

# Hebrews

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

- What were those ways?
- Exodus 3:1-5
- Exodus 20:18-19
- Exodus 28:30
- Jonah 1:1
- Acts 2:16-17
- Why start with the past?

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

- Why?
  - To call for repentance leading to eternal life
  - Matthew 9:9-13
  - Matthew 4:17
  - Matthew 10:32-34
  - Matthew 28:18
- Why else?
  - Numbers 16:26-35
  - John 4:4-12
  - John 14:8-14
  - John 8:9-11
  - Powerful, one on one fellowship, a personal appeal through a human form, to show mercy and love

3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

- What does "radiance of God's glory" mean?
  - Radiance is light
  - God's glory - His eternal character
  - John 1:1-5
  - 1 John 1:5
  - John 8:12
  - John 11:21-25

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven

- Why did He sit?
- John 17:4
- John 19:30
- Have we finished OUR work?
- John 14:15
- Matthew 16:24
- Matthew 28:19-20

4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

- What does "the name he inherited" mean?
- John 10:30
- Job 38:4-7

- Daniel 3:22-25
- *Became* superior?
  - Inherited name Son of God
  - Matthew 3:17

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
 “You are my Son;  
 today I have become your Father”?

Or again,  
 “I will be his Father,  
 and he will be my Son”?

- None, apparently

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,  
 “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

- Exodus 11:4-7
- Exodus 13:2
- John 19:17-18
- What difference do you see?
  - The Israelites’ first born were saved from the plague of death. God’s firstborn was born to die
- Exodus 12:6-7, 12-13
- Exodus 12:29, 31-32
- Exodus 14:21-22
- Matthew 26:26-28
- Mark 15:27, 36-38
- Parallels?

7 In speaking of the angels he says,  
 “He makes his angels spirits,  
 and his servants flames of fire.”

- Psalm 104:2-4

8 But about the Son he says,  
 “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
 a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

- 1 Kings 9:5
- Psalm 45:6
- Why a scepter of justice?
- Matthew 7:2

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
 therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
 by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

- Concordance says olive oil
  - Why olive?
  - Genesis 8:11
- Who were the companions / fellows?
  - Other kings
  - King over the universe, a Prophet to all intelligent beings, and a Priest to the whole human race.

10 He also says,

“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

11 They will perish, but you remain;

- When will the heavens perish?
  - Revelation 1:7-8
  - Isaiah 9:6
  - Hebrews 13:8

they will all wear out like a garment.

12 You will roll them up like a robe;

like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same,

and your years will never end.”

- What does it mean for God to say that Christ remains the same?
  - Numbers 23:19

13 To which of the angels did God ever say,

“Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet”?

- What is being proven here?
  - If God said this to Christ and not the angels, then the Hebrews may believe that Christ is God

14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

- This is a nice statement!
- There is not one of them that is elevated to the high rank of the Redeemer. Even the most exalted angel is employed in the comparatively humble office of a ministering spirit appointed to aid the heirs of salvation. "Ministering spirits."

## Chapter 2

1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

- What does drift away mean?
  - Galatians 1:6-9
  - Ezekiel 13:1-7
  - Matthew 25:1-13

2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment,

- “Spoken by angels” - apparently ancient Hebrews felt that much of what was from God was spoken by angels not directly by God
- What was the message?
  - The law
- What was the just punishment?
  - Leviticus 20:1-10

3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

- This is a significant passage - what doctrine does it relate to?

- Mark 3:28-30
- If you ignore the Holy Spirit, how will you be saved? Not by the law
- Romans 8:1-4

This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

- When was it first announced by the Lord?
  - Genesis 3:14-15
- Confirmed to who?
  - Galatians 1:11-12
  - 1 Corinthians 2

4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- Signs - what kind of signs?
  - Matthew 3:16-17
- Wonders - what kind of wonders?
  - Matthew 17:1-3
- Miracles
  - Mark 8:22-25
  - John 5:2-9
  - John 20:1-20
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
  - Luke 2:22-38
  - Matthew 16:13-18
- Why?
  - John 10:37-38
- What does this mean to us?
  - John 14:5-14
  - Matthew 7:15-20

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

6 But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?”

- Psalm 8:4-8

7 You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor

8 and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them.

- Who is them?
  - Genesis 1:26-30
  - Psalm 8:4-6

Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.

- Why?
  - Jeremiah 12:14-17
  - Isaiah 3:8-26

9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while

- This next bit is the crux of the argument for who Jesus is and the prophecies He fulfilled
- John 3:16
- Matthew 3:13-16
- 1 John 4:2-3

, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

- Mark 10:45
- Isaiah 53
- John 10:14-21

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

- Why was it fitting and How did it make Him perfect?
  - Gill- he suffered all that the law and justice of God could require; and hereby he became perfectly acquainted with the sufferings of his people, and a perfect Saviour of them; and in this way went to glory himself: and it "became" God the Father, the first cause, and last end of all things, since he had a design to bring all his adopted sons to glory, that his own Son should perfectly suffer for them; this was agreeable to, and becoming the perfections of his nature, his wisdom, his veracity, his justice, grace, and mercy.
  - Isaiah 53:10
  - John 15:13
  - 2 Samuel 24:21-25

11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

- What does this family refer to?
  - John 15:15

12 He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

- Who’s name? Who are the brothers and sisters?
- Brothers and sisters are us - God’s name is what he will declare
- Psalm 22 - written by King David about 1,000 years before Christ!

13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

- Isaiah 8:17-18
- John 17:11-12

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

- What does this mean? How does this break that power?
  - God’s holy law lays out what is sin and what is not
  - Because God is holy, He cannot look upon sin
  - So the punishment for sin is separation from God - death not material but eternal
  - This is because sin requires sacrifice to pay for, and our human sacrifice is never enough to pay for it, only cover it
  - Thus we have to pay for all eternity

- Jesus, being God, could live a sinless life and pay the full penalty for sin by dying a sinner's death as a righteous man and since He is God, being resurrected
- 1 John 2:1-2

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

- When you came to belief, what advantage did you have over believers in pre-Jesus time?
  - You had your sins paid for once you believed
  - Imagine what life was like when such payment was not possible
- What about those who died before Christ?
  - Scripture seems to indicate He preached to them while He was in the grave, and that they too will be judged at the last day and have a chance to turn to Him.
  - God would also be morally within His rights to leave them or anyone who has sinned condemned
  - If you rob a bank, do you not have to pay the penalty? You can be pardoned but if the president doesn't pardon you is he immoral?

16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

- Can angels sin?
  - Lucifer did
- What is their punishment?
  - Jude 1:6

17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- Hebrews 4:15
- How is Jesus different from a classic hero?
  - He suffered with us and for us
  - He can identify because He was made to go through what we did

## Chapter 3

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

- “Consider the apostle” - fully understand that Jesus is our ambassador
- What is the meaning of “high priest”?
  - Leviticus 16:1-19
    - This was just for temporary atonement!
    - Jesus was able to present a final offering
- What is our confession?
  - Our faith

2 who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. 3 For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. 4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)

- Has more glory than the house itself - what is this saying about Moses?
  - 1 Peter 2:4-10
  - We are a holy house and Jesus is the cornerstone!
  - It is more accurate to call him a mason than a carpenter
  - Moses, as great as he was, was a man, and a man occupied by God's spirit
    - Exodus 4:1-17
    - Why is it important to remember he was just a man used by God?
      - Because we can also be used in the same way, as long as we accept the Holy Spirit

5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,

- Again, just a servant, speaking for God

6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- We are His house!
- How important is this?
  - Hold fast!
  - Jude 17-24

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,

on the day of testing in the wilderness,

9 where your fathers put me to the test

and saw my works for forty years.

- Numbers 13:17-33
- What is the lesson here?
  - Trust God, no matter what. If you believe you hear Him, He will provide a way
  - Red sea
  - Sarah having a child at 99

10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation,

and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;

they have not known my ways.’

11 As I swore in my wrath,  
'They shall not enter my rest.'

- Is He only talking about the promised land on earth?
  - Jude 5-7
  - This is a direct comparison between the audience of Hebrews hearing the Gospel and the Israelites hearing about the promised land.

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

- Do you have an evil unbelieving heart?
- Jeremiah 17:9
- Ecclesiastes 7:16-22
- Romans 3:23
- Psalm 143:2
- Psalm 14:2-3

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin

- James 5:19-20
- When should we hold off on correcting a brother so as not to offend?
  - Never! You are not being kind but putting him / her in danger of correction from a holy God!
  - Galatians 6:7
  - What does it mean to mock God?
    - Disobedience without anyone saying anything
    - Like not listening to a parent or boss

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

- Matthew 24:1-13
- Matthew 6:31-34
- Why does Jesus mention the one who perseveres?
- This seems to indicate that our faith will be tested

15 As it is said,

"Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

- Psalm 95

16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

- Why are we being told this?
- Matthew 7:13-14
- God repeats it here within the same chapter -must be very important
- Bookends to cautions of weak faith, unbelief

## Chapter 4

4 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

- What does it mean to “fall short of it”?
  - Matthew 8:23-27
  - Matthew 17:14-21
  - Luke 22:54-62
  - Acts 5:1-11
    - What did they fail at?
    - Giving *all they had*
    - Give to the one who asks - Matthew 5:42
    - Jesus is asking
- Luke 14:33
- Go and make **disciples**..

2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.

- Who is them? What is the message they heard?
  - The Israelites in Exodus; the promise of the promised land
- Was of **no value** to them
  - Mark 7:1-13
- Who are those who obeyed?
  - Numbers 14:30
- How did they obey?
  - Trust in God
    - Numbers 14:6-9
    - Galatians 1:15-16

3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

“So I declared on oath in my anger,

“They shall never enter my rest.”

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world.

- Clarke: The meaning appears to be this: We Jews, who have believed in Christ, do actually possess that rest-state of happiness in God, produced by peace of conscience and joy in the Holy Ghost - which was typified by the happiness and comfort to be enjoyed by the believing Hebrews, in the possession of the promised land.
- As he said ... - see Hebrews 3:11. The meaning of this passage is this. "God made a promise of rest to those who believe. They to whom the offer was first made failed, and did not enter in. It must follow, therefore, that the offer extended to others, since God designed that some should enter in, or that it should not be provided in vain. To them it was a solemn declaration that unbelievers should not enter in, and this implied that believers would. "As we now," says he, "sustain the character of "believers," it follows that to us the promise of rest is now made and we may partake of it."
- “Since the creation of the world” - this expression seems to be universally hard to understand. It seems to be some reference to God’s rest versus ours. Perhaps it is talking about how He already knows what will happen.
- John 11:21-27
- Matthew 6:19-20
- 1 Peter 5:7
- We have this rest now because we don’t **care** about the things of this life - we know the prize is ahead
- Similar to a rental car - who cares as long as it works

4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works."

5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

- Who designed the rest?
  - God
  - Genesis 2:2

6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience,

\*7 God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

"Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts."

- Is today your day?

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

- Why is this argument necessary?
  - The Jews at the time didn't necessarily have this concept of a final rest
- How is this helpful to us?
  - Witnessing to Jews!
- There is a comfort here - the Jews did not obtain their rest in the promised land because of unbelief, but God still has rest for them

11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

- 2 Peter 3:9
- Matthew 13:1-23
  - What can you do?
  - Move to fertile soil!
  - Pay attention to verse 17!

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- Probably one of the most powerful verses in the entire bible
- John 1:1
- How is the Word alive?
  - John 14:26
  - 1 Corinthians 2:13
  - To those who are believers, the word is a canvas; the Holy Spirit uses it to teach us new things even from verses we have read 1000 times
  - Why?
    - Issues in life that we need help with
    - Things that God wants to teach us personally

- Things that God wants us to do
- How is it active?
  - Isaiah 55:11
    - God's word can change hearts, pierce souls, bring understanding
    - Even to those who deny it, it declares the truth and judges them powerfully
- What does it mean to divide the soul and spirit?
  - The soul is us, who we are. Spirit refers to our desires, our loves, our dislikes, our motives. The word of God can pierce us and lay bare our intentions and motives to us, and convict us when they do not align with God's.
  - James 2:15-16
  - Luke 3:11
  - Give to the one who asks - see how simple this phrase is, go ask 5 fellow Christians what it means. They will make every possible excuse to subtract from it.
- What about the joints and the marrow?
  - The flesh from the spiritual being
    - Matthew 26:40-41
- “**Judges** the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”
  - Why is this important to us as Christians?
    - Matthew 7:21-23
    - God did not give us a test and no way to study for it. He did not leave salvation as a mystery. His word describes exactly what is expected of us, how to belong to His Son, how to have eternal life. And what He expects and desires us to do. Reading it is the best way to find out if you're on course or not.
    - Of course none of us “do it all perfect”. But we should be actively participating in our sanctification always by reading the Word and meditating on it and ourselves.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- Luke 12:2-5
- Matthew 5:34-37
- Why is this actually freeing?
  - There's no need to hide anything from God. We don't have to put on airs, explain things away, make excuses, false promises, claims of faith we don't have. We can go to Him and be fully bare, fully honest, whether we are angry, sad, doubting Him, or anything else - He already knows.

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- James 1:5-8
- How do we approach with confidence?
  - Luke 15:1-10
  - What story / verse / parable gives you confidence in God's love?

## Chapter 5

1 Every high priest is selected from among the people

- Exodus 28:1-5
- Luke 2:11-14

and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God,

- Leviticus 16:15-22
- Romans 8:33-34

to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

- John 10:14-18
- John 18:28-19:16
- Why is this important to who Jesus is?
  - It explains why He had to come as a man rather than stay as God

2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.

- Matthew 9:35-36
  - Harassed by whom?
    - satan
  - “Helpless” is important - why?
  - What do you think the author meant by “since”?
    - Maybe just that a normal priest is subject to sinning too

3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

- Of course Jesus did not have to do this, being perfect
- So why this passage?
  - This is an argument that a priest must be able to have compassion for those he leads, to understand their sin and have pity on them when they sin, because he himself understands.
  - In Jesus’ case His compassion comes from the understanding of the temptations and the understanding of our nature, having created us

4 And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, “You are my Son;

today I have become your Father.”

6 And he says in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
in the order of Melchizedek.”

- Therefore...?
- He is a valid heir to the priesthood. There was a time when the priesthood in Israel was through a certain bloodline, selected and specified by God. Jerusalem strayed from this at one point and priests who were not of Aaron’s lineage were appointed by men who ignored God. This is making the point that Jesus was appointed by God, just as any valid priest should be.

7 During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

- Luke 22:40-44
- Could save Him from death?
  - Two possible meanings
    - 1. Better translation is could save **them** from death - mankind
    - 2. “Father if it is possible take this cup from me”
  - Was heard - but He was crucified?
    - Conquered **through** death, had to suffer and plead for mankind as a man - atonement

- Makes translation #2 above more likely

8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

- How could Jesus learn something?
  - Not learning in a traditional sense
  - He allowed himself to be put through grief, pleading, suffering and death as a man, in order to fully experience it and give a perfect sacrifice, what was required for Him to atone for the sins of man

10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

- Who was Melchizedek?
  - Genesis 14:18-20
  - Hebrews 7:1-3
  - Earlier incarnation of Christ?

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand.

- Apparently whoever the author was targeting here was being obstinate

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

- Why the elementary truths?
  - Because they point to Christ
  - Isaiah, David's psalms
  - 2 Samuel 7:12-13
  - Isaiah 7:14
  - Psalm 40:6-8
- Everything they **should know** points to Christ, yet they did not acknowledge Him

13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- What is this saying to us?
  - We must know, read, acknowledge the truth of, understand, the scriptures that pre-date Christ, so that we understand why and where Christ came from, and are able to know and follow good and know and avoid evil

## Chapter 6

1 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
  - What does crossing the Jordan mean to us?
    - We venture to our own promised land - salvation through Christ!
- Choose life!!

and of faith in God,

- Mark 5:35-36
  - Why is faith hard?

2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

- Leviticus 14:1-11
- Leviticus 16:21
- 1 Kings 17:17-24
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

- What's odd about this verse? (verse 1)
  - "Elementary teachings"! Raising the dead!
  - True faith means these are elementary - assumed, simple
  - Because of faith

3 And God permitting, we will do so.

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened

- Enlightened about?
  - Christ! The gospel!
  - Ephesians 1:15-23

, who have tasted the heavenly gift,

- What is the gift?
  - Salvation
  - Romans 5:12-16

who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

- John 14:15-17

5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God

- John 1:1-5

and the powers of the coming age

- Mark 10:26-31

6 and who have fallen away,

- 1 Timothy 4:1
- Revelation 2:4-5

to be brought back to repentance.

- Salvation
- This is all a strange point, but it seems fairly clear that what is being talked about is people who have clearly accepted Christ (shared in the Holy Spirit, tasted the heavenly gift) and voluntarily fallen away. God will not remove you but maybe it's possible to walk away from Him voluntarily.

To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

- How?
  - Denying His deity and authority by disregarding His commands and sacrifice

7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.

8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

- What is the rain?
  - Isaiah 45:8
  - Psalm 1:1-3
  - God's blessing
- What crop does it produce?
  - John 4:34-38
  - Matthew 25:14-30
  - Other believers

9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

- Revelation 22:12
- How have you shown God love today?

11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.

- How does this relate back to verses 4-6?
- How can you prepare to do this?
  - Ask yourself what you would say if your very life was threatened for belief in Christ

12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

- What are some examples of faith and patience in the bible?
  - Moses - waited 40 years to become a prophet
  - Joseph - spent years in slavery and even in prison
  - Daniel - spent years in Babylonian exile

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

- Can God break His promise if He swears by Himself?
  - 1 John 1:5
  - Numbers 23:19
- What does this mean about the statements He left for us in His word?
  - We can trust, believe and count on everything He has promised in His word. We can also believe His word on what will happen to those who don't believe and those who unrepentantly sin
  - Titus 3:1-8
  - John 3:19-21

14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."

15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

- Abraham was receiving possibly the greatest gift in Old Testament times. But he had to wait patiently. Did he?
  - He slept with his servant

16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

- Does it always end argument?
  - It is a way to seal an argument when that argument cannot be settled
  - Kind of like a deposition or testimony
  - Usually swear to God for testimony
  - He IS God!

17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

- Why?
- Isaiah 1:18-20
- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- John 3:16
- John 15:13
- He loves us so much He does everything He can for us
- When He is perfectly justified to just throw us into hell!

18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

- Matthew 11:28-2
- John 7:37-38

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul

- John 11:21-26

, firm and secure.

- John 10:24-30

It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

- Leviticus 16:1-17

20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

- These verses are the crux of the Messiah and His mission
- So what do we have to do to have peace?
  - Just read the bible, do our best to live by God's rules and commandments, repent to Him when we fail, and give Him love and worship
  - What could be easier

## Chapter 7

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

- Blessed him for what?
  - Genesis 15:8-20
  - For rescuing Lot
    - Significance of this story?
      - This was a warning for Lot
    - Did he listen?
      - He went back!
      - So did his wife!
    - What does this remind you of in our current study?
    - How about Hebrews 6:4-6
    - These stories all carry common themes - what are they?
      - A promised land
      - Salvation
      - Backsliding
      - focus on rescue

2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

- Here and in Genesis, the story of Melchizedek is very strange
- Every word of the bible is important
- What is the meaning of Melchizedek's mention?
  - God blesses the rescuers
  - God wants us to fight evil
  - God's promise to Abram to make his name famous and give him descendants as numerous as the stars comes after this
  - So what is the significance of Abram giving this tenth?
  - Perhaps it was a test by God of Abram, and since God enabled him to get back all the goods of Sodom and he honored this by giving back a tenth to God's high priest, God was able to bless Abram with the Abrahamic covenant (descendants as numerous as the stars)
  - It was a forerunner of Jesus

Hang on this is a complicated argument

3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.

6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.

8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

9 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham,

10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

- So the greater blesses the lesser, Melchizedek was greater than Abraham since he blessed Abraham, he was like Jesus, and since the Levitical priests were descendants of Abraham, we can say that they were less than Melchizedek. Since Melchizedek is similar to Christ, we can say that Christ is superior to Levitical priests.

11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

- So what is this saying about the priests set up in Leviticus, the tabernacle, the sacrifices, the offerings?
  - They were inadequate to save anyone, they were just a stopgap so that the people could be cleansed and commune with God
  - This is obvious, according to the author, by the necessity of a Messiah

12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

- Why?
- Exodus 28:1
- God's law specifies who is eligible to be a priest; we must obey God, therefore if God arranges for a priest who doesn't fit the law, and God can't lie or sin, then the law must have changed

13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.

- What tribe?
  - The tribe of Judah

14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

- What is this saying about Christ?
  - Priests are supposed to come from the tribe of Levi (Aaron)
  - Christ came from the tribe of Judah
  - Since Christ has been proven to be the Messiah, this means God's law about priests changed at this point
  - Does this mean God changed?
    - It just means we reached a different part of His plan
    - Matthew 5:17-19
    - God's unchanging nature does not mean His predetermined plan stops executing

15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,

16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.

- What is this saying?
- Christ became this priest through resurrection

17 For it is witnessed of him,

“You are a priest forever,

after the order of Melchizedek.”

18 For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness

- Why is the law useless and weak?
  - Romans 3:19-28
  - Especially pay attention to 27-28
  - What is the new law that requires faith?
    - The law of salvation through Christ
    - The only work required is faith!
    - James 2:14-26
    - Faith is not a belief, it is action based on belief

19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath,

- How were they made priests?
- Exodus 28:1

21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

“The Lord has sworn

and will not change his mind,

‘You are a priest forever.’”

22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

- Why?
- An oath sworn by God is better than a priesthood inherited through a human lineage

23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- What does it mean to always make intercession for us?
  - This is how we are saved through Christ Jesus - He is able to constantly serve as our high priest, interceding for us and referring back to the one true perfect sacrifice He has already finished making to pay for our sin

26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained,

- How was He able to be an innocent, unstained man?
  - Luke 1:26-38
    - Remember, inheritance was passed down through the man
    - Including sin perhaps

separated from sinners,

- How was He separated from sinners?
  - Matthew 9:11
  - Obviously not physically
  - Separated because He was a man with no sin nature

and exalted above the heavens.

- Why is it important for Him to be exalted above the heavens?
  - Matthew 28:18
  - So none can challenge His authority to do what He did and save us

27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

- Why could he do this once for all?
  - 1 Peter 1:18-19

- Mark 16:19
- Why did He sit?
  - Human priests had to stand as they constantly offered sacrifices. Christ was able to make the ultimate unblemished sacrifice, He finished His work and was able to sit.

28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

- What oath came after the law?
  - 2 Samuel 7:8-17

## **Hebrews 8**

1 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

- Why say the true tabernacle?
  - Exodus 26-27
  - This was just a copy of the true tabernacle in Heaven
  - That's why it was such detailed instructions

3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.

4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

- Exodus 25:9, 40

6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

- What did the old covenant promise?
  - Genesis 9:11 - Noahic covenant
  - Abrahamic covenant Genesis 12:1-3
  - Mosaic covenant - Exodus 19:5-6
  - Davidic covenant - 2 Samuel 7:12-17
- And the new covenant?
  - Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Differences?
  - Work / obedience sacrifice versus grace
  - "It will go well with you", "someday" etc versus John 3:16, John 11:25-26, Ephesians 2:8-9

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

- Did God create a damaged covenant?
  - He simply created a covenant that allowed for people to approach Him until His final covenant could be implemented
- Why wait?

- Over and over again He shows the people His holiness and His grace, and gives them a chance to come to Him
- He wants us to learn, to do well on our own by following His will, choosing His protection, His love
- What good would it do if we were immediately saved and had no need to face the consequences of our actions and learn from our mistakes
- Same reason you don't just put the puzzle together for your toddler

8 But God found fault with the people

- Judges 2:10
- 1 Kings 14:22-24
- 2 Chronicles 15:17
- 2 Kings 12:3
- 2 Kings 22:11-20

and said: (Jeremiah 31)

“The days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.

9 It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,  
and I turned away from them,  
declares the Lord.

- Was this God's only choice, to make a new covenant since the people couldn't follow the old one?
- Leviticus 11:44-45
- Exodus 33:19
- He could have just damned us and been perfectly righteous in the process

10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel  
after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds  
and write them on their hearts.

- What is the evidence of this?
  - The universality of everyone agreeing murder is bad, theft is wrong, etc, even if they don't practice these. Even criminals for the most part would acknowledge they've done something wrong, if there are no consequences given.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

11 No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

- Is verse 11 talking about the same time period? (after Christ before Judgment Day)
  - James 3:1
  - 2 Timothy 3:16
  - So this verse I believe fast forwards to the end times

12 For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”

- What's missing here?
- John 3:18
- I think it was that important to God to comfort His people
- Jeremiah 31:15-17
- This is not a vengeful God

13 By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

## Chapter 9

1 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service

- ??
  - Things that pointed to Christ's sacrifice
  - Sacrifices of animals, cleansing
  - Leviticus 14:1-20

and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand,

- What did the lampstand represent?
  - Christ - the light of the world - even then He was being pointed toward. Anyone who puts down the Old Testament is missing these things.
  - John 8:12
  - John 11:5-10

the table, and the showbread,

- Why showbread and a golden table?
- Revelation 3:18
- John 6:35
- Matthew 4:4
- 1 Samuel 21:2-6

which is called the sanctuary;

- Where we are right now

3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,

- Where God's presence dwelt
- Habakkuk 1:13

4 which had the golden censer

- What's a censer?
  - An incense burner
  - Why?
  - Represents prayer
  - Revelation 5:8
  - Revelation 8:3-4

and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold,

- Ark of what?
  - Represents the agreements made with man, God's promises
  - in which were the golden pot that had the manna,
    - Why the manna?

- God will always feed us - spiritually and physically
- But sometimes we starve?
  - We don't die.
- Matthew 6:25-34
- John 4:31-34
- Aaron's rod that budded,
  - Numbers 17:1-18:7
  - What does 18:7 mean to us?
    - Anyone who does not come through our priest (Christ!) will still die
    - John 14:6
    - Our new priest that this entire last section defends as being greater than Aaron
- and the tablets of the covenant;
  - Why?
  - God expects us to follow His rules

5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.

- This is incredible, why?
- The *mercy* seat covers all the other things - God's mercy and love for us covers all our iniquity, all our inability to recognize the rest
- Titus 3:5

Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year,

- Why only the high priest?
  - No one was holy enough for God but He allowed the high priest, in holy garments, after atoning for the sin of himself and his household, to enter without dying, once a year.
  - Why was this merciful act?
    - God still let them atone, just not permanently. He didn't have to.
  - What is different about our high priest?
  - He cleanses us and covers our sin so that WE may enter
  - This is why the veil tore when Christ died

not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

- Why the shedding of blood?
  - Symbolizes death
- Why is death required for sin?
  - Eternal death is required because entering heaven would not be just for someone who has sinned on earth
  - Acts 20:28

8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

- The beginning of this verse is important - why?
- John 14:15-17
- The Holy Spirit was also sent in the past, according to this verse, to teach Moses.

9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience—

- In the author's present time, who gave the gifts and sacrifices?

- The high priests
- So who could it not make perfect?
- The high priests - thus they were useless

10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

- Does this apply to now?
- Sure, to religious practices, what else?
- Anything we do that is not 100% submission to God's will
- God doesn't want offerings of our own behavior, He wants obedience and holiness
- Mark 7:1-23 (I love 18 - don't you understand yet? How do we understand? Read all that God has given us about Himself - ALL of it. It's the manual.)
- Matthew 12:1-8
  - What does it mean?
  - Christ is saying rituals are not the point, they were only substitutes to allow for ceremonial cleansing to allow one to be in the presence of God.
  - They are blameless because the ritual of not doing *any* work is sacrifice, where God wants mercy, holiness, gives mercy, made the sabbath to have mercy on man not to condemn him or purify through rituals

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come,

- My favorite name of Christ

with the greater and more perfect tabernacle

- What is this tabernacle?
  - Maybe the body of Christ, maybe the real tabernacle in heaven.
    - John 2:19
    - Mark 16:19

not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

- What does this mean?
- This sort of lends itself toward the temple being His body - not conceived by a man, but by the Holy Spirit of God. The earthly tabernacle, of course, was built by human hands, albeit to a divine plan.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

- This is critical to the gospel message - why?
  - His blood was a pure and unblemished sacrifice; able to pay the price for all sin permanently.
  - Matthew 26:27-29
    - Drink it *with you*
    - What does this mean?
    - He will share with us the redemption He has purchased with His blood - we will drink of His fruit of redemption, together with Him
    - Revelation 3:20
    - Dine with us- why not talk, gather, etc? Why dine?
    - He will feed us the bread of life and the wine of redemption

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

- How does this work?
- Sin must be punished; the only just punishment is to be kept out of Heaven - death. The blood, being what brings life, spilled out symbolizes death. This is why the Jews were not allowed to consume any blood. It contains holy life.

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit

- How?
  - He was conceived by the Spirit into a flesh and blood body (Mary's)

offered Himself without spot to God,

- A human life, human blood, without any sin to soil it
- John 10:18
- Matthew 26:50-54

cleanse your conscience from dead works

- What are dead works?
  - Sin
  - James 1:13-14
  - Literally, works leading to death

to serve the living God?

- Who is going to serve Him?
  - Us, being now purified in Christ's blood

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant

- What does this mean?
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- Matthew 28:18

, by means of death,

- How many kings would die to cover your crimes against them so you can live and be free?

for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant,

- The first covenant was?
- Deuteronomy 6:17-25
- Who's transgressions?
- Romans 3:23

that those who are called

- Who is called?
  - John 12:27-30

may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

- John 11:26

16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

- Who's testament?
- Mark 10:45

17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

- What would be an example in the modern day?
  - A child trying to get their parents' inheritance while the parent is alive

18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."

21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

- Talk of blood and death is uncomfortable. But there is a sacred deep point that cannot be understood without this idea - that testaments, covenants, agreements, can only be sealed with blood and that death is required as payment for sin. The blood sanctifies, covers and binds everything because it is life. This is a deep and difficult point and worth much prayer and study.

23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

- Better how?
  - Blood of a man
- Why Christ?
  - Exodus 12:1-11
  - Isaiah 64:6
  - A lamb without blemish is required
  - No ordinary human is without blemish - what is the proof?
  - If they were not, there would be a way to get saved without Christ
  - All that would be required to save a child is to make sure they die before they sin

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

- He appears in the presence of God but does not need to sacrifice over and over again
- So why is He in the presence of God “for us”
- Barnes - “He has gone to plead for our salvation; to present the merits of his blood as a permanent reason why we should be saved”
- The sacrifice is done, but He apparently individually presents the fact of this sacrifice for each person as a reason for their salvation
- Defending us against the accusations of the devil via testifying for us of His atonement for our sins

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.

- Because?...
- He is a man. So dying and judgment occurs once.

To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

- What does this mean about those who do not await them?
- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- If they must appear before Him, what is the difference in them seeing Him?
- Unfortunately He will not appear to them “for salvation” but rather they to Him for judgment and prosecution.
  - Matthew 25:47-52

## Chapter 10

1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

- How is the law a shadow?
  - Covering those who would be blamed in the light of a Holy God

- Giving a hint of the goodness and perfection of God, as a shadow gives a hint of the appearance of a thing
- Giving a hint of redemption through the temporary atonement of sin
- What is meant by “year by year”?
  - Leviticus 16:29-34
  - Verse 30 - because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins.
  - But wait, isn't this what Jesus does for us?
  - Verse 29 - “This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves...
  - Lasting. Every year. Because as soon as you are cleansed you are dirty again
  - This is why we need Christ

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

- So what is the author saying?
- If those sacrifices could cleanse us permanently the law would not have had them repeated every day / week / month / year

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’ ”

8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law),

9 then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.”

- Psalm 40:6-8
- When did David write this?
- Sometime around 1000 BC
- What book is this Psalm referring to?
- Luke 4:15-21
- Isaiah 53
- When was that written?
- Around 681-739 BC
- So David prophesied not only of Jesus but of Isaiah! (my own take)
- Barnes - The reference of the language, therefore, must be to the Messiah - to some place where it is represented or affirmed that he would come to accomplish by his obedience what could not be done by the sacrifices and oblations made under the law. Thus understood, and regarded as the language of the Messiah himself, the reference might be to all the books of the Old Testament (for all were completed before he came), and not merely to those which had been written in the time of David. But still, it is true that no such declaration, in so many words, can now be found in any of those books;

He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- What is the significance of “He takes away the first”?
- This is officially saying Jesus has ended ritual sacrifice - important in the time this was written, and if it was ended then how much more so in our time after all these centuries!

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

- His sacrifice is complete, there is no more work to do
- So do we have nothing to do?
- John 13:33-35
- John 14:15

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

- When is that?
- Judgment day
- Psalm 110

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- What does “perfected forever” mean?
  - John 6:40
- What about “being sanctified”?
  - Philippians 2:12-16 - “work out”, “may become”, “will shine”
  - The implication between these two is that if and when we believe in and surrender to Christ we are perfected in forgiveness, but that this will continuously result in us dying more to ourselves and becoming more Christ-like
  - This is the mark of a believer - John 13:35

15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,

16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,”

17 then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

- This is all a reference to Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Does God really forget?
  - “Remember” in this sense means “hold against them”

18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

- Leviticus 17:11
- Ephesians 2:12-16

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

- Why is the word “living” important here?
- Luke 24:1-23
- Why is it important Christ was resurrected after dying for payment of our sins?
- Look back to Hebrews 9:26 - He makes intercession for us
- So that we may be restored to life as well by dying with Him on the cross and being resurrected with Him in His image
- So that He could preach the gospel
- So that He may justify us to His Father through His sacrifice

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

- Why is this important?
  - Exodus 33:12-20
  - Habakkuk 1:12-13

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Draw near - but God can't look upon sin?

- Colossians 3:3
- Galatians 3:26

In the true walk, the old us is gone - doesn't mean we're perfect but Christ lives in us and covers whatever sins we still have in weakness

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- Matthew 24:12-13

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

- Ephesians 5:15-20

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- What day?
  - Judgment day
- Why assemble?
  - James 5:13-16
  - Galatians 6:1-2
  - Acts 2:42-47
- And not to do what?
  - Matthew 6:1-18
  - Mark 7:1-13

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,  
27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

- Does this mean if we sin at all?
  - Same word "willfully" as used in 1 Peter 5:2
  - This is sin that we knowingly commit not caring that it is sin
- Mark 3:28-29
- 1 John 5:16
- Why is this the case?
  - John 14:6
  - If we reject the only way, we are cutting the only rope that can lift us out of the well - there is no other rescue coming
  - The end result is described by Jesus as outer darkness, gnashing of teeth, wailing, eternal fire, etc
  - Because there is no payment for that person's sin, they must pay eternally

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

- Deuteronomy 17:2-7
- The one who has witnessed will be the first one to cast a stone, which leads to...

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- Revelation 21:8
- Is this cruel?
  - He is offering a free payment for sins - but we must believe we are guilty first and accept

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:  
33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

- This is a summary of what happened to these particular jews but is still useful to us to know that when we are mocked by family members, laughed at, scorned, we are not alone

34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

- Matthew 6:19-20
- James 4:14
- Storing up treasures is not just wealth - what else?
  - Time
  - Comfort
  - Freedom from persecution
  - Anything that involves caring what happens here, outside of leading people to Christ
  - Luke 14:33
    - Is this a demand?
    - I think it is a statement of fact - you can only become an olympian if you are willing to give up the majority of your life to practice!

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

- How do we cast away our confidence?
- Mark 4:13-20
- What's the antidote?
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Verse 21 is the key

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

- What is key about the "so that" here?
- It's telling us we need endurance so we can receive our reward - eternal life!!
- Is needing endurance to get our reward consistent with a salvation that requires only a confession?

37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

- Isaiah 26:21 - why add "will not tarry"?
  - This is serious!
- Habakkuk 2:3-4

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

## Chapter 11

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- What does "substance of things hoped for" mean?
  - Substance implies a physical presence
  - Faith exists, as a marker for what we hope to get
- What is the evidence of things not seen?
  - Acts 3:1-13
  - We see this evidence in believers every day renouncing their old lives

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

- What does it mean to “obtain a good testimony”?
- If they are elders they have been around for a while
- By having faith and persevering they got results from God and prayer that they can now testify to

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- Genesis 1:1
- Creation was not made out of something preexisting but according to the truthful Word of God was formed out of nothing when He spoke it into existence.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

- Genesis 4:1-12
- First two people - notice anything familiar about Abel?
  - Shepherd
  - Hebrew phrase used in 4:3 is “at the end of days”
  - Luke 12:16-21
  - Luke 16:9
- Read this very very carefully - think of Cain as the pharisees and Abel as Christ
- Isaiah 1:15
- Matthew 23:23-29
- Malachi 3:10
  - What do you think this means in *this* light?

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- Genesis 5:21-24
- What do you think was the point of this mention of Enoch?
- (from Got Questions) Enoch draws a lot of attention due to the mystery surrounding him. Far too much speculation has gone into how and why God took Enoch away. Instead of conjecturing, we should be seeking to follow Enoch’s example by being men and women who walk faithfully with God and seek to please Him with our lives.
- This is a profound verse. This man was personally taken by God to heaven for his faith thousands of years before Christ!

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him,

- What good can be done that doesn’t require faith?
  - Matthew 7:21-23
- What requires faith?
  - Acts 3:5-7
  - Daniel 3:13-30
  - Acts 5:12-42
- Does “impossible to please Him” imply we have any real choice?

for he who comes to God must believe that He is,

- Seems simplistic
  - Genesis 1:3
  - Joshua 10:12-14
  - Matthew 14:25-27
  - Matthew 19:25-30

- What is involved in believing “that He is”?
  - Miracles
  - Sovereignty
  - Creation
  - Call
  - Love
  - Either we believe or we don't - the Bible is a description of God, not fanciful myths about Him
  - It would not make sense to believe in a car but not believe it can run and move people

and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- Why is it just as important to believe this?
  - Gives faith
  - Diligently seek - what is involved in diligence?

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen,

- Genesis 6:9 - 8:21
- Does God still warn us?
  - Acts 2:14-21

moved with godly fear,

- Why was Noah afraid? God warned him
- Daniel 4:34-36
- James 1:5-7

prepared an ark for the saving of his household,

- This word is used for Noah's boat, the ark of the covenant and Moses' basket
- Why?
- What do all 3 have in common?
  - They sustained and carried forth God's people
  - They contained things symbolic of God's faith

by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

- How did he condemn them?
  - By being the only one who acted in faith, by existing, by being judged righteous among all others
  - Do you think others might have been asked?
- Where else do we hear “became heir”?
  - Romans 8:16-17

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- Genesis 12:1-5
- Why was Abraham called?
  - Not lineage - Joshua 24:2
  - Why was I called? Why were you called?
  - Galatians 1:15-16
  - Isaiah 55:8-9
  - Could God be God if His ways were similar to ours?

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,

- What is meant here?
- Suppose you were given a house but there were already people living in it and the person who gave it to you just said go camp in the backyard until it's yours
- That's the situation with Abraham - would he get it?
- He doesn't even get a more detailed promise until 3 chapters later

dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

- Kind of like having tent full of furniture but no house
- Can you imagine living with your son and grandson and telling them about this wonderful promise but you're still in tents
- What would you say to them?

10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- What in the world does this mean?
- Never received a promise of a city even later
- Can only refer to the kingdom of God
  
- 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.
- What does the word because imply?
- This was an interactive transaction with God, not just a gift
- If someone you don't know hands you a box and says there is great treasure inside would you open it?
- How about if it was your favorite and most familiar friend?
- What was her act?
- She judged - active belief
- Genesis 18:10-15
- How do we reconcile this?
- Faith is not perfect, it is a process and an interaction with God
- Mark 9:23-25
- We must have the faith to ask for faith

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead,

- As good as dead?
- Job 14:10-12
- There was no new covenant yet so much like an unsaved person now, he was as good as dead

were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

- Yet out of that good as dead man came all of God's chosen ones
- Look at the impact of two people's faith, and not even perfect faith

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,

- Seen them afar off how?
- Genesis 15
- Is our promise far off?
- Matthew 24:12-13

embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- Sound familiar?
- 1 Peter 2:11
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Luke 14:33

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

- Philippians 1:21-24
- How do we declare we seek a homeland?
- 1 Peter 4:1-11
- Colossians 3:23

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

- What does this mean?
- Luke 9:26
- Note it just says “called to mind” - not visited, not thought about heavily, just called to mind
- Galatians 2:20...

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.

- Luke 23:33-43
- John 14:1-6

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- Does this call to mind anything Jesus said?
- Matthew 10:33

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,”

- Genesis 21:1-12
- Genesis 22:1-18
- Why would God ask for a sacrifice of Isaac when Isaac was the one whom Abraham’s promised would be fulfilled by?
  - It would have cut off what God promised him
  - Would Abraham still love God even if that promise went unfulfilled?
  - Would Abraham give up even that gift to honor God?

19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- This is *why* Abraham was able to comply - he trusted that what God promised, God would provide, and continued forth with God’s instructions even though it made no sense to him. He *assumed* it would happen anyway.
- Luke 7:1-10
- Faith IS ASSUMPTION

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

- Genesis 27
- What is the meaning of this?
- Isaac even though he was confused about who was who, wound up through faith in God and probably channeling the Holy Spirit, predicting what would befall his two sons, even though he had no way to know this
- Only those who trust that “He is” are able to listen to and repeat what He says

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

- Genesis 49
- What is the faith?
  - Having the faith to know God is there and receive information from Him to give
- Why “leaning on the top of his staff”?
- Where else are staffs used?
  - Exodus 14:15-21
  - Exodus 17:8-13
- This must have been extra information; it’s not in the original story but it’s important to Jacob’s faith somehow
- Only by leaning on God’s power directly can we do great things like prophesying future events

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

- Genesis 50:22-26
- So what is common among 20-22?
  - Matthew 16:13-18
  - Galatians 1:11-24
  - 1 Timothy 2:5
  - 2 Peter 1:16-21
- What does this tell you about Christ and God?
  - John 14:1-7
- But didn't the apostles have special knowledge?
  - Luke 24:1-27
- So what is the point?
  - Only through faith, by leaning on God's power and knowledge, and gaining a direct revelation straight from Christ Himself, can we truly know the Lord, the future or any truth
    - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### The Faith of Moses

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

- Exodus 1:6-2:10
- If he was ugly they would have killed him?
  - Through faith they saw the beauty in him even though technically he was endangering their lives
- What hid that beauty from the other mothers?
  - Satan
- Don't let God's beauty be hidden from you - do not be afraid when you are challenged on God's word and plan

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

- What would it have meant to be Pharaoh's grandson?
  - He would have had every earthly need attended to, could have done virtually whatever he wanted
- When did he choose?
  - Exodus 2:11-15
- What is special about this declaration?
  - He declared his allegiance to God with action
  - Verse 14 above!

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

- What would this choice look like today?
- Which people of God are really truly suffering?
  - Churches burned in China, reeducation camps, Syrians killed
  - Could you or I hop on a plane and join them rather than living here?

26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- Reproach of who now?
- Christ was born over 1,000 years later, prophesied later too
- This is a really, really deep passage
- Ties God's covenant to Abraham all the way to the savior
- Says that Moses had faith in God's whole entire plan - he would have known of the Abrahamic covenant
- Argues quite strongly against those who say old testament is no longer needed

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

- What did it mean to fear the wrath of this king? Was it reasonable?
- Matthew 10:28
- Joshua 14:10-12
- This is real faith - what can a man do to me, even if he be a king?

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

- Exodus 12:1-13; 29-30
- This hadn't been done before - remember what Moses' concern was when God first asked Him?
- It took great faith to ask the people to do this!

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

- Why the "Red" sea?
- They passed through the midst of a sea of blood, on dry ground, hidden from view, with nothing touching them
- Psalm 91

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

- Joshua 5:13-6:21
- 5:13-14
  - Who does God support?
    - God is sovereign!
  - What is the first thing Joshua is asked to do?
    - Worship by taking off his sandals
  - This is truth so what does that tell us about the conquering of Jericho - what carried it out?

31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

- Joshua 2:1-21
- Find anything strange about the first thing Rahab says she knows?
  - How did she know the land was given to them?
- If she did not perish with those who did not believe, did she believe?
- What is she a picture of? - covered by scarlet thread, others didn't believe, anyone who goes out from her house dies
  - Salvation!
  - Interesting that those who are with her are saved in answer to her plea

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

- What is important about this list? After all we know that all scripture is important beyond just words

- Kathy Howard - The individuals described in this “hall of faith” are different. They came from different backgrounds, faced different trials. God delivered some from their temporal struggles and others He delivered to glory. While their lives may have been different, their faith exhibited common characteristics.
- What else?
  - Welcome to a preview of the Christian walk and true faith!

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

- What promise?
  - The Gospel

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

- What is meant by “that they should not be perfect apart from us”?
  - Barnes: That they without us should not be made perfect - That is, complete. The whole system of revelation was not complete at once, or in one generation. It required successive ages to make the system complete, so that it might be said that it was finished, or perfect. Our existence, therefore, and the developments in our times, were as necessary to the perfection of the system, as the promise made to the patriarchs. And as the system would not have been complete if the blessings had been simply conferred on us without the previous arrangements, and the long scheme of introductory measures, so it would not have been complete if the promises had been merely given to them without the corresponding fulfillment in our times. They are like the two parts of a tally. The fathers had one part in the promises, and we the other in the fulfillment, and neither would have been complete without the other. The "better things" then referred to here as possessed by Christians, are the privilege of seeing those promises fulfilled in the Messiah; the blessings resulting from the atonement; the more expanded views which they have under the gospel; the brighter hopes of heaven itself, and the clearer apprehension of what heaven will be, which they are permitted to enjoy. This, therefore, accords entirely with the argument which the apostle is pursuing - which is, to show that the Christians whom he addressed should not apostatize from their religion. The argument is, that in numerous instances, as specified, the saints of ancient times, even under fiery trials, were sustained by faith in God, and that too when they had not seen the fulfillment of the promises, and when they had much more obscure views than we are permitted to enjoy. If they, under the influence of the mere promise of future blessings, were enabled thus to persevere, how much more reason is there for us to persevere who have been permitted, by the coming of the Messiah, to witness the perfection of the system!

## Chapter 12

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,

- Who are the witnesses?
- All the figures from chapter 11

let us also lay aside every encumbrance

- What encumbrances?
  - Ego (Cain/Abel)
  - Bad living / disobedience (Noah)
  - Disbelief (Abraham / Sara)
  - Closed eyes (Isaac / Jacob / Joseph)
  - Fear and insecurity (Moses)
  - Embarrassment (Joshua)
  - Matthew 6:19-21
  - Matthew 10:28

and the sin which so easily entangles us,

- Romans 7:15-20
- How do we “lay this aside”?
- What led David to sin?
  - Sitting around
- What led Moses to sin?
  - Impatience
- What led Peter to sin?
  - Doubt and fear
- So asking God to take these away and working for Him at all times is a good start

and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

- What is the race?
- Matthew 24:9-14
- 2 Timothy 4:1-8
- Don't let your faith be a spectator sport
- Luke 9:62

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus,

- Greek definition 1) to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something
- Matthew 14:22-23

the author and perfecter of faith,

- Author?
  - He is God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. All scripture is divinely inspired by Him
  - 2 Timothy 3:16
  - Exodus 19:5-6
- Perfecter?
  - We can not withstand the perils of life and temptations of sin without His bearing us up
  - Luke 22:31-32
  - We must strengthen each other. We must pray.
  - What should be your response to your brother's doubt?
  - Jude 22-23

who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,

- What did He endure?
  - The physical torture was bad. The sin and wrath compared to it was like ketchup compared to hot sauce
- What was the joy?
  - Luke 4:18-19
  - Joy at freeing US!

despising the shame,

- What does this mean? Why despising?
- John Piper: Shame was stripping away every earthly support that Jesus had: his friends gave way in shaming abandonment; his reputation gave way in shaming mockery; his decency gave way in shaming nakedness; his comfort gave way in shaming torture. His glorious dignity gave way to the utterly undignified, degrading reflexes of grunting and groaning and screeching.

And he despised it. What does this mean?

It means Jesus spoke to shame like this:

“Listen to me, Shame, do you see that joy in front of me? Compared to that, you are less than nothing. You are not worth comparing to that! I despise you. You think you have power. Compared to the joy before me, you have none. Joy. Joy. Joy. That is my power! Not you, Shame. You are worthless. You are powerless.

You think you can distract me. I won't even look at you. I have a joy set before me. Why would I look at you? You are ugly and despicable. And you are almost finished. You cover me now as with a shroud. Before you can say, 'So there!' I will throw you off like a filthy rag. I will put on my royal robe.

You think you are great, because even last night you made my disciples run away. You are a fool, Shame. You are a despicable fool. That abandonment, that loneliness, this cross — these tools of yours — they are all my sacred suffering, and will save my disciples, not destroy them. You are a fool. Your filthy hands fulfill holy prophecy.

Farewell, Shame. It is finished.”

and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Hallelujah! May each one of us claim such a victory!

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- This was being written to Jews in serious trouble and peril
- So that.. How does the considering help?
- Like George Washington riding back and forth before the troops
- Look to Him, emulate Him, ask Him for help, He has already been through it
- John 14
- One of the greatest rallying speeches - no, the greatest - ever given

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

- What is the meaning of this?
  - I think there are at least 2 meanings
    - What sort of resistance would require shedding blood?
      - For these Jews, resisting denial of Christ
    - Where else do you think if resisting sin and shedding blood?
      - I think Luke 22:39-46

5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,

Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him;

6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines,

And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

Addressed from who?

Psalm 94;

12 Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law,

Psalm 118

18 The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

Proverbs 3:11–12

11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,

12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Jeremiah 30:11;

11 For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

Jeremiah 46:28;

28 Fear not, O Jacob my servant, declares the LORD, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all the nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.”

- What is the overwhelming message?
- You are a child of God; He will discipline you but He will not lead you to death rather He will always be with you, loving you enough to discipline you

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

- Discipline is really paideia, or education and training, rather than correction
- What status are sons given in the earthly family business?
- Would a father turn a business over to his son with no experience?
- James 1:2-4

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

- Who does “all” refer to?
- All true children of God
- Ever known someone who seems to drift through life borrowing and breezing along?
- That person is not being educated and trained as a son
- Proverbs 5:21-23, 15:32-33

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

- Think here of a person in your life that mentored you, even if not a blood relative
- What is he saying?
  - If you have trusted an earthly mentor then should you not trust God?
- “Father of spirits”?
  - Numbers 16:22
- What does he mean “and live”?
  - Deuteronomy 30:19
  - Obey God and gain eternal life

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

- What is the difference between a school teacher and a mentor/apprentice's master?
  - One teaches for a while what they think is important
  - The other prepares you carefully for a task
    - Revelation 3:18-19

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- Ever started a new job, had your first child, been thrust into a situation and had to learn on your feet?
- How did you feel once you got your footing?
- What is the peaceful fruit of righteousness?
  - John 10:28-30
  - John 14:12-14

12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

- This in the Greek is more like lift up the means or agency that is passive
- Ephesians 6:13
- Stand at the end of the victory
- So what should we do?
  - Make sure we are actively using the Lord's strength to bolster us, strengthen us rather than falling

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

- What does it mean "make straight paths for your feet"
- Literally, a rut like a wheel might ride in
- What happens if your wheel hits a bad pothole?
- The rim bends
- What about if you step into a hole
- You twist your ankle
- What this says then is to line up a rut for yourself to ride in so you don't get harmed
- What is that rut?
  - The Word of the Lord

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

- How do we pursue peace?
  - What causes strife?
    - James 4:1-3
  - So what is the antidote?
    - 1 Corinthians 10:31-33
    - Romans 12:18

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God;

- What does this mean?
  - Literally be late for or miss the goodness and mercy of God
- How do we do this?
  - Make sure they understand the *full* gospel
    - Grace
      - Ephesians 2:8-9
    - Mercy
      - Luke 23:34
    - Belief
      - John 8:23-27
    - Obedience
      - John 14:15
  - Matthew 22:36-40
    - Every command ever given by God reduces to these, so they are all equivalent to the greatest two commandments according to Christ

○ John 13:34-35

that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

- What would a root of bitterness be?
- Can following God's true Word, with His heart, cause bitterness?
- It is ego that causes this
  - James 4:1-4
- And MANY will be defiled - this is why Mark 9:42-43

16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

- Genesis 25:29-34
- What is our birthright?
  - Salvation - Romans 8:16-17
- Sold it for a single meal - what would that mean to us?
  - Give up salvation for earthly pleasures - the single meal is our life, eternity is our birthright
  - Mark 8:36-37

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

- Genesis 27:30-38
- Hebrews 6:4-6
- So what does this mean?
  - If you give up your eternal blessing for a meal of pleasure on earth, no amount of weeping can get it back

18 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,

19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.

20 For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned."

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling."

- Exodus 19:10-25
- Exodus 20:18-21

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,

- So what is the difference?
  - We can approach God without being frightened for our lives
  - We can commune with God rather than just seeking cleansing of sin
- What is common to both?
  - We still must seek to approach God

and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,

- There are many ways to interpret this, all confusing. It seems to speak of angels, saved people and possibly some earlier prophets, but the main idea here is that you have come to a place inhabited by angels and holy men.

and to God, the Judge of all,

- Self explanatory

and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

- Again the meaning here is not totally clear, it could be speaking of believers on earth, prophets and godly men that have died, etc

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,

- A restatement of what we learned in earlier chapters - our new covenant replaces the sacrificial system and righteousness through obedience of the law. We must obey Christ but when we fail we still retain His righteousness through faith in Him

and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

- What does this mean?

- Genesis 4:8-10
- Abel's blood cried out for justice. Jesus' blood covered all sin and allowed forgiveness.

25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

- Who was "him who warned them"?
- Numbers 16
- So what is the point here?
- If this is how those who didn't believe Moses were dealt with, surely those who disbelieve Christ will have it worse
- What could be worse?
- Eternal death.

26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven."

- What does it mean to shake the heaven?
- Haggai 2:6-9
- Matthew 24:29-31
- Hebrews 1:10-12
- Revelation 21:1-8
- So literally heaven and earth get rolled up and replaced

27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

- What cannot be shaken?
- John 10:28-30
- Hebrews 13:8
- God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and the souls of those who trust in them

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken,

- What does this mean to us, to our walk?
  - Romans 8:31-39

let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service

- What is an acceptable service to God?
  - Romans 12

with reverence and awe;

- If we are saved and forgiven what do we fear
  - We must never come to the point where we feel sin doesn't matter. It is forgiven, yes, but it still is not pleasing to God.
  - How would we be showing gratitude for our salvation if we took that attitude

29 for our God is a consuming fire.

- In what way?
  - Sodom and Gomorrah
  - The flood
  - The red sea destroying Pharaoh
  - No one can resist
  - Also 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

## Chapter 13

1 Let love of the brethren continue.

- What is the action item here?
  - John 13:34-35
  - How did He love us?
    - He came to earth to die for us, to take on all the wrath of sin for all mankind despite them not deserving it
    - Thus there is little that should keep us from acting in love toward one another

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

- Who does this refer to?
  - Genesis 18:1-15
    - Becomes obvious they must be angels when the Lord speaks
  - Genesis 19:1-14
- Clarke - To entertain stranger's - In those early times, when there were scarcely any public inns or houses of entertainment, it was an office of charity and mercy to receive, lodge, and entertain travelers; and this is what the apostle particularly recommends.
- There are now many places for strangers to turn, so we are tempted to not do this. But it is still just as much of an instruction to us
- God may be testing you

3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them,

- Mark 2:14-17
- This is remarkable - many of these are not helping themselves, yet Jesus and Paul both call them out specifically as people we should help
- Of course he could also be referring to those who were imprisoned for their beliefs

and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

- What does the 'since' reason mean here?
  - You would not be unconcerned if your foot or hand had an issue because they are part of your body
  - In the same way, if anyone in the body of Christ is suffering we should all be suffering
  - 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- Why is marriage so important to God?
  - Commitment- model of commitment to God- our sacred bond with Him
  - For the sake of the children
  - Order - heritage - instruction

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

- Why does knowing God will never desert us mean we should be content with what we have?
  - Matthew 6:31-33
  - If you have flour and water you don't need to bake 30 loaves of bread; you can bake one each day
  - We must rely on God so that He can direct our steps

6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

- Daniel 6:16-28
- Acts 28:1-6
- Psalm 91

7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you;

- Who should you remember here?
  - The apostles! Especially Paul.

and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

- What was the result of their conduct?
  - Acts 12:1-3
  - John 21:15-19
- So why would we imitate their faith?
  - Luke 21:10-19
  - 16 vs 18
  - 1 Peter 2:11
  - Matthew 6:19-21
  - So the goal is to get ourselves a place in the kingdom of God - that doesn't mean you won't be persecuted or harmed in the flesh, it means...
  - John 10:27-30

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- This seems simple but what does it indicate to us?
  - Matthew 5:17-18
  - Matthew 9:10-13
  - Deuteronomy 6
  - The God that wrote that was the same then as He is now
  - Even though He forgives us when we fail, would He not have the same desire now for us to do good and cease doing evil?
  - Isaiah 1:16-18

9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings;

- What is the best way to avoid this?
  - Ecclesiastes 12:9-13
  - Galatians 1:8
  - KNOW the Word. STICK TO the Word for truth. Learn to recognize all that is different and flee from it.

for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace,

- This is profound. How does this relate to what the rest of the world teaches?
  - Only the strong survive
  - Look out for yourself first
  - Luck favors the bold
  - Etc etc
  - But this says strengthened by grace.. HIS grace.
  - Psalm 3:5

not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

- Does he mean literal foods?
- Do not store up treasures on this earth

- So which foods do we avoid?
- Those not given and blessed and instructed by God
  - Bread of life
  - Living water
  - Whatever physical things He gives you while you are obeying Him
  - We can always take and participate in other things, it's just that they don't benefit us

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

- Who were those who serve the tabernacle?
  - Exodus 28:1-3
- So we have an altar that even Aaron himself, hand chosen by God to serve in His holy tabernacle, has no right to eat from
- What do we eat?
  - John 6:56-65
- How does the Father enable us?
  - By giving us the ability, clarity of vision and strength to surrender to Christ, to live life eating of the bread of life and living water by relying on Him for everything, doing only His will and worrying only about His kingdom and glory

11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.

- Leviticus 16:27-28
- Why was this?
  - Since it is not expressly called out as a sacrificial item, it is not something being offered to God, therefore it is not holy, therefore it is unholy, unclean
- What does this tell us about holiness?
  - It is a black and white concept that is very important to God, a being of pure light and love with no darkness within Him

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

- Why?
  - Jesus had to follow the same procedure as those animals
  - He became unclean taking on our sin so he had to be outside the camp
  - He originally resided at the center of the camp - this is how far He went for us!

13 So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

- What is this call?
- What was in the camp?
  - The tabernacle
  - The tents that they dwelt in
  - Ritual cleanliness, safety
- We are called outside the camp, to suffer Christ's fate in this world, to give up what we have here in favor of the next one (His kingdom)
- Colossians 3:1-17
- Romans 6:6
- Not even exactly to give up, because that implies we still desire it - rather to release its hold on us

14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

- What is he trying to convey to us?
- Would you hire a decorator and spend your entire bank account to redecorate a waiting room?
- We should be making our final plans here, and they should involve only God's purpose

- If we could be immortal here it would not matter at all in view of eternity because this reality is doomed and fading

15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

- Literally put a sacrifice on the altar
- Since the sacrificial system is abolished through Christ, what is the meaning of this phrase sacrifice of praise?
  - If it is continual, what does that tell us about how it relates to our circumstances?
  - It is the ultimate sacrifice, to acknowledge God constantly in praise and thanks and acknowledgment of His glory, His sacrifice for us and His sovereignty, regardless of the circumstances
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
  - Lamentations 3:14-41
- Why would we do this?
  - Because God is always Good
  - Because He has already saved us and sustains us

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

- Love one another as I have loved you
- Again with the sacrifices - why?
- They are not required, so why do them?
- Many things are not required, but if we truly are giving praise and thanks to God would we not want to do that which is not required in order to please Him?
- What do you do for those you love? Do you have to do it?
- Too often we ask what we have to do, rather than truly pondering what we have to be thankful for and acting based upon that

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them,

Obey in Hebrews: Definition: to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy, to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively, to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty)

Original Greek: Πείθεσθε PEE-theh-stheh

Obey in Ephesians talking about children and parents: Definition: to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e., to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority

Original Greek: ὑπακούετε hoo-pa-KOO-eh-teh

So this is to be convinced, to agree with, not to obey as an absolute authority. Which we see in 1 Timothy 5:19-21

for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.

- What will they give an account of?
- Can't be about what we've done - Romans 14:12
- So they will give an account of how they have shepherded us and they will be judged on this

Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

- How would this be unprofitable?
  - If they are not able to give a good account of your life as a Christian, that would mean one of two things. Either they didn't shepherd properly, or you didn't respond well. Here what is being referred to is us not responding well
- How do we respond well?
  - Romans 14 - Don't divide over minor issues
  - Romans 12:18 - Whenever possible as far as it depends on YOU

- When does it depend on us?
- When it's not sin but rather just something that bothers us

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

- Why would the author phrase it this way - pray for us since we have a good conscience?
  - James 4:3
  - 1 John 5:14

19 And I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner.

- What does this say about prayer?
  - The author of this piece of scripture, which was breathed by God, firmly believes the best and only way to accomplish things is prayer
  - Philippians 4:6

20 Now the God of peace,

- Is there a lot of peace in the Bible?
- Then how is God a God of peace?
  - He created a perfect world
  - Sin corrupted it into a fallen chaotic world
  - When Jesus came He healed disease and calmed storms (Erik Raymond)
  - When we submit to God we have peace. Lack of peace is lack of submission
  - If you have lack of peace, lack of strength, lack of focus, ask yourself if the Holy Spirit lives within you and you have died with Christ then how could the Holy Spirit be inadequate
  - When we have no peace it is a huge indicator that we are not communing with God

who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

- Clarke - As our Lord's sacrificial death is considered as an atonement offered to the Divine justice, God's acceptance of it as an atonement is signified by his raising the human nature of Christ from the dead; and hence this raising of Christ is, with the utmost propriety, attributed to God the Father, as this proves his acceptance of the sacrificial offering.

21 equip you in every good thing to do His will,

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- What does this say about what we must do to prepare for ministry?
  - God equips us
  - How can He do this?
    - Holy Spirit - believe
    - Scripture - read and obey
    - Prayer - be open with Him
    - John 14:7-31

working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ,

- What do you notice about this phrasing?
  - WORKING IN US
  - He is doing the work in us. We just have to surrender and be crucified with Christ
  - Galatians 2:20
  - Philippians 2:12-13

to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- All of it. We are crucified, He lives in us, He equips us thoroughly and He does the work for His glory. Our role is just to surrender, obey and worship.

22 But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

- Imagine a long letter!

23 Take notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you.

24 Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

25 Grace be with you all.