- desires to make hearts soft...workable clay
- He makes promises and ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY delivers results!
- Because He loves us so, His Word documents behaviors and attitudes to avoid because they are destructive
- He works inside out

Hardening happens slowly as the “water” evaporates.

To be soft, water must be added (Eph 5:26)

You can be becoming hard without even knowing it...when you are not in the Word every day

By the deceitfulness of sin, many people say they are Christians...but really are not...because they

- have a different Jesus
- ashamed of Jesus and the Gospel of Grace, which is the power of God unto salvation
- cling to a legal relationship with God and the traditions of men (religion) as the means of salvation
- put their faith in the church instead of in the Living God Who said, “It is finished!”
- do not DO as Jesus said and did...out of love, not obligation

God wants a loving relationship with man...bound to Him by His love

v14 we are made partakers of Christ:  
meditate on this truth....Jesus dwells in me

- Life of God
- Truth of God
- Righteousness of God

by faith in God's Word, not our performance

v1 + v6

between v6 and v14:

- choose to hear the Holy Spirit guiding your life
- choose to believe what God says
- "add water" daily to your heart
- James 1:22

Every time we partake in communion, we remember God's awesome...  
but simple...truths

v15 Today if we hear...harden not:  
choices a man must make

- to listen to God
- to harden or soften his heart toward God...by believing Him or not

v7b-8a is repeated...and Ps 95:7b-8a...it MUST be an important message

context: in the midst of the exhortation to the believing Jews to not  
abandon the loving relationship with God in favor of a legal  
relationship with God...such is not a step of faith but an  
evil step of unbelief

Entering into the rest of Jesus is superior than entering into the  
rest of Joshua

v16-19 when they had heard, did provoke:  
all (but 2) of the Jews rebelled against the Word of God once God led  
them out of their bondage in Egypt  
they (except Caleb and Joshua) resisted the blessings of God's inheritance  
thru unbelief...and died in the wilderness, never entering into His  
rest in the Promised Land

could not enter in because of unbelief:  
entering into God's rest...rest in the blessing of God's victory  
Israel could not enter into God's rest because they did not believe the  
promises of God

a dire warning for all of us: there are many promises God has given His  
children that we do not lay hold off...because we do not believe  
God wants to bless us  
in our human thought, we figure blessings from God flow when we  
deserve them by "being good"...blessings come with good  
behavior  
given our track record of daily failure, when do we ever deserve them?  
So, "clearly" we believe that God does not want to bless us

BUT God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher  
than our thoughts  
He desires to bless us because He loves us...always...not just when our  
behavior is good  
Ps 139:17-18a  
All of God's blessings flow from His grace, not His justice

Because we do not believe that, we, like Israel, cannot enter in to the rest  
of God's blessings

## Hebrews Chapter 4

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)
2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
3. To Moses (Ch 3)
4. **To Joshua (“Jesus” in Greek, “entering in”, Ch 4)**
5. To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood (Ch 5-7)
6. To the old covenant (Ch 8-10)

v1 Let us therefore fear:

“to be frightened, to be alarmed”

Paul does not say “Fear not” but, “Have fear!”  
this is a healthy fear

fear of the Lord:

- for the unbeliever/enemy – God’s wrath  
(product of failure in a legal relationship with God)
- for the believer/child of God – missing out on Abba Father’s blessings... given by God’s grace and received by faith  
(product of prospering in a loving relationship with God)

lest...entering into His rest...come short of it:

therefore...let’s fear “coming up short” on God’s blessings...by unbelief

there is no rest in a legal relationship, when watching your Ps and Qs...  
and lamenting your failure to perform

For the law-breaker, there is no rest

- No peace for the speeder when he sees a Highway Patrol squad car...only condemnation and anxiety
- No peace for the drug addict anytime he sees a policeman... only paranoia
- Driving to work one day last week I saw a car “off-roading” on no-man’s-land between I-60 off ramp and I-10 (made a wrong turn so going cross country to get back on I-10)...no peace for that guy...on the look-out for ditches and cops!
- No rest for the income tax evader who assumes the risk of getting caught

Sin is breaking God's Law...sin is anything not done in faith  
Rom 14:23b

Rebellion...which is unbelief...is

- Self-will...thinking you won't get caught

Problem is...with the all-seeing and all-knowing God...every man  
ALWAYS gets caught!

- There is no peace for the wicked (Is 48:22, Is 57:21)
- There is no rest for the child of God who is living in sin.  
God loves His children too much to just "let us go"...  
His Holy Spirit convicts us and gives us no peace  
until we confess and repent

Rebellion...which is unbelief...is also

- Self-reliance...thinking you can lay hold of the promises of  
God by yourself

Problem is...with the all-powerful God...no man can do what He alone  
can do

- there is rest only for those who surrender into the loving arms  
of God the Father and receive the gift of His grace

simple example...my 3 older boys this past week...

- no worries...
- provided for (my food, my gasoline, my shelter)...

which would not have been the case if ours was a legal relationship and  
they had to fend for themselves

**Note:** the blessings of God are not a "spiritual competition" between His  
children...because they are not earned by our works...  
they are given by His grace

none of us deserve any of the blessings of God...so

- don't "compete"...don't corrupt the good things of God
- don't look horizontally at the blessings of God in the  
lives of others...look vertically to receive the  
blessings of God for your own life

I do not want to miss out on anything the Father wants to give me!  
(James 1:17)

I would much rather be short on the consequences of my will than  
short on the blessings of His will for my life

v2-3 did not profit them, not being mixed with faith:  
the gospel is of no value without faith by the hearer  
God does the work...man must respond...by faith  
gospel + hearing ≠ salvation  
gospel + hearing + faith = salvation  
John 6:29  
(When did God do those works? Before Gen 1:1)  
man's responsibility in God's work of salvation...is to believe God has  
already done it

Belief is more than intellectual agreement – the demons have this  
James 2:19

The belief Jesus spoke of is

- Faith (Heb 11:1) evidence of things spoken but not seen
- Trust...belief with feet...belief in action
- Commitment...the difference between the chicken and the pig
- clinging to what had been spoken...in ALL circumstances
- unconditional surrender

their fathers heard the Word of God...did not believe...and died in the  
wilderness

they have heard the Word of God (Gospel)...do not believe...and will also  
die in the wilderness

the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16-17) profits us only when we  
believe it (Hab 2:4)

v4-7 certain place...did rest the seventh day:  
in Gen 2

this rest is the Sabbath rest...the rest of completion of

- creation...(v4)
- redemption...by of the Lamb of God, Who said from the Cross,  
“It is finished!” (v5)

entered not in because of unbelief:

speaking of the religious Jew who trying to earn his salvation by his  
works...and not able to please God because

- he was not perfect
- he had no faith in God's perfect work

the Pharisees were filled with good works...but died in their sins because  
of unbelief in God's spiritual Sabbath rest...the completed work of  
Jesus Christ

v8 for if Jesus:

“Jesus is Greek for Joshua...

this refers to Joshua, son of Nun, who led the Jews into the Promised Land...where they were to enter their rest

Did they enter in? Not completely

Why not? Unbelief

When did Joshua speak of another day?

The “he”, part of the same train of thought, refers to God (v4)...

Who spoke thru David in Ps 95...and thru the writer of this book

We, too, have missed COUNTLESS blessings of inheritance from God because of our unbelief in

- His love for us...just as we are
- His grace...exceedingly abundantly giving us that which we do not deserve
- His ability to do what He has promised to do...which includes conforming us into the image of His Son

v9-10 remaineth a rest...ceased from his own works:

God has issued all of mankind an invitation to come

1. Out of the world...by faith receiving a gift...not by working to earn a wage (Rom 6:23 with Eph 2:8-9)
  - the righteousness of His Son
  - the Gospel of Grace
2. Into His rest...by faith believing His promises and walking with Him into His promises  
this rest remains for us to enter...by faith

God's rest...finished work...is ours

- the instant we believe and accept God's gift of eternal life
- continuously...now...when we walk by faith  
looking "inside out"...thru the lens of God's Word  
rather than "outside in"...thru our physical eyes
- forever...in the presence of the faithful God

we enter into the rest that remains...the blessings of inheritance...the promises of God...when we stop striving to "get there" ourselves

striving stops when I enter into God's rest by faith...and rest begins the moment I stop striving

striving...

- to earn your salvation by works
- to earn God's blessings

is irrational...because God finished all the work before Gen 1:1 (v3)

v11 Let us therefore labor to enter into that rest:

labor to enter into God's rest?

- To believe...to stop striving...which is unbelief
- To receive by faith...to stop working to earn
- To trust in God's spoken Word...to not trust in ourselves

fall after the same example:

The wise man learns from those who have gone before him



v12 For the Word of God is quick and powerful:  
in v2-3...the gospel is of no value without faith by the hearer  
God does the work...man must respond...by faith  
in v9...how do we enter into God's rest?

How do we believe that we might enter into the finished work of Jesus?  
By the Word of God...by hearing the Word God has spoken  
Rom 10:17

How do we know God loves us?  
By the Word of God...He tells us so that we can KNOW  
1 John

How do we receive the grace of God?  
By the Word of God...by hearing and believing the promises of  
God

How do we know the will of God for our lives?  
By the Word of God...and faithfully obeying it

the Word of God is:

- quick = "alive"  
the Living Word...eternal...established in heaven...  
applicable today and every day
- powerful  
to bring the life of God to a dead man  
to transform our lives and renew our minds  
to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ

...and sharper:

the Sword of the Spirit is sharper than any physical sword...able to divide

- soul (emotions) and spirit (life of man made in the image of  
God)  
the Word of God feeds the Spirit of man...  
spiritual growth comes only by the Word of God...  
not by emotional experiences

- joints from the marrow...there's a fine edge!

...and is a discerner:

And the Living Word of God discerns the thoughts and motives of man's  
heart...shining the Light of the world EVERYWHERE  
the Living Word...feeding the spirit...reveals and convicts us of our sin...  
Jer 17:9

v13 all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him:  
we are naked before God...to Whom we must give an account  
there are no secrets from God...the all-knowing God is never surprised.  
He sees and knows everything, be it in light or darkness.  
No one ever “gets away with it.”

Everyone of us is an open book before God...no matter how hard we try to

- hide ugly stuff about us from others
- isolate ourselves from other men

we are all naked before God our Father...so we must be a child

- honest
- open
- transparent
- humble
- pure
- innocent...like a child...with God and with each other

Matthew has no shame about disrobing in my presence in order to get in the shower...whosoever has faith in Jesus Christ will not be ashamed, so we need that same innocence

“I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling in shock, I heard my 5-year old shout from the back seat, “Mom! That lady isn’t wearing a seat belt!”

“A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year old daughter to answer the phone. “It’s the pastor, mommy,” the child said to her mother. “I told him you could not come to the phone because you were hitting the bottle.”

“A little boy opened the family Bible. Flipping thru the pages, suddenly something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked carefully at it. It was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages. “Mama, look what I found! I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”

v14-15 let us hold fast our profession:

“Hold onto your faith in Jesus Christ...let loose of your works! Do not fall back into your religion and the traditions of men!”

cling to the Author and Finisher of our faith...our High Priest...

- Who fulfilled the perfect requirements of the Law
- Who was tempted like us, but was perfect!
- Who knows all our pains and our passions...but they never governed His life...The Spirit of God always did
- Who knows our frame and does not deal with us according to our sins or reward us according to our iniquities (Ps 103:8-14)
- Who understands our weaknesses...and is merciful and compassionate and gracious

v16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace:

the Body of Jesus...the Lamb of God, our High Priest...was offered...and when He died, the Father ripped the veil in the Temple, exposing to all men the Holy of Holies.

For those who believe, the blood of Christ turns God's throne of judgment into His throne of grace (mercy seat)

For those who believe, the acceptable sacrifice of the Lamb of God gained personal access to the very presence of Abba Father...to boldly seek the grace and the help and the power we need...anytime

God initiates, man responds

Responding by faith, we have continual access to the power of God... and to His rest

What an absolutely awesome promise!

Do you believe it?

Will you enter into God's rest and receive His blessings graciously given to us because He loves us?

Or will you not enter in because of unbelief and strive to “get there” yourself?

My kids are not in the least bit shy or proud to ask me for help

How much less so should be the children of the Almighty God!

## Hebrews Chapter 5

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)
2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
3. To Moses (Ch 3)
4. To Joshua (“Jesus” in Greek, “entering in”, Ch 4)
5. **To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood** (intro’ed in Ch 4, Ch 5-7)
6. To the old covenant (Ch 8-10)

Context:

the early Church was Jewish

many of the believers were being pressured...or felt pulled...back into the bondage of their religion from which they had been freed by Jesus Christ

The struggle was intense

- Traditions have deep, deep roots
- The rituals were comfortable moving dramatic

Some believers were falling back into the error of offering sacrifices for sin...

Error because in the completed work of Jesus Christ,

- there remains no more sacrifice for sin
- the shadow has given way to the Substance

Paul’s urgent exhortation to them is to

- stay in the Light...
- not drift back into the shadows...
- not backslide to an inferior high priest when The Great High Priest has entered the Holy of Holies for ALL sin

**Ch 4:14-16**

The Holy of Holies...

- where only the High Priest could go to offer sacrifice for sin...first for himself and then for the people
- only on one appointed day each year...the Day of Atonement
- on the mercy seat surrounded by cherubim

is a model of heaven

our Great, **sinless** High Priest, Jesus Christ, has entered heaven for us...and now we can follow Him and enter boldly to the Throne of Grace to get the help we need

v1-3 high priest taken from among men:  
of the Levitical priesthood...the sons of Aaron

Priest:

- man's representative to God
- God's representative to man

purpose of man's representative to God (v1):

1. offer gifts – “I love You”  
because He first loved us
2. offer sacrifices for sins – “I owe You”  
because sinful man cannot approach a holy and just God

character of God's representative to man (v2-3):

1. compassion on the ignorant...those
  - without understanding
  - with a foolish and rebellious heart (Jer 5:20-25)
  - with corrupt minds (Rom 1:31)
2. compassion on those who have gone astray
  - all...who have turned to their own way (Is 53:6)
3. humility...aware that he too is a sinner that has fallen short of God's perfect standard  
Since the priest was not perfect either...therefore unable to save himself or any other man...he was to
  - be compassionate, not judgmental
  - NOT be like the arrogant, condemning  
“anti-priest” in Luke 18:10-14

v4 taketh this honor:

The priesthood was

- not a volunteer opportunity
- not an elected office
- not a career path option
- ...but a calling of God

God picked His representatives...Aaron and his descendants

For a man to take this honor for himself apart from the calling of God was an act of pride that would not be tolerated

v5 Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest  
Jesus did not labor to become a spiritual superstar worthy of God's honor  
of being made High Priest...the honor was bestowed upon Him by  
His Father

Paul is quoting Ps 2:7

the priesthood of Jesus Christ glorifies God the Father, not God the Son  
God the Father glorifies God the Son

John 17:4 I have glorified You on earth; I have finished the  
work You gave me to do.

Phil 2:5-11 God has highly exalted Him...every knee...every  
tongue...to the glory of God the Father

v6 Thou art a priest forever after the order of Mel.:  
quoting Ps 110:4

Jesus is of the tribe of Judah...not Levi

Quite unlike the Aaronic order (temporary shadows)...the order of Mel. is  
eternal glory...

Jesus is not merely a human priest for as long as He lived on earth...

He is the eternal God and is ALWAYS and evermore

- God's representative to man (John 14:6)
- Man's representative to God (1 Tim 2:5-6)

More on Mel. in Ch 7...

v7 Who in the days of His flesh:  
His 33 years on earth...His 1st advent

Offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears:  
in the Garden of Gethsemane...sweating as it were drops of blood...on the  
eve of paying the ransom for fallen man

Jesus' prayers were heard because He was obedient and submissive to the  
Father...."Not My will be done but Your will be done."

v8 learned he obedience by the things which he suffered:  
the events leading up to and on the Cross were the 2<sup>nd</sup> temptation of  
Christ

- denial of self
- submission to the will of God the Father

...more intense than the 1<sup>st</sup> temptation in the wilderness at the beginning  
of His ministry  
...and our High Priest was...faithful

Jesus learned obedience by the suffering resulting from His faithfulness

Contrast: How have we learned what we have learned?

- Usually...the hard way...thru suffering the consequences of disobedience and unfaithfulness...  
by choosing to not do the right thing
- Sometimes...the wise way...by choosing to do the right thing in spite of what our will is

obedience is not natural, it is learned...and learned thru sufferings and painful experiences

it is easy to obey when things are

- easy
- smooth
- going the way you want them to...according to your will

it is difficult to obey when things are

- painful
- turbulent
- contrary to your will

so we learn obedience...which obviously is pleasing to God...thru suffering

God uses suffering to teach us very important lessons...things we cannot learn any other way...

- commitment to Him
- trust in Him
- faith in Him
- patience in the circumstances of life
- hope in His deliverance

that's why we "count it all joy" in the midst of our trials (James 1:2-4)

v9 perfect:

complete...in obedience to the Father...completely faithful as

- God's representative to man
- man's representative to God

Author...the One who has provided the script and its fulfillment

Ch 12:2

His suffering makes us perfect!

Ch 2:10

His perfection is more than sufficient to cover my imperfection...

Prov 10:12 God's love covers a multitude of sins

1 Peter 4:8

...gaining me access to the just and holy God

Heb 4:15-16

those who are obedient to follow the Author receive eternal salvation

Matt 16:24 If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Me.

Keyword: obey

Not my will but Yours be done

v10 priest after the order of Mel.:

like Mel.

- Eternal
- King of Peace and Righteousness
- Greater than father Abraham (Rom 4:11)

The priesthood of Jesus is superior to the Levitical priesthood...

So why fall back to the imperfect and the inferior?

Now the Holy Spirit thru Paul turns it up a notch....



v11 hard to explain:

an “arresting” statement...to those who still desire to mix their works and faith into the equation for salvation

the simple yet profound truths of God cannot be understood...  
when one is not spiritually discerned

1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

finite man cannot understand “infinite” truths, then believe...  
he must believe to receive the life necessary to understand  
i.e. faith (Ch 11:1)

dull of hearing:

due to:

- Pride
- self-will
- pre-conceived ideas
- the deceitfulness of riches
- the cares of this world
- lust of the flesh
- anger...desperation...and other emotions
- spiritual atrophy
- the noise level from the busy-ness of this life
- unbelief

sin...dulls the eyes, ears, and mind of man

v12-14 ought to be teachers...need of milk and not strong meat:  
the Jews should have been teaching Jesus to the unbelieving world...  
rather than the believing Gentiles teaching them

the enLight-ened Jews should have been awesome teachers!

- Zealous
- Depth of understanding
- Cultural understanding
- Fruitful Jealousy (Rom 10:19, Rom 11:12-12)

This is a rebuke...that applies also to a careless or carnal Christian  
Paul was frustrated with this lack of spiritual growth...which he called  
“carnal”

1. dull of hearing...because of sin
2. should be teachers but must re-learn even the foundational truths of God
3. “You are babes, not adults.”

1 Cor 3:1-3a

hanging onto our works in any form as a means to be acceptable to God keeps us in a state of spiritual infancy

4. Unskilled in the Word

2 Tim 2:15

Eph 6:17 the sword of the Spirit

Ch 4:12a

spiritual growth (2 Peter 3:18) is stunted...

and spiritual atrophy sets in...

when we stop

- reading the Word...
- consulting the Word for answers to the problems of every day life

5. Undiscerning in spiritual/moral matters

Ch 4:12c

the spiritual babe is untrained...too weak...too immature...

to be spiritually discerning...and is vulnerable

Spiritual maturity is not a function of time and seniority...

it is a function of obedience to the Word of God

Paul's frustration was fueled in part by the sense of urgency he had  
"Time is short."

1 Cor 7:29 (context of taking spouses vs gift of being single and  
serving the Lord whole-heartedly)

to these Jewish believers, he rebukes them saying, "You are sill babies  
when you should be 'Body builders'."

Sadly, many Christians go to church all their lives but never

- develop spiritually beyond infancy...
- grow up...
- mature

in our appointed time on this earth, there is a sense of urgency  
unparalleled in Church history...

and the Lord is calling us to grow up...to mature in Him!

Look around at the chaos...the absence of order...in our world

- Wars and rumors of wars
- Terrorism unabated
- Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the nations
  
- Technology chaos caused by computer viruses
- Spiritual chaos in the Church...redefining sin and rejecting the Word of God
- Political chaos in California...the world's 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy  
135 candidates for Governor  
Hollywood leading the charge to the State House
- Gasoline chaos in Phoenix
- Weather chaos in  
Europe (scorching heat)  
TX (river of hurricanes)
  
- Electricity chaos in NY, NJ, OH, MI, Canada
- Water chaos in OH
- And the suddenness of it all...  
9 seconds in for 50 million people in NY/NJ/OH/MI  
...1 in 6 Americans

...all but a foretaste of the chaos that lies on the horizon...  
the shadows of the coming Substance are upon us!

God wants His kids to

- “grow up”
- be fruitful
- discern between good and evil...and choose good
- be holy...separate...different...salty
- be ready!

Are you ready?

Can you get ready in a chaotic 9 seconds?

In the twinkling of the eye?

If not, get ready because The Bride is making herself ready!

It's time to grow up...Spiritual maturity requires

- a Living faith in the Living God
- obedience to the will of God, regardless of what your will is...  
doing what is right in God's eyes...not what is right in your own eyes
- holiness...thinking, talking, and acting like Jesus...differently than the world
- Abandoning dead works and the traditions of men
- Consistent hunger for the Word  
study (2 Tim 2:15)  
meditation (Ps 1:1-3)
- Time in prayer  
personal  
intercessory...standing in the gap for others
- bearing fruit of the Spirit...God's love...as manifested by  
Joy  
Peace  
Longsuffering  
Gentleness  
Goodness  
Faith  
Meekness  
Self-control
- Sharing the suffering of Jesus, not living a sheltered spiritual life..."Go!"

- Serving the Lord...“working out” to build spiritual strength...  
not just being a “pew potato” getting fatter and fatter
- consecrated...sold-out for Jesus Christ...  
all you are  
all you have  
all you ever hope to be

Yet so many Christians

- set self-imposed “growth limits”...don’t want to “get carried away” with this church stuff...
- stagnate themselves by building spiritual “speed bumps”  
vs being completely sold-out...
- choose milk over meat

young children (e.g. our 3 little ones) desperately want to grow up...  
are excited about growing up (e.g. Nathan in school sports)

but...when they get old enough

- to work and drive (e.g. our 4 big kids)
- realize they are “on the hook” for owning and maintaining  
their own car...
- can see their own rent payment on the horizon...

are not so excited about growing up...they want to NOT grow up  
(e.g. Brian’s exhortation to the 3 little ones)

baby Christians are on-fire and are excited about learning God’s Word...  
soak up milk like sponges

but as they grow older...and face the persecution and the trials

- they lose the fire...
- as they realize they are “on the hook” to be Doers of the Word  
and not hearers only...

and they often back away from the meat and stop growing...stop maturing

Time is short!

Wake up!

Grow up!

Get ready!

The Lord wants you to be “sold-out”...not a “hold out”

## Hebrews Chapter 6

This is a most difficult passage of Scripture  
Acts 17:11 always applies...especially today

v1-3 leaving...let us go onto perfection:  
as the thought from the end of Ch 5 continues...  
an exhortation to mature...to grow up  
to leave the first principles of God and move on to maturity

for the Christian...

- to not be satisfied with skimming the surface repeatedly...  
but to “dig in” and “dive deep”
- to not stand still...  
but to build on the foundation we have been given  
1 Cor 3:9-11

However...the context is Jewish and the Levitical priesthood  
And these are the first principles of the oracles of God (5:12)

1. repentance from dead (faithless) works  
salvation by grace vs works  
salvation cannot be earned by man...it is given by God
2. faith toward God  
the God of AI&J...Yahweh...I AM in the burning bush  
the just shall live by faith
3. baptisms  
the washings/baths/mikvahs of
  - the priests before offering sacrifice for sin
  - the sinners coming to sacrifice for sin
4. laying on of hands  
by the priest on the sacrificial lamb, bull, or goat to  
“transfer” sin
5. resurrection of the dead  
starting in the oldest book...Job...and all the way thru the  
prophets
6. eternal judgment  
place of eternal torment for all whose sins are not covered

to the wavering, immature Jewish believer, Paul says,

- “Grow up! You should be teachers!”
- “These doctrines are already established.”
- “So we will move on in the meat of the entire counsel of God...if God allows us to.”

Why is v3 conditional?

- Because the meat is spiritual...
- God is the Revealer/Teacher of spiritual truth...
- that cannot be received/understood by those not spiritually discerning...

which leads us to the difficult part....

v4-6 it is impossible...to renew them again unto repentance:

a very difficult passage...(framed above)

a very strong, sober warning...

IMPOSSIBLE to renew

and a passage that Satan loves to use as a club against the children of God

this passage teaches...it seems...that

- believers
- who draw back from Jesus Christ
- are lost...with no hope of recovery

the fear and discomfort this passages causes...is good for us!

“Don’t go there!!!”

to the backslider, this passage should be very troubling...

and that is very good!

But who is the Holy Spirit talking about? Backsliders?

Central to understanding this passage...

A. the pronouns (in the flow)

v1 us \ Paul includes himself...

v3 we / true believers

v4 those \ another group

v6 they / being distinguished from...

v9 we \ back to

you / true believers

B. the participles – those who

1. were once enLight-ened (v4)  
“saw the Light” of the World, Jesus the Messiah  
saw how Jesus fulfilled the Law...  
tasted of God’s salvation...
2. have tasted the heavenly gift (v4)  
God’s love and grace, manifested by Jesus
3. have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit (v4)  
spirits stirred...eyes opened...ears opened...  
“heart burned” by the revelation of Scripture  
(OT)
4. have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of  
the world to come (v5)  
have eaten of the pure and holy truth of God  
Ps 34:8a taste and see that the Lord is good
5. have fallen away (v6)  
this “If” in the Greek is NOT a conditional clause  
like v3...it is a different word  
the Greek word makes it...  
“even who have fallen away”  
NOT “*if...in case...they fall away*”

This is key to our understanding because this  
5<sup>th</sup> participle seems to put a limitation on the  
prior 4

- enlightened...to a degree, did not abide  
Ps 34:8b blessed...that trusts in him  
John 15:1-5
- tasted...somewhat, did not eat and digest
- partakers...but not fully  
Eph 5:15-18
- tasted...partially, did not eat and digest  
vs Ezk 2:7 – 3:3

the result is alarming and breath-taking –  
impossible to renew to repentance

and my mind races...



Since

- men of God like
  - David (murder and adultery)
  - Jonah (ran away)
  - Peter (fearful-of-men-vs-God denial)
    - sinned...
    - were chastised...
    - confessed...
    - were forgiven...
- Jesus said, “All the Father gives me shall come to me and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37)...a picture of the Ark of Noah
- the Prodigal Son was welcomed home...
- 1 John 1:9 is God’s truth...

the key seems to be “fall away”...apostasy...not backslide

- To receive, then turn away from, the faith
- To renounce Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- To turn one’s heart, back, and mind on Jesus
- To actively try to get others to do so also, destroying their faith

But to whom is the Holy Spirit speaking? Who are these people?

Sounds like the “2<sup>nd</sup> soil” type in the Parable of the Sower...

They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. (Luke 8:13)

this strong warning also compliments Paul’s strong exhortation in the pastoral letters to teach sound doctrine

Ultimately...God only knows who they are...I don’t

But I do know that the warning is VERY clear!

- “Don’t go there!”
- “Grow up so you can’t be led or blown there!”
- “Finish the race strong!”
- “Be a ‘we/us’...not a ‘those/they’!”

the next couple of verses may help also...

v7-8 earth which drinketh...bringeth:

Is 55:10-11

Matt 5:45 God sends the rain on the just and the unjust

Ps 1:1-3

John 15:6-8

God sends the rain (God the Holy Spirit) over the entire earth

- in some places, the earth is fruitful (faith-full)
- in most places, the earth is barren (unbelief)

2 kinds of soil...2 kinds of hearts

1. fruitful
2. barren – fruit-less

thorns (no fruit, symbolic of the curse) are cast into the fire

“bearing fruit” brings some clarity to v4-6

in context...

- a loving relationship with God based on Jesus bears fruit
- a legal relationship with God based on religion is cursed

v9 beloved:

after v4-6, how comforting!

Speaks of true believers...those with a loving relationship based on Jesus

we are persuaded of better things...the things of salvation:

the good soil in the Parable of the Sower

“better things: is to be fruitful...30x, 60x, 100x

nothing is better than salvation (Ps 84:10)

for the beloved, salvation is not the issue...maturity is

thus we speak (in this manner):

Ch 5:12-14

Ch 6:4-6

v10 God is not unrighteous to forget:

“God knows what you have done in the name of Jesus to love His children.”

“Maybe you’re not teaching them, but you’re serving them.”

1 Cor 15:58 your labor is not in vain in the Lord

v11-12 the same diligence:  
zeal...the zeal of Jesus...the zeal of Paul

to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Catch the fire!

Stoke the fire! Don't let the fire go out!

Finish strong!

This assurance of salvation

- takes time...we are growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ
- comes only from the Lord as we walk with Him and mature in Him
- can be grasped only by the mature...not the lazy

Be not slothful:

- comfortable...not willing to be stretched and grown
- lazy...not willing to labor years if needed in planting, watering, praying
- impatient...want instant gratification
- lukewarm...one of the most terrifying words in the Bible!

Inherit the promises:

enemies do not inherit, only sons do...and they by

1. faith – active belief and trust – not works  
John 1:12 believe in His power and authority
2. patience – fortitude in suffering for obediently doing the right thing, – not living on “Easy Street”  
Ch 5:8-9  
James 1:2-4 trying of faith works patience  
1 John 5:4-5 overcome the world by faith in Jesus

when it comes to

- Jesus Christ
- The eternal truths of God
- Unconditional surrender to His will...

...are you slothful...or zealous?

v13-14 God made promise to Abraham:  
he would have a son by Sarah...and thru him all nations would be blessed

- his seed
- Seed of the Woman

swear by no greater:  
to take an oath...by someone of greater power and authority  
ala "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the  
truth, so help you God?"

this is an impossibility for God

God said to Abraham, "I will." And He did.  
with God's Word there is no

- mind game
- hidden agenda
- surprise
- doubt

blessing I will bless and multiplying I will multiply:  
quoting [Gen 22:15-18](#)

v15 patiently endured, he obtained the promise:  
Abraham waited 25 years between the promise and its delivery.

25 years...and one son by his own works...later, Isaac was born of Sarah,  
just as God promised (when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 )  
and thru Isaac, the promised Seed of the Woman...Jesus Christ

v16 swear by the greater:  
"I swear on my father's grave!"  
"I swear to God!"

if one lies under oath, they can suffer intense consequences

- heavy fines
- prison time...

because our legal system breaks down when people who have sworn to tell  
the truth lie

Jesus says don't swear (Matt 5:33-37).

Let your "yes" be yes and your "No" be no

Just tell the plain truth always so others know and not have to  
guess if you are speaking the truth

Let your word be "golden" to all...let it be your bond/seal

v17-18 two immutable things:  
unchangeability...certainty

what a comforting contrast to v4-6!  
God NEVER changes...Heb 13:8  
and that is why the world hates Him  
Sin is still sin and will always be sin...requiring holy judgment

1. counsel – His plan and purpose  
God’s purposes are unchanging.  
Neither Satan nor man can change/negate God’s plan.  
Both are players and instruments in that plan.
2. oath – His Word  
in its content...inerrant...perfect  
in its execution...God has always shown that He is as good as  
His Word

The Word of God is forever  
Rom 8:1 and the whole chapter that follows  
1 Thes 4:12-17  
“Heaven and earth will pass away but My words shall not pass  
away.” (Matt 24:35)

impossible for God to lie:  
God is unable to speak falsely...His nature is completely devoid of the  
ability to lie

God says,	“I will.”	He will.
	“Yes.”	He means Yes
	“No.”	He means No.

strong consolation:  
The result is we have strong consolation...more powerful comfort than we  
can imagine...in the promises of God  
God’s fervent desire is that we KNOW His Word is truth...  
we can know that we know what we know

God has strongly confirmed His promises...so we will put our entire trust  
in Him...and flee to His refuge

only the God of all comfort can comfort the soul...

- money and material things leave it wanting, discontent
- drugs and alcohol torture the soul
- philosophies and religions of men imprison the soul
- nothing the world has comforts the soul

only the Cross and the empty tomb...the works of God on our behalf...can comfort the soul of man

fled for refuge:

the idea conveyed in the Cities of Refuge  
Jesus is our "city of refuge"

Only to Him can we flee for eternal life

v19-20 anchor of the soul:

the anchor steadied and secured a ship in heavy winds and waves.  
mariners had safety when the anchor was in place

the hope of eternal life anchors our soul during the storms of life

In turbulent times and places, our Anchor is

- completely trustworthy to hold us in the peace of God's forgiveness and mercy
- secure...firmly in place...to hold us in the life of God
- out of sight!  
in the Holy of Holies in heaven,  
at the right hand of the Father,  
interceding for us
- our Forerunner...Who went first to prepare the way  
[John 14:1-3](#)

Jesus is man's only hope...

The warning and the exhortation of Heb 6 is  
abide...dwell...in...  
don't ever fall away from Him!

[Micah 7:18-19](#)

## Hebrews Chapter 7

6:20 the order of Mel.:

Gen 14:18-20

- King of Salem
- Brought bread and wine
- Priest of the most high God
- Blessed Abram
- Blessed the most high God
- Received tithes from Abram

Ps 110:1-4

- An order of priesthood

That is all we know in OT Scripture about this mysterious person

Quoting Ps 110:4, “the order of Mel” was mentioned in

Heb 5:6, 10

Heb 6:20

and will be again in Heb 7:11, 17, 21

before proceeding, we need to understand basic principles of biblical interpretation...(*write these down*)

- Big Picture
  1. context
  2. Scripture interprets Scripture
- Microscope
  3. the plain meaning
  4. the implied meaning
  5. the understanding after much study and meditation
  6. an allegory...a metaphor with a hidden meaning

in Heb 7, the writer uses both

3. the plain meaning...stating facts known about Mel
6. allegory...metaphor...to interpret the facts...seeing the shadow of the Substance to come

Mel is not the object of Heb 7...Jesus Christ is

v1-3 Melchizedek:

so who is this Mel.?

the plain meaning...the basic facts:

1. King of Salem (Jerusalem, Ps 76:1-2)  
...Scripture interprets Scripture
2. Priest of the Most High God
3. King of righteousness  
*melech* = “king”  
Melchizedek = “king of righteousness”
4. King of Shalom...peace

The metaphor...things not actually declared but deduced:

5. “Time-less”

he suddenly appears in Genesis, the book of genealogies...  
without a genealogy

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unregistered father</li><li>• Unregistered mother</li><li>• Unrecorded birth</li><li>• Unrecorded death</li><li>• No descendents</li></ul> | <p>\</p> <p>\</p> <p>/</p> <p>/</p> <p>/</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Scripture is<br/>silent so we<br/>should be also<br/>(...but certainly<br/>mysterious!)</li></ol> |
|--|--|--|
6. Made like the Son of God
    - “assimilate”
    - absorbed by...merged with...to the point of loss of one’s identity
    - like Jews were NOT in 2000 years in the dispersion
  7. A priest continually (“perpetually”)
    - for whom?

What did this Mel. do?

1. met Abraham
2. blessed Abraham (who had the promises of God!)
3. received Abraham’s tithes

Certainly a shadow of the Substance to come...Jesus Christ

- King of kings and Lord of lords
- our great High Priest...forever
- the righteousness of God (Rom 3:19-22, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:9)
- the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6)
- the eternal wise God (1 Tim 1:17)
- Son of God...
- He of whom all scripture testifies (John 5:39)



v4 consider how great this man:  
“discern...experience...acknowledge”

“Ponder on this...this obscure man Mel. is so great that Abraham...

- the father of our faith...
- the father of our nation
- the father of many nations...
- the man thru whom all nations are blessed (Messiah)
- “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.”

was the lesser.

Abraham was blessed by and tithed to that man.”

v5-10 take tithes...out of the loins of Abraham:

Since:

1. The Law of God provided the means by which He would provide for the priesthood of Aaron...they would be supported by the other tribes via tithes in return for their service to the Lord....including blessing the people
2. There was no man greater than Abraham...but yet...  
...one who was not a descendent of Abram...who at the time had no descendents...  
...blessed and received tithes from the one who received the promises of God
3. It is an undeniable truth that the lesser is blessed by the greater...
4. The “tithes” came from the “tithes-er”  
Mel received tithes...and never died...in the record of Scripture  
Abraham gave tithes  
Levites received tithes and gave tithes  
“In fact, Levi paid tithes to Mel.”

Therefore...the priesthood of Mel is superior to the priesthood of Levi

v11 what further need:

If perfection...completion...salvation...could be attained via the Levitical priesthood and the Law, why did God send a priest of a superior, eternal order?

If that which the Levitical priesthood ministered...the Law...could save people...(give life to the dead...)  
why was another order of priesthood needed, as promised in Ps 110:1-4?

Because the Law could not save...only reveal and condemn  
So a change in priesthood was required

2 orders of priesthood...2 “spheres of influence”

1. natural (Levitical)...in the flesh
2. supernatural (Mel)...in the spirit  
because “You must be born again.”

v12 priesthood being changed...change also the law:  
a higher order of priesthood...

Melchizedek was both king and priest...above the Law

meant a higher order of Law

John 1:17

Matt 22:36-40

John 15:12-14

Gal 6:1-2

v13-14 another tribe...Judah...Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood:  
leaving Mel, now speaking of Jesus...of the tribe of Judah

Jesus’ priesthood was foreshadowed by Mel

- No active ministry at an altar for the continual sacrifice of sin
- Forever
- as Melchizedek is separate from all other recorded men, so is Jesus separate from the Levites

In Israel, according to the Law (Deut 33:7-8)

- the king was not the priest
- the priest was not the king
- One was from Levi, the other from Judah (Gen 49:10)
- No man could be both king and priest

v15-17 the similitude of Mel...another priest:  
yet it is abundantly clear that another priesthood was coming...  
an eternal priesthood foreshadowed by Mel

similitude..."resemblance of another"  
Mel is a shadow of the Substance to come

there was to be no mixture of the offices of king and priest...for they come  
together only in Jesus Christ...

- the promise thru David (Ps 110:4)  
of an eternal priesthood
- in keeping with a promise to David (2 Sam 7)  
of an eternal king

Jesus Christ

- King of kings and Lord of lords
- the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world
- our great High Priest (Heb 4:14-15)

His priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood

1. The authority of the priesthood of Aaron was the Law...the  
authority of the priesthood of Jesus Christ was the Law of  
God's love
2. The Levitical priesthood was powerless against death... the  
priesthood of Jesus has the power of eternal life.
3. One offers sacrifices for sin to other atones for them...to cover  
them...the other covers and removes sin forever

v18-19 disannulling...bringing in of a better hope:  
sacrifices for sin were continual because sin was never removed

Since man cannot keep the law, the law cannot make him complete.

the Law was not given to save man from his sin...but to

- reveal to man his sin
- condemn him for sin
- lead him to the One Who can save from sin

the Law did not make man perfect, it revealed to man his many flaws

a mirror does not

- hide your gray hair
- remove your “spare tire”
- show you what “could be if only...”

another Law and Another priesthood was needed to make man complete  
so that he can be reconciled to God...

the Law of God’s love ministered by the Lord Jesus Christ

the Law of Moses was without strength and useless to correct the problem  
facing fallen man...broken fellowship with a holy and just God  
so God brought in a better hope by a better priesthood...by Whom we are  
drawn close to Him by His love

v20-21 not without an oath:

The Levites were born into the genealogy of Levi and Aaron...they were  
in the Levitical order involuntary.

NOT because they had greater worth...just given a greater office by birth  
It “went to their head” and they were

- evil
- wicked
- corrupt

On the other hand, Jesus was established as our Great High Priest by the  
Word of God

v22 Jesus made a surety of a better testament  
by the superiority of His

- eternal Life
- Law of love
- priesthood established by the Word of God

Jesus became God’s pledge to man of a superior covenant/contract  
that did correct the problem facing fallen man...broken fellowship  
with Him

v23-24 many priests...by reason of death, but...unchangeable priesthood  
Levites...being mere men...died.  
The high priest served until he died...and another took the position

A long succession of high priests could not do what One High Priest did  
Ch 2:14-16  
John 10:17-18

because Jesus...being God...is eternal and unchanging, His priesthood is  
eternal and unchanging

meaning...our Great High Priest will be sufficient forever

v25-27 able to save them to the uttermost:  
salvation of the people involves the death of the High Priest...  
a Last Will and Testament (v22) only comes into force when the  
testator *dies*  
ALL who will come to Jesus will be saved

in offering a sacrifice for sin...Jesus' priesthood is far superior to the  
Levitical priesthood

- a perfect substitute (John 1:29 with 1 Peter 1:19) once  
vs
- an imperfect substitute (Is 1:11) daily for both the high priest  
and the people

so, Jesus is able to do what no Levitical priest could do – save man

- from the most dire of circumstances
- from the deepest depths of sin
- from death, the wages of his sin
- for all eternity!

our High Priest is

- unlike any other...totally unique  
Aaron, Mohammad, Buddha, Confucius, Joseph Smith...
- righteous
- innocent
- sinless
- pure
- eternal
- exalted...higher than the heavens...and
- done!

His one sacrifice is more than sufficient to cover all sins of all men of all time

He fulfilled the holy and just requirement of the Law...removing the curse of the Law

The Levites offered sacrifices continually....Jesus did once...and is done!

He is eternal so His sacrifice is eternal...it has no expiration date

v28 men...infirmities...Son...consecrated:  
the Law of Moses was ministered by imperfect men born into the order of priests...  
the Law of love...Grace...is ministered by the Perfect, Eternal God

Jesus is superior to any priesthood

therefore, He is the ONLY priest we are to go to!

Going to any other priest is both

- futile for man
- insulting to our High Priest

A theophany?  
John 8:56-59

## Hebrews Chapter 8

Theme: The Superiority of Jesus Christ

1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)
2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
3. To Moses (Ch 3)
4. To Joshua (“Jesus” in Greek, “entering in”, Ch 4)
5. To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood (Ch 5-7)
6. **To the old covenant** (Ch 8-10)

v1-2 this is the sum:

concluding the topic from last week...

the Bottom Line regarding the High Priest:

we have a high priest...

- incorruptible
- immortal
- eternal

who is sitting

- not standing...as the Levitical high priest did
- because He is done

on the right hand

- the position of power and pre-eminence
- a place no mere man could occupy
- representing us...interceding for us

of God's Throne in heaven

- not on earth

THE Real Priest in THE Real Tabernacle (Heaven)...

- that He made Himself
- not made by the hands of man
  - corruptible
  - mortal
  - temporal

That's quite a Bottom Line!

To the Jew and to any religion that has priests...“Pick your High Priest!”  
my High Priest represents me in God's sanctuary, not in the replica made  
by man

v3 gifts:  
those things that say “I love you”

sacrifices:  
those things that say “I owe you” for sin

every High Priest offers gifts and sacrifices...

- How can our High Priest say, “I love you”? Die in our place
- What did He offer for sin? Himself

v4-5a there are priests...according to the Law:  
Jesus officiates in heaven...the Levites on earth

Note: the present tense suggests this book was written before the  
destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD

the Levitical priest offered sacrifices for sin continually...  
but only after a ceremonial (not REAL) cleansing...  
because sin was not removed by the blood of bulls, lambs, and goats.

Sin remained an unresolved problem for man after the Levite ministered

example and shadow:

Jesus is the genuine High Priest...the Levites were shadows

the Levitical priesthood was an imitation of THE Real Priesthood...  
the shadow cast by The Substance

v5b as Moses...make all things according to the pattern:  
quoting Ex 25:40

on Mount Sinai, in addition to the 10 Commandments, Moses was given

- a pattern = “model for imitation”
- specifications to build a model representation of the Lord’s  
tabernacle... heaven

Paul is shifting to the old covenant, so consider The Ark of the Covenant

- contained
  1. Tables of stone written by the finger of God (Law)
  2. A jar of manna (preservation in the wilderness)
  3. Aaron’s rod (line of the Levitical priesthood)
- sealed by...Mercy seat – the place of shed blood
- covered by...two gold cherubim – John 20:11-12



let's think about models and shadows...

God created man in His own image (“shadow, resemblance”)...  
Jesus, however, is the express image of God (Heb 1:3)  
 (“exact copy”, exact representation)

the Levitical high priest...a shadow of God...ministered

- on earth
- in a model
- with the blood of bulls, rams, and goats...
- unable to solve the lethal problem facing the “shadow”  
of God's image

a shadow of...

the Great High Priest...the Substance of God...ministered

- in heaven
- in the tabernacle He built
- with His own blood
- solving once and for all the spiritual problem facing  
man, a spiritual being

God's creation and God's Word are filled with shadows of The  
Substance, Jesus Christ

...Who is superior to the old covenant...

v6 a more excellent ministry:  
excellent = “vastly different...surpassing...pre-eminent”

Jesus, our High Priest

- is pre-eminent (above in importance) in all things  
Col 1:16-17
- has a more excellent (pre-eminent) name (authority)  
Heb 1:4
- has a more excellent (pre-eminent) way (Law of Love)  
1 Cor 12:31 – 13:8a

as such, He is

- THE Mediator (1 Tim 2:5) between God and man
- of a better contract (Heb 7:22) between God and man
- backed up by better promises/assurances...from God to man  
(grace, Eph 2:8-9)

v7 if that first covenant had been faultless:  
1<sup>st</sup> covenant...the Law of Moses...was based on man's promises to God  
to perform PERFECTLY in

- keeping the entire Law
- remaining faithful to the Lord their God

and it would have been sufficient had man been true to his promises

- to not sin...in action, word, or thought
- to faithfully serve the Lord

a 2<sup>nd</sup> covenant would then be totally unnecessary

v8a "But finding fault with them..."

but the 1<sup>st</sup> covenant was insufficient

Why? What was the problem?

- The covenant? (Rom 7:12...Law is holy, just, good)
- The people?  
Rom 7:14 law is spiritual, I'm carnal sold under sin  
Rom 7:18 in my flesh dwells no good thing  
Jer 17:9

The problem was the people of the covenant...who were not willing or  
able to keep their promises

"Amen! We will do it!" when on Mounts Gerizim and Ebal

Deut 27-28

Joshua 8

they were constantly breaking the Law and whoring after idols

- sex
- pleasure
- power
- money

they turned their backs on the God that delivered them and shamelessly  
ran to false gods

accordingly, God sent judgments to wake them up and turn back to Him

this nation...founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ...is turning their backs  
on God and whoring after the very same idols

- sex
- pleasure
- power
- money

can we expect any different treatment than that which Israel received for  
worshipping false gods?

v8b-9 a new covenant...Israel...Judah:  
new...a different covenant...a superior covenant

every man striving to perform perfectly to be acceptable to God

- fails
- and ends up defeated and in division...
- separated from God and from each other...
- for man cannot be whole apart from being right with God  
the sum of the matter in Eccl 12:13

However, the Lord performing on our behalf results in

- victory
- unity...
- restoration...
- reconciliation...

wherever He is The Center

I took them by the hand:

took = "seized"

the tone is "against their objections"

Just like:

- Lot from S&G (Gen 19:15-22)  
Warned..."Get ready! Flee!"  
But still had to be snatched out physically and literally...  
almost kicking and screaming
- The church from the world  
Warned..."Flee from the world's ways. Get ready!  
I am coming quickly!"  
Yet indistinguishable from the world...infatuated with the  
things of the world

Because they continued not in my covenant:

They disobeyed...rebelled in self-will and self-centeredness

They did not overcome by faith...they failed in their works

They did not finish the course set before them

So the Lord left them to their chosen ways...

But...PTL!

John 10:27-30

plucked = "seized"

we are given a better promise/assurance (grace)

an initial covenant was given  
based on man's

- promises
- performance
- faithfulness

it was a failure...because man failed

therefore a 2<sup>nd</sup> covenant...a better covenant...was given  
based on God's

- promise
- performance
- faithfulness...

so it cannot fail!

v10 this is the (new) covenant:  
quoting Jer 31:31-34...so it is not a surprise (Amos 3:7)

put My laws

- Boundaries for a safe, fulfilling, and fruitful life
- Law of Love

Into their minds:

Because sin starts in the mind...not the hands  
Rom 12:1-2

Write them in their hearts:

the very center of their being...their innermost thoughts, feelings, beliefs

the new covenant is not written on tables of stone...it is established in our  
hearts...which were stony before the Lord's Love softened them

I will be...they shall be:

Jesus will be their Center...for man must be born-again

This is a nearly finished work in the Gentiles  
For the Jews, this is yet future...but clearly in motion!

v11 they shall not teach:  
no teachers will be needed...because all men will know the Lord

- be aware of...
- be cognizant of...
- understand (His will, ways, Word)

clearly, this is in the Kingdom Age

- v12 I will be merciful to their unrighteousness:
- to snatch out (Gen 19:16)
  - even from the giving of the Law (Ex 34:6-7)
  - unto the end (Deut 4:24-31)
  - to the extent of removing the sin revealed by the Law (Ps 103:1-12)
  - in spite of their adultery/idolatry (Jer 3:6-16, Matt 27-32)
- i.e. the Lord had “an out” to get rid of us, but chose not to take it...out of Love  
e.g. Hosea and Gomer

their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more:  
How glorious is that promise?! Can it get ANY better?  
That is one of the better promises, Amen?

God is so good and gracious...He chooses to forget

Can the superiority of the priesthood of Jesus Christ and the New Covenant be questioned by any clear thinking man?

v13 made the first old:  
obsolete

that which decayeth:  
same Gr word as “old”

waxeth old:  
picture Old Man Time

vanish away:  
disappear...which the Temple and the Levitical priesthood did within a few years of this letter being written

therefore, the new covenant is better and everlasting

Thus...

- condemnation gives way to grace...
- death gives way to life...
- shadows give way to Substance

## Hebrews Chapter 9

Jesus is superior to the Old Covenant, continued

Theme: Contrast of Sacrifices...contrast of how man must approach God

- Old Covenant: the Law of Moses and access to God by the sacrifices of lambs, bulls, and goats
- New Covenant: the Law of Love and access to God thru Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

Most prominent word: blood (12 times...v7, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 22, 25)

v1-5           the holy place and its furniture  
v6-10         the use and meaning of those things  
v11-22       those things as shadows of...  
v23-28       the Substance to some – the superior sacrifice of Jesus Christ

v1-2   first covenant...divine service...worldly sanctuary:  
      in the first covenant worship of God was

- governed by the Law of Moses...
- daily...
- in a holy place made by the hands of men

the tabernacle

- Dimensions: 45 feet x 15 feet
- building materials: wood overlaid with gold
- characteristics:  
    portable...for the unsettled state of wilderness wandering

divided into 2 compartments

1. Holy Place (30 x 15)

...separated by a curtain...

2. Holy of Holies (15 x 15 x 15)

Entrance was from the east (Gen 3:24)

In the Holy Place, all priests ministered

items in the Holy Place

1. candlestick:

lamp stand...Light of the World

on the left side (south side)

attended to daily by the priests who

- trimmed the wicks
- filled with oil for continuous light 24x7

2. table

on the right side (north side)

3. shewbread:

Bread of Life

on the table

12 loaves...one for each tribe

attended to weekly

4. altar of incense

in the front

place to offer incense...a sweet smelling savor

representing prayers of the people ascending to heaven

attended to daily

v3-5 holiest of all:

the second compartment...the Holy of Holies

- no external light...lighted by the Shekinah glory of God
- attended to by only one priest...the High Priest...once per year

items in the Holy of Holies

- the golden censer  
again...containing incense etc to represent prayers  
lifting up to heaven  
golden: Jesus Christ in heaven at the right hand  
interceding for us  
Rom 8:34
- the Ark of the Covenant  
in the center of the room  
contents
  1. gold jar of manna  
God's supernatural provision and protection  
while in the wilderness
  2. Aaron's budding rod  
establishing the Levitical priesthood
  3. the tables of stone...the Law  
written by the finger of God  
...fulfilled by Jesus Christ
- mercy seat:  
the place of atonement...at-one-ment...of blood  
  
covered
  1. the Law...with blood of a perfect, innocent life
  2. the Levitical priesthood...with an eternal  
priesthood
  3. our wandering...that we can enter into His rest
- cherubim of glory shadowing:  
overshadowing, covering

v6-7 ordained...priests...first tabernacle...service of God:

the contents of the Holy Place equipped the priests...plural...to worship  
the Lord

But into the second went the high priest alone:  
...singular



once every year:  
on the Day of Atonement

on that day, the High Priest was responsible for all the sacrifices himself...  
a shadow of the Substance to come...to atone for the “errors”  
(shortcomings, Rom 3:23) of himself and all the people

1. remove his fancy robes...cleanse himself...  
put on simple white linen...then before all the people...
2. lay hands on a bullock...confess his sins and those of his  
family
3. leave the bullock...to draw lots for the scapegoat  
(one of two goats present)
4. return to the bullock and slay it...catching the blood in a basin
5. take incense and a hot coal...into the Holy of Holies and the  
presence of God! (would he come out?)
6. Return for the bullock’s blood...go back into the  
Holy of Holies to sprinkle it 7 times
7. Return to the “chosen” goat and slay it
8. Go back into the Holy of Holies with the goat’s blood and  
sprinkle it 7 times
9. Return to mingle the blood of the bullock and the goat...and go  
back into the Holy of Holies again to sprinkle
10. Return...to lay hands on the scapegoat...and confess the sins  
of the people
11. The scapegoat...marked with a scarlet “ribbon” tied to one of  
its horns...was released into the desert...and observed by  
the priests
12. When the scapegoat disappeared...(varying speeds every year,  
no doubt)...the High Priest would proclaim that the sins of  
the people had been forgiven and separated from them

And the people would erupt into praise! VERY dramatic ritual.

v8     signifying...not yet made manifest...yet standing:  
          by this prescribed worship, the Holy Spirit made it very plain that  
          access to God was not yet available for every man...  
          but for only one man, the high priest

          a shadow cast by the Substance...Jesus Christ...who alone could go into  
          the very presence of God to offer a sacrifice for man's sin

v9-10  not make him...perfect as pertaining to the conscience:  
          and this prescribed worship...because it was merely a shadow...could not  
          remove man's guilty conscience

          the Levitical priesthood...including the high priest...

- was never finished
- never rested...
- because sin was not removed...
- nor was the sense of guilt of sin...which would remain until...

time of reformation:

          the Lamb of God...a priest after the order of Mel...the Substance...came

          what man needed...but could not get from the old covenant...was the  
          Messianic restoration and reconciliation ("straightening out") of  
          fallen man (2 Cor 5:14-21)

the Lamb of God did come, bringing

- the Law of Love
- a superior sacrifice
- reconciliation
- access to the Holy of Holies to every man who would come to Him

v11-12 greater and more perfect tabernacle:

- greater in power and effect
- complete...the real tabernacle in heaven vs a model on earth

his own blood:

He entered in with a blood greater than that of bulls, rams, and goats...  
His own!

once:

...and only once...not every Mass as the Roman church teaches...  
...where the traditions of men have made the Word of God of no effect  
Mark 7:13

No further sacrifice for sin is needed....ever! Jesus' sacrifice is complete.

obtaining redemption:

“ransom”: a payment made by an innocent party to secure the freedom of  
another held in captivity

the perfect sacrifice...in the real Holy of Holies...by the Real High Priest  
paid the ransom demanded for our lives...  
a very high price...paid by our God!

v13-14 if the blood of bulls and goats:

if the blood of animals in the sacrificial system of worship

- cleansed defiled and polluted sinners
- sanctified...made holy...a high priest so he could enter the  
Holy of Holies

how much more shall the blood of Christ...without spot to God:

how incomparably greater...better...is the cleansing and sanctification by  
the pure and sinless blood of God!

the blood of animals in the sacrificial system of worship cleansed  
outwardly.

Inwardly, man remained a cesspool until Jesus offered His blood  
Heb 10:4

to purge your conscience from dead works:

the blood of the Lamb of God covered and removed our sins AND our  
sense of guilt...by relieving us of the burden of dead works

James 2:14-26

trusting in good works to save vs good works as evidence of a  
saving faith

Is 64:6

v15-17 mediator of the new testament:

Why did Jesus Christ have to die?

- To pay the ransom note on our lives  
John 3:14-18
- To put into effect and to mediate a superior covenant  
Who died and put the Old covenant into effect?  
Adam...by doing his own will  
Who died to put the New covenant into effect?  
2nd Adam...by doing His Father's will
- That we would receive eternal life

Jesus is the High Priest of the Law of God's Love

by His perfect sacrifice

- He is worthy to loose the seals (Rev 5:1-10)
- We are redeemed

v18 dedicated:

consecrated...there is death in both covenants

in the old because Rom 6:23a...

but the new is superior to the old because Rom 6:23b

v19-23 blood of the testament...sprinkled

the sign of both testaments is blood...life is in the blood

Old (Law of Moses): the blood of innocent, perfect animals

New (Law of Love): the blood of innocent, perfect Lamb of God

universal truth: there is no forgiveness of sins...no purifying defiled man

...without the shedding of blood (Lev 17:11)

v24 Christ...into heaven itself:

our great High Priest did not serve in a model...He walked into the true  
sanctuary in heaven

What is Jesus doing in heaven while He awaits His return?

Interceding for me before God the Father!

v25-26 nor...offer himself often:

the Roman Mass says that Jesus' work of redemption is unfinished!  
How many times must He shed His blood to appease Rome?  
In their eyes, He is not more effective than a goat.  
Watch out!

Jesus suffered once...past tense!

universal truth: no forgiveness of sins...no purifying defiled man...  
without the shedding of blood (Lev 17:11)  
the price of remission...pardon, freedom...is blood  
John 8:32 is only by His blood  
His blood HAS BEEN shed...His sacrifice IS sufficient now and forever

v27 it is appointed men once to die:

reserved...we all have a reservation with physical death...  
as dust returns to dust

Q: man is a spiritual being...where does the spirit go?  
Eternal life with God or eternal separation from God

Eccl 8:8

After this the judgment:

Judgment as if before a tribunal...with full disclosure

for the believer: "Innocent! Never happened!"  
there is nothing to disclose!

for the unbeliever: "Guilty as charged! Sentence is eternal death."

Reincarnation refuted...a lie of continual regeneration to deceive mortal  
man about certain and eternal death

Death IS certain and eternal for those who do not believe...so

- surrender
- submit
- Matt 16:24

v28 bear the sins of many:

Jesus died for the sins of the world

2 Cor 5:21...He who knew no sin was made sin for us

Gal 3:13...He redeemed us from the curse of Law by being made a curse

the ultimate Gal 6:2...bearing another's burdens

He "took up" on Himself...then "took up" payment into the true sanctuary  
into the very presence of God

By doing so, He fulfilled the Law of Moses and the Law of Love

the common man does not have access to God under the Law of Moses...  
man is condemned under the Law.

The Levitical priesthood could not offer anything that would  
allow all men to enter into God's presence because

- he himself was a sinner
- the blood of bulls and goats cannot remove sin

However, Jesus,

- sinless (1 John 3:5)
- a priest in the order of Melchizedek
- offered Himself as the perfect and final sacrifice (Heb 7).

and...God ripped the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies  
...from top to bottom...upon the acceptable sacrifice of His Son so  
all may enter boldly into His presence

Matt 27:51

The blood of the Lamb of God, offered in the very presence of God in  
Heaven, removes man's sin so that all can approach God

Is 1:18

Heb 4:15-16

Look for him:

He is risen! He has defeated death !

Heb 2:14-17

And He promised to come back for us!

it is very important to be looking "expectantly" for Him...

He commanded us to "Watch!"...

which implies being ready to go with Him when He appears the  
second time:

## Hebrews Chapter 10

v1 the law having a shadow of good things to come:  
the Law of Moses, by which daily sacrifices were offered to cover sin, was  
a shadow of the Substance...the Law of Love, by which one  
sacrifice was offered...the Lamb of God...to both cover and  
remove sin

the Law did not make worshippers complete...did it fail? No!  
The Law was not given to make man whole or right but to point  
man to Him Who Alone could make him whole and right  
The shadow is absolutely incapable of removing the stain of sin.  
The Cleansing Substance is needed

v2-4 would they not have ceased...not possible:  
had the shadow been capable of cleansing and making man whole and  
right, the priests would have stopped offering sacrifices.  
But they never stopped...because

- the sense of guilt remained...
- the power to not sin was still missing

thus, the Law of Moses involved insufficient sacrifices for sin  
the blood of 2-dimensional animals is insufficient payment for  
the sin of 3-dimensional man made in the image of God  
shadows are 2D...man's sin problem is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> D

fallen man still needed a Savior...a Kinsman-Redeemer...to remove the

- stain
- stench
- curse
- guilt

of sin

But which man?

Were not all descendents of Adam born spiritually dead?

Is it not true that "none are righteous, no not one" ie none could perfectly  
keep the Law of Moses?

Within the confines of man's reality (physical life and spiritual death), this  
is an impossible problem...no way of escape

v5-6 he that cometh into the world:  
no man could solve this problem of sin and separation from God, but God  
could (Matt 19:26)  
Therefore, God had to come into the world in the form/body of man  
  
the Messiah...that came from “out of the world” and entered into the  
world...left eternity to enter into His creation in space and time...  
is God Himself (John 1:14)

sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not:  
speaking of the sacrifices in the Law of Moses...bulls and goats  
“I do not desire, I do not take delight in.”

But a body hast thou prepared me...sacrifices for sin thou hast no pleasure:  
1 Sam 15:22 to obey is better than sacrifice  
Ps 51:16 you desire not sacrifice...you delight not in burnt offerings  
Hosea 6:6 I desire mercy, not sacrifice  
Is 1:1, 10-15

God took no pleasure in the sacrifices in the Law of Moses because they  
changed/fixd/reconciled nothing.  
After all such sacrifices, man was still “dirty” and the power and the  
wages of sin remained

A superior sacrifice was needed to reconcile man to God...so...  
a body like Adam’s was prepared for the Messiah our Kinsman-  
Redeemer who came from outside creation to reconcile fallen man  
to Himself

The Lord does not want

- our sacrifices
- a legal relationship with us

He wants

- our hearts
- our fellowship
- a deep, intimate, loving relationship



v7 I come (the volume of the book is written of me):  
quoting Ps 40:6-8  
John 5:39, 46 (had believed Moses believed me; he wrote of me)

thy will, O God:

Jesus Christ...the Son of God...came

- to do the Father's will...as a bondservant...choosing to surrender His will to the Father
  
- to fulfill the Law of Moses and to displace the old covenant with the new covenant...the Law of Love...by a superior sacrifice
  
- to teach and model God's will for man
  1. denial of self
  2. to be God-centered and others-centered...  
not self-centered

selflessness is the manifestation of the Law of Love

v8-10 take away the first:  
why did Jesus say those things in v6-9a?  
to give man a new covenant

first covenant...of covering

establish the second:

second covenant...of cleansing

Law of Moses shows the dirt...the Law of Love washes it away  
(grace and forgiveness)

Is 1:16-18 requires the blood of the Lamb of God (John 1:29)...  
our Kinsman-Redeemer

thus...Is 53:10

v11-14 this man...one sacrifice...one offering...forever:  
the Levitical priest's daily ministry was an exercise in futility  
so faith in that system of worship...that covenant...is futile

on the other hand, the ministry of our Great High Priest...

- "this man"...God/man...100% God, 100% man
- a priest after the order of Mel...

was completely and absolutely effective

His one perfect sacrifice ("I owe")...was sufficient

- to pay the debt of all sin
- to cover and remove the  
stain  
stench  
curse  
and guilt...of ALL sin...
- past, present, future...FOREVER

His one astonishing offering ("I love")...is the greatest proclamation of  
love possible

therefore, our Great High Priest is done, and is sitting in the place of  
pre-eminence...the place reserved for The Pre-eminent

He is there waiting for His footstool (quoting Ps 110:1-4)

In the meantime, we are...forever made

- clean
- whole
- right
- holy

v15-18 I will put...I will write...no more offering for sin:  
quoting Jer 31:33-34 again, as he did in Heb 8:10

Jesus Christ is the absolutely sufficient sacrifice of the New Covenant...

Therefore, a holy and just God can

- let us hang out with Him
- justly forget our failures and shortcomings...

because all those things are covered by the sufficiency and acceptability  
(righteousness) of Jesus Christ

therefore, no additional sacrifice for sin is necessary...or acceptable  
our works do not enhance the sacrifice of Jesus Christ...  
perfection cannot be enhanced, only corrupted

no, God will not make...or accept...another offering for sin.

The ball is in man's court – “Will you come to do my will?”

1. denial of self
2. to be God-centered and others-centered...  
not self-centered

therefore, the offer of salvation from God to man is “As is”...  
no improvements are authorized

v19-20 boldness to enter into the holiest...through the veil...his flesh:  
by the sacrifice of Jesus, we can take full advantage of God's Open Door  
Policy and enter into His presence...without doubts or hesitation...  
because the shadow does not cleanse, but the Substance does!

When the blood of the Lamb of God was offered...

- as the high priest was shedding the blood of the Passover lamb in the Temple...
- the veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies was ripped from top to bottom...
- giving access to the presence of God to all who by faith would come

Note: put yourself at that place at that time

- the spectacle of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth
- the drama of Passover...to remember the great deliverance
- darkness over the whole land....and at 3 pm...
- a deafening rip
- the Holy of Holies revealed for all to see
- the Glory of God...the Shekinah...shining forth...no  
the glory of God left the Temple 600 years prior  
(Ezk 10-11)...because John 1:11...which was now  
completely fulfilled

the temple was a shadow of heaven...the veil a shadow of the body of  
Jesus Christ, prepared for Him for the express purpose offering it  
up as payment for our debt  
when His body was torn, the veil was ripped...and we received access on  
High

v21-22 Let us: (3 things...our holy, acceptable, and reasonable response)

1. worship in purity and truth

- having full confidence in our reliance on Jesus Christ
- knowing our hearts and consciences have been cleansed with  
His shed blood...that He may abide in us!
- knowing our bodies are washed with Living water...the Word  
of God (Eph 5:25)

Because the way has been cleared for us to go near...Go near!

v23 Let us:

2. seize our hope (Titus 2:13, John 14:1-3) without doubting Him...  
for He is absolutely trustworthy

Let us break from the traditions of men that make the Word of God  
no effect!

our hope is based on His faithfulness, not ours  
our hope is not a wish, it is a certainty!

v24-25 And Let us:

3. contend with each other...encourage each other...
  - to love (agape) each other
  - to be about the Father's business

Let us not:

1. forsake the meetings of the saints...be "lone sheep"  
"I don't need to go to Church – I can worship God by myself in my  
backyard or on my couch in front of the TV or at the  
river/mountains/beach."

do you believe this way?

Try this experiment the next time you BBQ (old fashioned way)

When the mound is building heat, take one individual  
briquette and set it aside by itself.

Observe how it cannot continue to burn by itself while the  
mound builds a great heat.

If you believe you can "be a Christian without going to church",  
you had better examine your motives!

every part of the Body needs every other part to be healthy

no individual Body part can fly solo...

no lone sheep will survive in the wilderness of the world

(1 Peter 5:8)

the gathering of the saints is not

- "if needed"...as determined by your will
- "when needed"...as determined by your emotions

it is absolutely needed...essential for spiritual health

Not legalistically...out of Law of Moses covenant...

but caring and nurturing...out of the Law of Love covenant

AND especially NOW, when we see so clearly the day of the

Lord's return

- to the clouds (Get on the Ark! Fasten your seat belt!)
- to the earth ("Woe" to be warned of)

v26-27 sin willfully...no more sacrifice...but a certain fearful...judgment:  
it is impossible for man to

- save himself from the wages of sin
- reconcile himself to God
- be born-again by himself

so if we receive and discern the Truth by the Spirit of God...and then

- willfully sin...turn away from in favor of another way or another sacrifice (apostasy)
- thumb our nose at the Lamb of God...

what else is there that can be done for us?

What payment for sin greater than the Ultimate Sacrifice can be paid?  
And by who?

Nothing more is needed...nothing more could possibly be added to the work of the Lamb of God.

He has offered the greatest payment and the ultimate love

...so all that remains for those who do not believe is certain, terrifying, fiery damnation

v28-29 despised Moses' law:  
violated...deserted...turned from...disobeyed...the Law of God

died without mercy:

the sure-fire result was a death without pity or sympathy...  
cold, dark, lonely, eternal

how much sorer punishment:

How much worse a penalty awaits those who insult God by willfully

- trampling on the Lamb of God
- defiling/mocking the precious blood of the new covenant... of the Divine Kinsman Redeemer...
- believing that the blood of His own Son is insufficient and unacceptable

rejection of God's grace and mercy is met by God's wrath...  
without mercy

the punishment is unthinkable! And unpardonable

v30-31 Vengeance belongeth to me...a fearful thing:  
Woe! Jesus is alive...He is God...He has been given all judgment.  
Who could stand against His holy wrath?

“I will get even...I will balance the books!”  
“My vengeance will equal the insult and the offense of

- defiling My sacrifice
- trashing Me
- mocking My grace.”

if you reject the Law of Love/new covenant, you by default accept  
the Law of Moses/ old covenant...  
the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience!  
Who is righteous? Who can stand? A fearful thing!

v32-34 But call to remembrance:  
Paul shifts gears now...

“Don’t knuckle under to the persecution and the pressure to abandon the  
new covenant in favor of the old!”  
Is 1:18

“Think clearly and rationally.

“Remember the shame and persecution you endured after you received the  
Light of the World!

What did you do? What did you think?

1. You had compassion on me for my persecution for the sake of  
The Truth
2. I was a prisoner for the sake of Christ (Eph 3:1, 4:1) and you  
comforted me
3. You rejoiced in the heavenly riches you have in Christ Jesus  
while men pillaged your material stuff...
4. ...because you KNEW you had superior wealth in heaven for  
all eternity...you had the Substance casting all the shadows

v35 Cast not away:

“So don’t throw Him away...don’t throw away your great reward in heaven...because of social, cultural, economic, and religious pressure from unbelievers.”

“Be still and know He is God, your strength and your refuge.”

“He goes before you...He fights for you.” (v30)

“Remember Matt 10:28-39.”  
Gal 5:4-6

v36-37 patience:

cheerful endurance...despising the shame...like Jesus did! (Ch 12:2)

receive the promise:

the flesh wants instant gratification...but God does not deliver immediately on His promise...it comes after a refining journey in a strange land

the promises of God are certain...but not instantaneous.

The interim period is used to conform us into the image of Jesus

So get God’s perspective...and receive His peace in the midst of the refining fire...and let your patience be perfected (James 1:3)

He that shall come will come:

God says what He means and means what He says

John 14:1-3

“When” is entirely up to Him

it is ours to

- watch
- be about our Father’s business
- be ready
- ...to have faith



v38 the just shall live by faith  
Part 3 of Paul's trilogy on Hab 2:4  
Rom 1:17 the just (innocent and holy)  
Gal 3:11 shall live  
Heb 10:38 by faith

draw back:

- to cower under outside pressure...
- withdraw from the Lord to appease man...
- apostasy

no pleasure:

no more than the pleasure He had in the sacrifices of the Law of Moses...  
that had lost their meaning and become merely a religious ritual for  
a stiff-necked and hard-hearted people

not pleasing God result in His hot displeasure (v30-31)  
God is not mocked  
God cannot be ignored  
God will not be insulted

v39 But we are not of them:  
a rallying cry from Paul

“But, hey! That’s not me and it’s not you! Come on! Let’s go!  
We have a race to finish.

We walk in the Light by faith...we walk with Jesus and are saved  
from the curse of our sin and from the vengeance of God.

He has purchased us and we are perfectly safe in Him!

And so we have access into the Holy of Holies in heaven...into the  
very presence of God.

Be encouraged...keep the faith.”

## Hebrews Chapter 11

“The Hall of Faith”

the word “faith” is mentioned 24 times

“What is faith, you ask?”

1. rational expectation in the unseen (v1)
2. the root of obedience...of abiding in Christ and not the world
3. that by which we receive commendation vs condemnation (v2)
4. how we understand our existence and our purpose (v3)
5. how we seek and please God (v6)
6. how we realize the promises of God (Heb 12:2)

v1 faith is the substance of things hoped for:

the substance:

- assurance
- certainty
- foundation upon which to firmly stand

hoped for...expected

evidence of things not seen:

not seen with the eyes in our head...

...like the plumbing beneath your house.

Can you see it? How do you know it is there?

You see the evidence every time you use it.

You see the evidence, not the plumbing...so you have faith in the plumbing.

not seen with the eyes in our head...but with the eyes in our heart and spirit

1 Peter 1:7-9

Faith is believing the promises of God...

- based on evidence from the past...or
- when there is no evidence at the moment...either way...
- resting on God’s promise

faith is not knowledge (1 Cor 8:1a)

If I understand everything...

I have knowledge, not faith.

If I understand everything about God...

then I have a mighty small God because I am a mighty small man.

If I understand before I believe...

I am seeking knowledge, not faith.

faith is not knowledge...faith comes before understanding and knowledge.

the Word of God...the promises of God...cannot be understood unless you first believe it...

it is not like a science text book!

v2 elders:

the patriarchs...holy men...separated...called apart

obtained a good report:

a good witness...they believed the Word of God

things that are certain have clear evidence

faith is the result of clear evidence considered

this investigation requires

- humility
- “clear eyes”...
- not eyes clouded by pre-conceived ideas or hidden agendas

Faith is the difference between commended and condemned

1. seeing evidence
2. “trying” the evidence
3. trusting the unseen reality of which the evidence speaks

v3 We understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God:  
to make his point that “the just shall live by faith”, Paul starts at the very  
beginning...always a very good place to start

Gen 1:1

If you can believe “In the beginning God” than it is easy to believe  
the rest of the Bible

framed = “created”...*bara* in Gen 1:1...to create something from nothing  
The material universe...creation...is an act of God’s spoken Word  
He spoke...it became...it was...and still is  
only God can create something from nothing...  
man can make things...man can create nothing

Since obviously none of us were there as eyewitnesses, we must read the  
Word of God...from the very first verse...by faith...  
examining the clear evidence

- The universe...Ps 19:1
- Life
  - DNA
  - Migratory patterns of birds, fish, Monarch butterflies
  - Life systems...pulmonary, cardiovascular, nervous...
  - The human eye
  - The human brain
- The obvious fingerprints of  
design and order  
vs  
randomness and chaos

Note 1: the only other theory of origins is evolution...

- devoid of ANY clear evidence...
- chock-full of hidden agendas

Note 2: creation requires less faith than does evolution...  
but evolution requires less submission and  
surrender...

Rom 1:16-23

Now Paul mentions men of great faith...

- that did not always have great faith
  - that sometimes walked by sight and not by faith
  - that sometimes doubted and did not believe God
  - that sometimes “fleshed out” and did not walk in the Spirit...
- but by the grace of God, those times are forgotten by God!

v4 Abel:

Paul starts with Abel...why not start with Adam and Eve?  
They walked with God...Abel did not  
Adam and Eve had knowledge...Abel had faith

Gen 4:1-7

a more excellent sacrifice than Cain:

what is widely taught here...most likely is true...is nonetheless  
conjecture

Abel offered the blood of a lamb...the shadow of the Substance to come

Abel obeyed God's instructions given to his parents in Gen 3:21 regarding  
acceptable sacrifice:

- innocent blood
- a covering not of one's own work (Eph 2:8-9)

on the other hand, Cain offered the work of his own hands...

He was righteous:

Abel offered what God had said to offer...a relationship built on faith...  
and was declared righteous...by Jesus Himself in Matt 23:35

Cain offered the work of his own hands...religion of works...and was not  
declared righteous

We do not KNOW that Abel offered a lamb and Cain offered a crop...  
But we do KNOW that the difference in the two offerings lied in  
the hearts of the two brothers...

Abel's was a more excellent offering than Cain's because...of faith  
he was acceptable to God...by the righteousness of The Substance  
to come...given to him by grace thru faith

from the very beginning, God accounted righteousness by faith  
this is not a NT doctrine

Being dead yet speaketh:

Abel's

- faith
- relationship with God
- obedience
- righteousness

speak forever...in the eternal Word of God

v5 Enoch:

Gen 5:22-24

translated...see death...not found:

Enoch did not know death...he

- was “transferred”
- “changed sides”
- was “transported by implication involving an exchange”
- was snatched up
- was raptured

Enoch was gone! Not to be found anywhere on earth...  
because God took him

“Enoch, let’s go for our daily walk. Let’s walk a little further today...to  
My house.”

he pleased God:

“pleased entirely”...not somewhat or mostly  
I want this testimony!

How? By faith...by believing what God said

he was himself a shadow of those to come...those who by faith escape the  
wrath of God poured out like a flood on an unbelieving world  
1 Thes 5:9

shadows of 3 kinds of people...all yet future

1. those that were saved thru judgment/destruction (8)
2. those that were judged and destroyed (world)
3. those "transferred" before the judgment of the world  
(Enoch...one Body...the Body of Christ)

v6 without faith it is impossible to please Him:

God is “entirely pleased” when we

- believe Him
- lean not on our own understanding but on what He says

Conversely, God is not pleased when we don’t believe Him (Ch 10:38)

There is NO way at all...zero chance...of pleasing Him  
without believing Him

Rom 7:18 there is NO good thing in my flesh

Rom 8:8 those who are in the flesh CANNOT please God

Is 64:6 our righteousness is like a stinking rag

Matt 13:58 Jesus did not many mighty works in His hometown of  
Nazareth because of their unbelief

Hab 2:4 the just shall live by...faith

Our acceptability to God depends upon our faith in Him instead of  
ourselves...at the end of self is the beginning of God

he that cometh must believeth that He is:

the man who comes near to God to worship Him MUST have faith that  
*I AM* is...He exists!

he must believe God without

- Seeing Him with the eyes in his head
- Hearing Him with the ears on his head
- Touching Him with his hands...

but by examining the clear evidence that *I AM* is

rewarder of them that diligently seek Him:

“to investigate, to search out, to crave”...

...in every circumstance of your life

Deut 4:29-31

Jer 29:11-14a

v7 Noah being warned of God:  
by the Word of God  
Gen 6:1-18

things not seen as yet:  
rain...flood...God's wrath

moved with fear, prepared an ark:  
in great reverence, he preached salvation by grace thru faith for 120 years  
2 Peter 2:1-5  
by faith, he rejected the world and walked onto the Ark

the Ark...a shadow of the Substance to come

- divine escape given in advance
- only refuge from judgment and wrath
- one door...sealed by God Himself...security - none lost
- 1 Thes 1:10 Jesus delivered us from the wrath to come
- Rom 5:8-9 commended his love...more...saved from wrath

Noah

- heard the Word of God
- believed, not having any "first hand knowledge" with the things to come, no experience to refer to
- obeyed...put his faith into action...for a very long, hard time... in the face of ridicule undoubtedly
- saved by grace thru faith
- a shadow of 144,000 sealed and delivered thru the flood of God's wrath to come

v8 Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place:  
Gen 12:1-5

God called Abraham, a moon-worshipping pagan at the time, to leave his father's house and the land of his forefathers to go into the land of Canaan...which he had never seen  
like moving into a house "sight unseen" because the Lord told you to

should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed:  
God called him out to give him a superior inheritance

Abraham...can you see the pattern?

- Heard
- Believed
- Obeyed



v9-10 he sojourned in the land of promise:

Acts 7:2-6

Abraham lived as a stranger...a foreigner in the very land God promised to give him!

tabernacles...a city:

AI&J lived in tents...nomads

- looking beyond current circumstances to the promise of God...
- waiting for a city, the foundation of which is made by God

The living quarters of AI&J are also a picture of the living quarters of men of faith

- nomadic, temporary living quarters: this body made of the earth
- permanent living quarters: 2 Cor 5:1

Faith involves

- hearing
- believing
- obeying...and
- **Waiting**

*Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him...those that wait upon the Lord shall inherit the earth*

Ps 37:7, 9

Rom 8:24-25

Waiting is so difficult for us...we get worn down

- physically
- emotionally
- spiritually

by the unrelenting weight

- physical illness and disease
- financial distress (reality for Army sargeant)
- broken and stressed relationships
- self

But the God Who has given us promises also is our strength to wait for His perfect timing

*“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

Is 40:31

Abraham waited

- 25 years for the promise of a son by Sarah
- 430 + 40 = 470 years to occupy his land
- has waited about 3,900 years for the city whose builder and maker is God

Israel has waited over 3,000 years for the eternal kingdom of the Son of David, sitting on His throne in Jerusalem, as promised to David

the Body of Christ has waited about 1,970 years for the Lord to return for us, as He promised before He left

The central issue in waiting is not time...but trust in the faithfulness of God to do what He said He would do

v11 Through faith also Sarah:

Note: the faithful one in NIV is Abraham...but in KJV, NASB it is Sarah  
NIV is a “thought-for-thought” translation...in this case, an unfortunate one  
KJV and NASB are “word-for-word” translations

Sarah received strength to conceive...and deliver a child...when she was 90 years old

Gen 17:15-17

Gen 18:9-14

Conceiving and giving birth at age 90 – humanly impossible – even then  
Any of you ladies want to give birth to a child at age 90?  
Would you need strength?

At the end of self...is the beginning of God...the realm of faith

She judged him faithful who had promised:

Sarah

- heard the Word of God...maybe wrestled a bit...but
- considered the evidence...and believed
- obeyed

v12 him as good as dead:

Abraham, no spring chicken, was 100 years old at the time...  
he was also at the end of self...and at the beginning of God

Gen 15:1-6 (reward...Heb 11:6)

Rom 4:16-22

stars...multitude...sand...innumerable:

by grace thru faith, God did another supernatural creative work

- A nation...a wife  
Is 43:1a I have created you  
Is 10:22 as numerable as the sand of the sea
- A people of faith...a Bride  
2 Cor 5:17 new creatures in Christ  
Gal 3:6-7 children of Abraham by faith  
Eph 4:23-24 put on new man, created in righteousness  
and holiness

v13 all died in faith:

except Enoch!

A shadow of 1 Thes 4:15-17

not having received the promises...but having seen them afar off:

people of faith

- heard God's promise
- "saw" the eternal reality with eyes of faith
- believed...embracing the "afar off" in favor of the nearby
- lived as strangers in the midst of unbelieving "squatters"
- died here...holding onto the superior there

our faith is in the eternal God...not in this temporary world.

We cannot see the Object of our faith without first leaving this world...  
so finish of the race! (subject of Ch 12)

don't look for the promise of God on this corrupt earth...we are citizens of  
the kingdom of God

v14-15 that say such things:

- “My citizenship is in the kingdom of God.”
- “I am neither Republican nor Democrat...I am a Monarchist!”
- “I am just a stranger passing through until I receive my inheritance.”

they seek a country...mindful...opportunity to have returned:  
men of faith...just like all men...seek their own land...a home  
the question is...where is that home?

Abraham was a stranger in Canaan...we are strangers here in Arizona...  
We MUST be mindful of that eternal reality...and not long for the  
“old country”...Ur...Egypt (a picture of the world)

had Abraham had “Ur on my mind” (ala “Carolina on my mind”),  
he may have been lured back...away from the promise of God  
but his definition of “home” was changed by God

430 years later, Israel had “Egypt on my mind”, and longed to go  
back...away from the promise of God...

God used

- a matter of days to get His people out of Egypt
- 40 years of wilderness wandering to get Egypt out of His people

if we get “the world on my mind”, we will get lured back...away from the  
promise of God...

and He will use wilderness wandering to get the world out of us

v16 But now they desire a better:

But...!

A huge word...and therein lies the power of God

In this instance, to give us strength to wait for His perfect timing

They desired the kingdom of God...a superior inheritance than

- Canaan
- Egypt
- this world

Don't look back longingly from whence you come!

It might be alluring...but it is a deception.

all the world has to offer is death and destruction

What God has promised is superior to anything the world has...

and you cannot have both!

therefore God is not ashamed of anyone who

- hears His Word
- believes Him
- obeys...  
by getting on the Ark...  
by walking out of "the old country"

in context to the pressured Jewish believers...

- look forward...don't look back
- go forward...don't go back
- the superior Substance lies ahead...the inferior shadow behind

v17-19 Abraham, when he was tried:

proved...genuine, real...not lip service

offered up Isaac...only begotten son:

Isaac was Abraham's firstborn son?

- By birth: Ishmael was first, 13 years older, of Hagar the Egyptian bondwoman
- By position: Isaac was the son of promise by Sarah...the son to receive the inheritance of the firstborn

So "begotten" = positional in nature, not physical

figure:

similitude...a shadow of the Substance to come

Gen 22      The father sacrifices his son

- v1-2    God calls Abraham, "Take your only son, Isaac"  
          Ishmael is the son of bondage, the natural work of man  
          God does not recognize our works done to earn His acceptance
- Isaac is the son of promise and grace, the supernatural work of God  
          God recognizes His work on our behalf...and our faith in Him
- "whom you love"  
          1st time "love" is mentioned in the Bible  
          Law of 1st Mention...circumstances surrounding the 1st mention  
          of a word carry special significance  
          here, love has to do with the love of a father for his son
- Matt 3:17
- v3      4 people went on the journey...Father + Son + 2 servants
- v4      3 day journey  
          Jonah 1:17      (Matt 12:39)  
          John 2:19      Destroy this Temple and I will raise it again in 3 days  
          1 Cor 15:3-4
- in Jewish thinking, Isaac "died" when the command was given by God
- v5      Abraham & Isaac go to worship  
          1st mention of "worship"...to bow down (one's will)
- v6      Isaac carries the wood ala Jesus carried the cross
- v7      Isaac asks where the lamb is
- v8      Abraham confesses faith in God  
          **"God Himself will provide the lamb"...**  
          **"God will provide Himself as a lamb"**  
          not "God will provide a lamb"  
          John 1:29

v9-10 Abraham trusted God, immediately obeys, and offers Isaac  
He knew Isaac would be given back to him if God was to keep His  
promises of Gen 12:1-3  
Gen 15:4-5  
Gen 17:15-21

Isaac also trusts God and is obedient  
he is younger (33 vs 133 years old!?) & stronger than his father...  
so he could have said, "No way!"

a father is offering his only son on a hill...  
2000 years later another Father would offer His only Son on the  
same hill

Golgotha is on Mount Moriah

Note: The Temple is not the high ground on Mount Moriah,  
Golgotha is

John 8:56

v11-12 "the Angel of the Lord" intervenes  
"not withheld from me"  
this no angel, this is God...pre-incarnate Jesus Christ

v13 substitutionary sacrifice  
on this 3rd day, Isaac is returned to life

v14 Abraham calls the place "the Lord will provide..."  
**...Himself for the shedding of innocent blood to atone for sins**  
John 3:16

v15-18 "because you have obeyed me"  
This is God, not an angel

v19 4 went up, three return...where is Isaac?  
Isaac is "out of sight" until Gen 24, when he is united with his Bride,  
gathered for him by "The Comforter"

[end Gen 22 ]

- v20 Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau:  
 Isaac...a major participant in Gen 22...believed the promise given to him by God...and by faith blessed his sons accordingly
- Esau, the firstborn, because he despised his birthright (was all flesh and no faith), would serve...  
 Jacob, a real scoundrel and deceiver who wrestled with God...and believed, becoming a man of faith and renamed Israel, “governed by God”
- v21 Jacob...blessed both the sons of Joseph:  
 he gave the double portion of the firstborn to Joseph, not Rueben...by faith.  
 Jacob adopted his 2 sons and gave them both an inheritance  
 $12 + 2 = 12$   
 Joseph and Levi
- v22 by faith Joseph:  
 believed the promises to AI&J, that His people would not remain in Egypt but would go back to Canaan
- “Take my bones with you when you return to our land!”  
 Gen 50:24
- v23 was hid three months:  
 Backdrop:
- Satan was furiously trying to kill the promised Messiah... has been ever since Gen 3 (why Cain killed Abel)
  - Those once favored (Joseph’s people) are now reviled... feared...”will soon outnumber us!”
  - And he inspires the king of Egypt to institute some birth control measures
- why did Moses’ parents hide him the first three months of his life?
1. his was a beautiful child  
 proper = “handsome and fair”
  2. they had faith in the God Who promised the Messiah  
 Who had faith? His parents and the Jewish midwives
- therefore, they were not afraid of the king’s commandment  
 Ex 1:15-22  
 “This mere man is no match for the Living God!”



faith and fear cannot co-exist

Matt 10:28

2 Tim 1:7

v24-26 Moses...refused to be...the pleasures of sin for a season:  
he disavowed, rejected, his worldly position, power, and possessions for...  
...the persecution of his people, God's chosen people  
...thru whom would come the promised Messiah

sin is pleasurable, but the pleasure is fleeting  
unlike the joy of the Lord, which is forever

esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches:

Moses chose man's hatred for the promised Messiah/Deliverer  
(the Substance of which he himself was a shadow!)  
over the world's wealth

Moses put the two riches on a balance and weighed them out...concluding  
as Paul did in Rom 8:18...the sufferings of this present time are  
not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed  
in us

he considered the denial of self to be more rewarding than the indulgence  
of self...

Moses had an eternal perspective, not a short-sighted one

Ps 84:10...better to be a doorkeeper in the house of God than live  
in the tents of wickedness

the best the world has to offer (position, power, possessions) just cannot  
compare with the worst God has to offer (reproach of Christ)

- Satan serves up the best now...the pleasures of sin

but that is quickly gone and then he serves up the  
worst...abject and eternal pain and suffering

- God serves up the worst at first...the suffering of Christ at the  
hands of the world (tempered by His peace and joy)

but that is quickly gone and then He serves up the very  
best...1 Cor 2:9

- v27 he forsook Egypt:  
believing God would make good on His Word, Moses abandoned Egypt  
and all he had there...which was more than any of us will ever see  
here!
- not fearing the wrath of the king:  
when he led Israel out of Egypt, not when he initially fled in great fear to  
Midian
- consider the impact of God-fearing parents on this man!  
Be God-fearing parents for your children
- endured, as seeing him who is invisible:  
Moses endured suffering, unwavering and steadfast in his faith, because he  
discerned the One, True, and Living God, Who
1. is Spirit
  2. had not yet taken on flesh and walked amongst us
  3. was quite unlike the Egyptian gods
- his eyes were on The King of kings he could NOT see...instead of the  
king whom he could see  
with your eyes on Jesus, you can endure anything the world throws at you  
1 John 5:4-5
- the man of faith sees more...and far beyond...the man who has no faith  
faith in this Jesus Christ is not a leap into darkness...  
it is a step into the light
- v28 he kept the passover and the sprinkling of blood:  
the first Passover, the passing over of the death angel by slaying a young,  
perfect lamb...and  
putting its blood on the door post to cover them from the 10<sup>th</sup> curse...  
death of the firstborn
- v29 they passed through the Red Sea:  
who had any experience with Seas parting so you could walk over on dry  
ground?!
- they walked by faith that God would hold the water and keep them safe
- the Egyptians also attempted, but by sight and without faith...therefore not  
pleasing to God holding back the water
- by faith, we have all had a “Red Sea experience” when Jesus led us out of  
the world (Is 57:20-21)

v30 the Walls of Jericho fell down:  
moving onto Joshua, the national leader after Moses  
Joshua 5:13 – 6:5 what kind of a military strategy is that?  
Joshua 6:15-16, 20

The city walls fell **out**...so they could walk right in

v31 the harlot Rahab perished not:  
Joshua 2:9-11, 18

like the rest of the ancient world, Rahab heard of the God of Israel and  
how He delivered them from Egypt...and she believed!  
She did not trust in the walls of Jericho to keep her safe...she trusted in  
the promised Messiah to deliver her  
the just shall LIVE by faith

she ended up being in the line of the promised Messiah!

Matt 1:5

v32 what shall I more say:  
“Shall I continue?  
How many examples from our national history do you need?  
We’ve gone thru Genesis, Exodus, Joshua  
God, thru our history, testifies...The just shall live by faith.”

Keeping in chronological order...from Moses to Joshua to the judges

Gideon:

By faith, “chicken little” became a mighty warrior and fearless leader...  
starting with only 300 men! (Judges 6-8)

Barak:

“I will if you will” commander sent by Deborah to break the yoke of the  
king of Canaan (Judges 4)  
he heard, believed, obeyed...faith has feet!

Samson:

when he was blinded and grinded by sin, he returned by faith to his vow  
and broke the bonds of the Philistines (Judges 13-16)

Jephthah:

who vowed a regrettable vow, delivered Israel from the Ammonites  
(Judges 11-12)

David:

Almost like an “honorable mention” in this list of Israel’s judges is King David, a man after God’s own heart and Israel’s

- kingdom builder
- song writer

Samuel:

the last of the judges who was an offering to the Lord by his mother Hannah

v33-38 Who through faith:

1. subdued kingdoms:  
against overwhelming odds  
Joshua, the judges, David
2. wrought righteousness:  
one man with God, Gideon threw down the altar of Baal
3. obtained promises:  
of the Promised Land (Joshua and Caleb)  
of Israel delivered from her enemies (judges)
4. stopped the mouths of lions:  
the prophet Daniel (Dan 6)
5. quenched the violence of fire:  
Shadrach, Mesach, and Abednego (Dan 3)
6. escaped the edge of the sword:  
David repeatedly escaped Saul’s sword
7. out of weakness were made strong:  
Gideon
8. waxed valiant in fight:  
Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, David
9. turned to flight the enemies of the aliens:  
aliens...the strangers living in the land God promised to Abraham  
judges, David

10. women received their dead raised to life again:  
widow of Zarephath  
the Shunammite woman  
widow of Nain (later)
11. tortured...obtain better resurrection:  
the prophets
12. cruel mockings and scourgings:  
the prophets
13. bonds and imprisonment:  
Joseph, Jeremiah
14. stoned:  
Naboth
15. sawn asunder:  
Isaiah
16. tempted:  
all were tested...every man of faith is tested
17. slain with the sword:  
the prophets
18. wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins:  
Elijah and Elisha
19. destitute  
no worldly comfort...spiritual comfort from the God of all  
comfort!
20. afflicted  
all...affliction is used in the testing of one's faith
21. tormented:  
the prophets...Jesus being the Ultimate
22. wandered in deserts and mountains, dens and caves:  
David

The writer Paul fits right in here!

2 Cor 11:23-28

2 Cor 12:7-10

Phil 1:21 for me to live is Christ and to die is gain

Phil 3:8-11

think you have problems?

Draw strength from these people and have faith in God  
God allows His children to suffer...because faith grows in suffering

all I have are weaknesses...all I can do is fail...  
until I surrender my weaknesses to God.  
Then His strength is displayed in my weakness.

of whom the world was not worthy:  
the world is evil, men of faith are righteous  
One saint is worth more to God than the entire universe  
He died for even one repentant sinner...not for the created universe

v39 good report through faith:  
a good witness, a good testimony

received not **the** promise:  
not one of these men/women of faith ever saw the promised Messiah

v40 God having provided some better thing for us:  
a superior sacrifice and covenant  
  
they had to wait...for us!

The end of the matter:

- the just shall live by faith
  
- faith involves
  1. hearing the Word of God
  2. believing the Word of God
  3. obeying the Word of God...and
  4. waiting

## Hebrews Chapter 12

v1 Wherefore:

upon a strong exhortation of “The just shall live by faith” comes more strong exhortations

**v1-4** for patience and perseverance...by faith

v5-11 for thankfulness for chastening by our Father

v12-17 to follow the path laid before us, not missing out on grace

v18-24 to come to the superior mountain

v25-29 to hear the awesome God

compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses:

the examples of men of faith that preceded...from Abel to Samuel and all the prophets (Ch11)

who bore witness to the truth that the just shall live by faith, not by works

lay aside every weight...sin that so easily beset us:

sin is a burden...a “dead weight”...that is always knocking at our door

*...sin is crouching at the door and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Gen 4:7*

let us run with patience the race that is set before us:

one of Paul’s favorite metaphors was an athletic event, a foot race.

We all have a God-designed course to run that will result in the

completion of the good work He has started in us (Phil 1:6)

The length of that course for every individual is fixed by the sovereign

will of God, for all men are appointed once to die (Ch 9:27)

Some courses are hours, days, weeks, months.

Others are years, decades, or more than a century

whatever the ordained length of the course, we are admonished to run with

1. purpose...His (*In everything give thanks for this is the will God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* 1 Thes 5:18)

2. patience...by faith...while His purpose is accomplished

3. purity...as we will see more later

because the race

includes suffering

and

requires great strength and courage to persevere to the end

sin in the life of a believer is a dead weight that

- slows down...
- detours...
- or grinds to a complete halt...

our running in the race

Can you run a marathon in cowboy boots carrying a 50 lb. backpack?

Yes...but why would you want to?

Will those things help you win the race?

Might they prevent you from finishing the race?

the strength of a believer is enhanced not by weight lifting...but by weight dropping

the Christian walk is a race – why run a race carrying weights?

- drop the sin in your life
- “carbo load” on the energy needed to run...faith
  - Hearing
  - Believing
  - Obeying
  - Waiting
- Run with determined endurance to persevere...this is not a sprint



v2 Looking unto Jesus:

as we to run the race set before us, we must keep our eyes on Jesus...  
by faith...looking forward, not over our shoulders.

I ran looking over my shoulder in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade...right into a  
parked car...and I am suffering the consequences of doing  
so to this very day!

ALWAYS run with your eyes on the Lord for He is

- The Beginning and the End
- The First and the Last
- The Alpha and the Omega
- The initiator and the finisher of our faith...

...by which we

- live
- persevere
- are pleasing to the Father

joy that was set before Him, endured...despising...is set down:

We have a great cloud of witnesses...but Jesus is the Ultimate Example of  
perseverance in running a race

His eyes were not set on the cross but on the glory beyond the cross.

With the joy of our salvation set before Him, He endured

- the suffering
- the shame
- the humiliation

...for us

We despised Him (Is 53:3) but instead of despising us in return, He

- loved us (Rom 5:8)
- despised the shame

...FOR us

Jesus Christ ran the race set before Him...the Good Shepherd leading His  
sheep that had gone astray (Is 53:6, John 14:6)...

now we are to...by faith...follow Him and run the race set before us

Do we occasionally glance up at Jesus or are our eyes fixed on  
Him?

To follow Him, our eyes must be fixed on Him...

Just too many distractions...

v3 endured such contradiction of sinners against himself:  
the greatest contrast in the universe –  
the sinless Creator God  
vs.  
sin-full created man

the contrast prevents fellowship and is impossible for sinful man to  
erase...but

- the Creator loved His creature so much that He humbled Himself to come into His creation as one of His creatures...
- to exchange His sinlessness for their sinfulness...
- to make things right for all who would hear, believe, obey, wait

in so doing...(for love is doing, not saying or feeling)...Jesus Christ  
endured indescribable

- suffering
- disgrace
- humiliation
- abandonment (by man and God)

but He...the eternal Prophet, Priest, and King...did it...for His servants!  
and by His great obedience our great disobedience is wiped away

lest ye be wearied and faint:

“Don’t pass out!”

Remember what Jesus did for you as you face

- suffering
- disgrace
- humiliation
- abandonment (by man only)

...for Him, which is part and parcel of the Christian walk

Be encouraged by looking at Jesus...because He endured

- the worst of man
- the wrath of God...

...for us

“Don’t faint!”

Remember that glory is time-delayed...God’s plan is on a timer!

v4 not yet resisted unto blood:  
sure, we have resisted

- Satan
- the world
- the lust of the flesh
- the pride of life
- false teachers...

but our trials cannot even be mentioned with His in the same breath

our suffering is as a hang nail compared to His...because we have never

- faced such physical or emotional torture
- faced such spiritual torture...nor will we ever...when the  
Father turned a deaf ear to His Son...for our sakes

Ps 22:1-2

so...let's stop our "pity parties" and James 1:2-5

**v5-11** now, a strong exhortation for thankfulness for the chastening by our Father

v5-6 ye have forgotten the exhortation:

"You have a poor memory...you have forgotten God's "comfort."  
quoting Prov 3:11-12

Why do we forget? The weight of sin affects our memory.

The chastening..."education, training"...of the Lord is a wonderful thing!

- teaches us His ways
- corrects us when we go astray...to get us in our right minds,  
away from folly
- conforms us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ...

so do not

- despise God's comfort...it is love-in-action
- faint when He corrects and admonishes us

Is 40:28-31

the proud man is uncoachable and impatient

but the humble man receives instruction and waits

the more we drop the weight that so easily besets us, the better our  
memory

Rom 6:6-7 crucify the old man that we not serve sin

Eph 4:22-24 put off the old man and put on the new man

The chastening of the Lord is real "Christian Education"!

v7-8 if ye endure chastening:

...at the loving, nail pierced hands of Him who endured

- the cross
- our sin
- the Father's wrath...

if you...by faith..."stay in school" you will be dealt with as a child of the Most High God

but if you...by doubt and impatience..."drop out" you will be dealt with as an illegitimate child...as someone else's child

v9-10 fathers of our flesh which corrected us:

we fathers train our children to be godly people and responsible citizens... we do so by means that seem good to us...as led by the Word of God...

some lessons are tough...because

- we love them
- to be soft would be unloving

shall we not much rather...Father of spirits, and live:

Luke 11:11-13

James 1:17

God's chastening is to our eternal advantage...and is necessary if we are to be purified, the good work that He has begun in us

v11 no chastening...seems to be joyous, but grievous:

No one applauds the arrival of chastening...no one enjoys it.

But afterwards, God's education and training bears righteous fruit...

denial of self...which is His will for us

the pruning hurts, but it produces far more desirable fruit than wild, neglected growth

**v12-17** therefore, follow the path laid before us, not missing out on grace

v12-13 lift up the hands...make straight paths:  
quoting Is 35:3, "Be courageous!"

"fainting hands and knees" will be strengthened when we

- walk by faith...
- with eyes up...
- following the Lord

then, we will walk boldly and directly in the middle of His will for us,  
not wandering around in doubt and confusion like lost little lambs

lest...lame be...turned out of the way...rather be healed:  
the lame are weak and limp along...the Lord wants us to be strong and to  
run with endurance  
those who are weak in the faith stagger at the promise of God...  
and stumble off the path of righteousness  
don't be lame...be healed!

v14-17 follow peace with all men:

pursue:

- peace with all men  
make every effort to be peaceful, not contentious  
Rom 12:18
- holiness (purity) in order to be in the presence of God

Looking diligently:

While pursuing peace and holiness, "Beware" to not

- miss out on grace...by not embracing it  
(the just shall live by faith and not die by their works)...
- bear rotten fruit that spreads corruption  
(bitterness is the rotten fruit of unforgiveness, by which  
Satan gets an advantage over us; 2 Cor 2:10-11)  
peace and holiness cannot co-exist with bitterness
- "flesh out" like Esau  
(fornication as a spiritual condition of unfaithfulness)  
being near-sighted or short-sighted...passing on the eternal  
blessing of God in favor of a fleeting moment of  
pleasure

*Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the  
flesh (Gal 5:16)...and you will not be ashamed*

v18-24 another strong exhortation, to come to the superior mountain

v18-21 for ye are not come unto the mount:

Mount Sinai, the place of the giving of the Law to Moses, was

- gloomy
- burnt
- fearful
- unapproachable

the path of trying to be acceptable to God by keeping all of the Law is terrifying and overwhelming...impossible

v22-24 But ye are come unto Mount Zion:

instead, those who by faith

- live...
- run...
- persevere...
- endure God's chastening...

come unto

- the Mount of Grace at Calvary  
where the Lamb of God was slain
- The city built by God that Abraham waited for...  
the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev 21)...inhabited by
  1. angels
  2. The Church of Jesus Christ...(both Jew and Gentile)  
whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life
  3. God the Judge (John 5:25-27...so Jesus is God)
  4. perfected saints
  5. Jesus Christ, the Mediator of a superior covenant and  
the superior sacrifice of God (John 1:17)

**v25-29** the last exhortation of the chapter, to hear the awesome God

v25-26 see that ye refuse not him:

“Don’t say, ‘No’ to Jesus!”

there is no escape from eternal damnation for those who do

“Don’t avoid the day of your salvation” (2 Cor 6:2)

there is no other way into the kingdom of God

spoke on earth...from heaven:

quoting Haggai 2:6-7

God spoke the Law of Moses on earth...and it shook!

Jesus speaks the Law of Love from heaven...and the whole universe will  
shake when He comes to judge the unbelieving who refuse it!

v27 removing those things that are shaken:

Things not

- Heard
- Believed
- Obeyed
- Waited for

Matt 7:24-27

those things that cannot be shaken may remain:

eternal things like

- the Word of God
- our salvation...by grace thru faith
- our adoption...as sons and daughters of God
- our inheritance...as joint-heirs with Christ
- things built on the foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:11-15)

v28-29 receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved:  
that's security!

We can lose

- jobs...
- houses...
- material wealth...
- physical health...
- loved ones...

but we can never lose the kingdom of God!

let us have grace:

“hold onto...possess”...grace

For we are saved by grace thru faith

Grace keeps us humble...so we don't foolishly boast

serve God acceptably:

by faith with humility

God is a consuming fire:

God is a jealous God...He will not tolerate faith in any other but Him  
quoting Deut 4:24



## Hebrews Chapter 13

Thus far we have studied

- The superiority of Jesus
  1. To the prophets of God (Ch 1:1-3)
  2. To the angels (Ch 1:4 – 2)
  3. To Moses (Ch 3)
  4. To Joshua (“Jesus” in Greek, “entering in”, Ch 4)
  5. To Aaron and the Levitical priesthood (Ch 5-7)
  6. To the old covenant (Ch 8-10)
- Faith in Jesus (Ch 11)
- Putting feet to your faith (Ch 12)

In Ch 13, Paul’s closing exhortations continue...put feet to our faith

Now...the Lord faithfully makes the Scripture “come alive” for me by making them very real in my life in the week prior to our studying them... and he certainly did that again this week...He took my tent-making job away on Friday

v1 Let brotherly love continue:

1<sup>st</sup> practical exhortation...*philadelphia*

the fruit of the Spirit...the evidence of genuine faith...is love

Gal 5:22

when our faith is real...not just “spoken”...love abounds and it is seen by others

John 13:35

When we gather here, the love of the Lord should be in this place...

- for each other in the household of faith  
our assembly is to be a close knit fellowship...a family!  
And every Sunday is to be a Family Reunion  
We are all part of each other...so let the love flow!
- for all visitors  
we should all be greeters

When faith is real and love abounds, men are drawn to God

And we bear fruit...which the will of God for us

v2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:  
be eager to share with and to care for our “neighbors”

we are commanded to be “given to hospitality” (Rom 12:13)...  
”without grudging” ( 1 Peter 4:9)

our attitude toward those outside our fellowship is to be that of

- an “open house”  
and
- “what’s mine is yours.”

Example: the Mexico mission to Kino  
This heart pervades their culture...and it must ours also

entertained angels unawares:

Abraham did in Gen 18 and Lot did in Gen 19  
Those were spiritual beings

However, angels = “messenger”...not necessarily an angelic creature

- Could be Heb 1:14
- Could be a man or woman of God

v3 Remember them that are in bonds:

Be mindful of those who are prisoners for righteousness’ sake, mistreated  
by the world because of Jesus

our brothers and sisters in China...in Sudan...in Saudia Arabia...in Iran...  
Heb 11:36-38

as bound with them:

don’t ever forget about them...be a fellow prisoner, praying fervently for

- their witness in prison
- their safekeeping
- their release
- their testimony to the Body of Christ

The Body hurts when any part is hurting

with v1 in mind,

- love
- pray for
- if possible visit

the afflicted brother...some day he might be you!

v4

Marriage is honorable in all:

God reveals many of His most profound truths thru the institution of marriage.

He is very serious about it so we must be also

honorable = “esteemed” and “beloved”...and “costly”

Marriage God’s way has a cost – everything you have...your self

It is a shadow of the relationship the Lord desires with us...the one that cost Him everything He had in order redeem us from the slave market

More than in ANY other human relationship, marriage teaches

- Denial of self (Matt 16:24)

It is the most demanding...and the most rewarding...  
of relationships

It is the ultimate refining fire of the denial of self...where

1. The misery of self-centeredness is intensified and multiplied...
2. The beauty of selflessness is magnified...
3. The value of self-control of the tongue (fruit of love) is the greatest

- Submission (Phil 2:5-8)

To humble yourself...for the benefit of another...  
is what Phil 1:6 is all about

Husbands, totally disregard your needs and love your wives  
the way they need to be loved...her needs come  
before yours

Wives, totally disregard your needs and love your husbands  
the way they need to be loved...his needs come  
before yours

Eph 5:21-32

Husbands: die (to self...complete denial of self)

Wives: he comes 1<sup>st</sup>

Husbands/Wives: submit to each other

Mystery (truth revealed): Jesus and the Church

Common ground: submission

“Submit to the Lord, sure. But to him? To her?”

Yes...unconditionally...

no *quid pro quo*...no “If he/she will, I will.”

Conditional submission is not love, it is trading

When is marriage honorable? “In ALL”!!!  
In everything, every day  
CONSTANT denial of self and submission

Who can prosper in marriage apart from the Lord?  
Only those who continually cry, “Oh Lord, help me!”  
...and then submit to His help

Note: every Christian marriage is a target of Satan  
Monica and I know ours is continually

The bed undefiled...whoremongers and adulterers God will judge:  
Marriage God’s way is a supernatural relationship (Eccl 4:12)

Therefore, the relationship is to be characterized by purity...  
being holy unto your spouse

- vows of faithfulness “till death do us part” are to be honored...  
“esteemed, beloved, costly”...  
not swept away by a change in one’s emotions
- the God-ordained intimacy between husband and wife is not to be  
compromised...  
violated...  
used as a weapon to manipulate/control the  
behavior of your spouse

the purity and holiness of a marriage is a shadow of the purity and the  
holiness of the relationship the Lord desires with His Bride,  
the Church.

Any corruption in the marriage relationship is seen by God as a reflection  
of spiritual idolatry and apostasy...and God is a jealous God

v5 Let your conversation be without covetousness:

Your lifestyle is not to be characterized by avarice and greed...  
but by contentment...

something the world longs for but cannot find...

because it is looking to fulfill its lust, which can never be satisfied

Ex 20:17... "Do not covet"... the commandment that opened the  
eyes of Saul of Tarsus to the spiritual nature of the Law

1 Tim 6:6 Godliness with contentment is great gain

Phil 4:11-13 contentment must be learned

Luke 3:14 "Be content with your wages."

How many of us are content with what the Lord has entrusted to us?

- our wages
- our homes
- our transportation
- our spouses
- ice cubes in our drinks and hot water to shower in

We have to learn contentment... we are to learn to be content with  
food and clothing... period

Matt 6:25-34

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee:

How can we be content with food and clothing alone?

Because we have everything we need... we have Jesus Christ

Jesus said, "Go... I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Matt 28:19-20

v5, written of Him, quotes Deut 31:6-8

which is also quoted by David in Ps 27:9

Therefore, Jesus Christ is

- The One Who was with Moses... Joshua... David
- The One Who is with me and you
- The God of salvation ("Jehovah is salvation")

The all-powerful, loving God promised to never

- leave us... desert us, leave us alone  
He never says to us, "Oh forget it! I give up!"  
He never tests us by saying, "Fend for yourselves. I'll be  
back later."
- forsake us... leave us behind  
He will lose none the Father has given Him...  
He will deliver all of His from the wrath to come

Therefore, we can...

v6 We may boldly say...my helper and I will not fear:

Context: when written the Church was being hunted to the death by

- The Jews
- The Roman Empire

Can you say that boldly today?

Because we have Jesus Christ, we can face any man and any circumstance  
with courage

2 Tim 1:7 not given a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound  
mind

Rom 8:31-39 If God be for us, who can be against us?  
What can separate us from the love of Christ?

What is the very worst man can do to me?

Kill an old, decaying tent...and "send" me to Jesus!

Matt 10:28 "Don't fear him...fear Him..."

Ps 23:1-4

Sheep cannot be content if they are fearful...  
and are not fearful when they are content

we have Jesus, we need nothing else.

Every moment, every day, He is sufficient

v7 Remember those which have rule over you:  
Be mindful of those God has placed in positions of spiritual leadership  
Eph 4:11-13

rule = “to lead” not to lord over like a dictator  
Pastor John: A pastor is a leader among equals

the world’s way of ruling is radically different than the Lords, our  
Humble Servant Shepherd  
John 10:1-15

whose faith follow:

we’ve been studying

- the superiority of Jesus Christ
- faith
- putting feet to your faith
- the Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd, the Chief Shepherd

now, we are studying “being mindful and obey” (v17)

your spiritual leaders

the next book we will study starts with

- James 1:1-5

Remember...I am like God’s laboratory for you all to watch  
What does God do this week?

Take away my tent-making job...the one He gave me to provide for my  
sizeable family’s needs:

- food
- clothing
- housing
- transportation
- medical/dental/orthodontic care

Why?

To prove/test our faith

- Mine
- Monica’s
- Yours

Is my faith real...or just “spoken”

Do I really believe the things I have been teaching?

I'm in Day 3 of this trial...how am I doing?

- When I look back on Friday morning...and the coldness of its execution...I get really bummed out and feel a great heaviness
- When I look ahead to the mortgage, car, orthodontic bills... I get overwhelmed
- When I consider THIS moment...I'm fine

Moses heard the Lord from the burning bush

“I AM”

not “I was” or “I will be”

Faith in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, is for the moment

“Do you trust Me TODAY? RIGHT NOW?”

“I AM bigger than your circumstances...do you believe it?”

“Then follow Me.”

So...as Monica and I put feet to our faith, consider our steps and...

if you “see Jesus”...follow us

if our faith is not real...flee from us

apply Acts 17:11 to our words and our walk

the issue is faithfulness...for the leader and the follower

2 Cor 4:13-18

My responsibilities to you, God's flock

- To teach the Word of God...not my opinions or pre-conceived notions (“Feed My sheep.”)
- To live what I teach for all to see (walk the talk)
- To serve (minister = “servant”) you...not to lord over you...
- To lead you as Jesus leads me

The issue is faithfulness...



v8 Jesus Christ the same:

Jesus Christ is absolutely faithful  
Jesus is not a hypocrite.

He is the Truth – His words match perfectly to His deeds  
He is eternal truth – they will always match  
He is the Word of God – which is settled...unchanging...in heaven  
Ps 119:89

This could not said of any man...Jesus is much more than man  
From “vanishing point” past to “vanishing point” future...  
and RIGHT NOW

Mal 3:6 I AM the Lord, I change not

Jesus is God, unchanging and faithful  
In an unfaithful world racing at a blistering and dizzying pace of  
change, the faithful and unchanging Jesus Christ gives me  
great comfort

v7 in the context with v8:

- See and hear everything thru the lens of Jesus Christ, the Word of God
- follow Jesus, follow **Jesus in me**...do not follow me

With

- The love of the Lord governing our relationships
- Contentment warding off the lures of the world
- The Faithful Lord (aka The Word of God) leading us

we will...

v9 be not carried away with divers and strange doctrines:

have the necessary safeguards be untouched the “wind storm” of false doctrine...doctrines whose purpose is to fleece the flock, not feed the flock

there are unfaithful leaders...the history of the Church is filled with them...but the damage they cause is a reflection of how many unfaithful followers they attract...those who do not Acts 17:11

our times are especially dangerous

1 Tim 4:1-3

2 Tim 4:1-4

when we apply Acts 17:11 to all we hear and see, we will

- be firmly grounded
- have clear vision and hearing
- will not be blown away by the continual winds of false doctrine
- we will be a stable person (James 1:8)

be established with grace, not with meats:

meats = “foods”

by following the Lord and His Word, we will

- be firmly established in the Gospel of Grace
- avoid the pitfalls of the Gospel of Works (legalism)

Paul talks about this at the “end of his Gospel” in Rom 14:13-23, concluding with, “...whatsoever is not of **faith** is sin.”

We follow the Lord, walking by faith and not by sight

v10 we have an altar:  
a place of sacrifice

we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit...  
the altar is **outside** the Temple...the Cross  
and the acceptable sacrifice is a broken and contrite heart

salvation is

- a matter of the heart...and surrender
- not a matter of the hands and feet...and what we do to attain victory

they have no right to eat:

regarding the issue of sin, the Law of Moses has no capacity to save,  
only to condemn

those who desire to approach God on the basis of the Law/works are

- bound by legalism (do's and don'ts)...
- hamstrung by their own strength to be acceptable before God...
- ineligible for the Gospel of Grace

only by Grace...

- is the man sold into slavery redeemed and set free
- is the Lawbreaker pardoned
- is the lost man found
- does the blind man see
- is the unlovely man loved unconditionally
- is the sinner transformed into a saint...  
and a child of wrath into a child of God
- is the dead man made alive

the Law of Moses reveals our sin...Jesus Christ removes it...by faith  
Rom 6:23 (wages of sin vs gift of God)

v11-13 those beasts...without the camp:  
outside the city...

- the sin offering was burned (Lev 4)
- the place where lepers were banished...inspected...and cleansed (Lev 14)

Jesus also...without the gate:

Golgotha was outside the city walls.

There, the Lamb of God was sacrificed as The Sin Offering (Gen 22:8)...  
to make possible the cleansing of “lepers” like you and me

Let us go forth...:

Outside the camp...where is that?

- outside of Judaism the religion...
- outside of legalism of the Christian religion!

“Come out of her, My People”

come out of your Christian religion and into a personal relationship  
with Jesus Christ

walk by faith and not by sight

bearing His reproach:

Salvation does come with a cost to us – the reproach of Christ, our Master

John 7:7

John 15:18-20

By faith, Moses preferred

- the reproach of Christ to the riches of Egypt (“home”)...
- to forsake the pleasures of this world in favor of the joy and glory in the next

By faith, we cling to the Cross with a broken heart...

not to the horns of the altar of our own performance/works

v14 we have no continuing city...one to come:

the eternal city we look for is the one Abraham looked for...

the New Jerusalem

Heb 11:8-10, 16

By faith, we know Phil 3:20

v15 sacrifice of praise:

What do I have to sacrifice...lift up to Him...that Jesus wants?

- My love: whole heart and mind...a burnt offering
- My tongue: praises and thanks for EVERYTHING
  - When it's obvious why and easy to do...
  - When "why" is unseen and difficult to do
- My fellowship: to walk with Him by faith

This is a "natural" supernatural response when we KNOW

Rom 5:8

Rom 1:17

Eph 2:8-9

When we follow Him and focus on what we know...

we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ continually...  
regardless of

- circumstances
- emotions

Ps 96:1-4a

v16 to do good and to communicate forget not:

God's love toward us is sacrificial...His love is to flow thru us

- denial of self
- submission for the benefit of another

Filled with and governed by His love, we are to

- love others sacrificially...give to those in need  
God looks out for the poor and is greatly offended by those  
who take advantage of them
- be doers, not just hearers of the Word (James 1:22) so, like  
Jesus, our walk matches our talk
- participate...fellowship...to not forsake the gathering of the  
assembly...(Heb 10:25)

for we need each other...God works thru us to touch those around us

v17 Obey...submit...for they watch for your souls:

God ordains spiritual leaders to

- watch: “to keep awake” (like a sentry on guard)  
Ezk 34, 16-19
- watch: “to be sleepless”...vigilant and diligent
- to give an account: accountable to Him for His sheep  
James 3:1
- serve with delight, not complaining  
we should never hear a servant complaining!  
Yet sometimes we do...and the cry is usually  
“I’m burned out.”  
“burn out” is impossible when empowered by the  
Holy Spirit

if the spiritual leader is faithful to the Lord...if you see Jesus in him,  
follow him...for the Lord has placed him there

v18 Pray for us:

THEREFORE, please pray for me!

I covet your prayers...that I

- hear and faithfully share what the Lord has for us
- am an open book
- live in a glass house
- walk without hypocrisy
- point you to Jesus, never myself
- speak the truth in love, never my opinion with an impure  
motive

v19-21 God of peace...great shepherd:

Who do we follow?

The God of peace...Who is the

- Prince of Peace (Is 9:6)...
- Good Shepherd (John 10)
- Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)...
- Great Shepherd
- Lamb of God (John 1:29)...
- God Who provided Himself a Lamb (Gen 22:8)

make you perfect in every good work to do his will:

Who will be faithful to complete the good work He has started in us

we are made perfect/complete when we follow...which involves

- humility
- surrender
- submission
- obedience

as we follow and obey...

- we offer a sacrifice pleasing to God
- God does the work He desires to be done (Phil 2:13)
- He gives us love...peace...joy...contentment...  
Priceless gifts come by obedience to the Word of God

His will...His work...His glory. Forever. Amen!

v22 suffer the word:

The Word of God...

- "hold it up"...
- receive it...
- take it to heart...
- hear it and do it...to let it change your heart

v23 Timothy is set at liberty:

Who cared about Timothy? Paul did.

1 Tim 1:2

2 Tim 1:2

in a Roman prison with Paul, Paul's son in the faith had been released  
Paul desired to catch up with his son in the faith and his Jewish brethren in  
the faith

v24 Salute them that have the rule over you:  
“Welcome...embrace...the spiritual leaders the Lord has given you.”

They of Italy salute you  
written by Paul while in Rome (seems clear to me)

v25 Grace be with you all  
Paul’s “signature” and calling card...Grace!

Next: James...faith that works