HAT THE

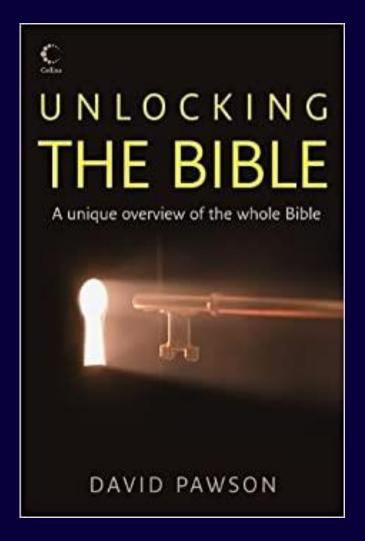


BUBLE IS ABOUT

The book of Hebrews Part 4

"The letter to the Hebrews is perhaps the most theological and difficult of the books of the New Testament."

David Pawson

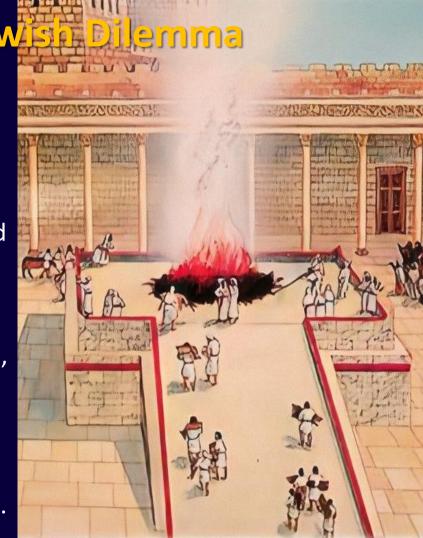


The Jew

Judaism was a divinely appointed religion, with divinely appointed priests officiating in a divinely appointed Temple accomplishing a divinely ordered service, ennobled through the ages.

Judaic worship centred around the Tabernacle first, and later the Temple, where humans through the priesthood could communicate with God.

Hebrews warned Jewish believers not to turn back.





Perthe Bible Salvation is a matter of

"The just shall live by faith."



"Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me."



- the substance of things hoped for
- the evidence of things not seen.

The Book of

Theme

- The overarching theme is the supremacy or preeminence of Christ. Christ is:-
 - Higher than any Old Testament character;
 - Superior to any Old Testament institution;
 - Greater than any Old Testament ritual;
 - Better than any Old Testament sacrifice.
- His life, death, and resurrection make him preeminent.
- Christ is the pure revelation of God, the epitome of all truth, and much more. God has fully and completely expressed himself in Christ.

Outline of Hebrews

Christ

A Superior Person

(Hebrews 1 - 6)

- Better than the prophets—1:1–3
- Better than the angels—1:4—2:18
- Better than Moses—3:1—4:13
- Better than Aaron—4:14—6:20

Melchizedek

A Superior Priesthood

(Hebrews 7 - 10)

- A superior order—7
- A superior covenant—8
- A superior sanctuary—9
- A superior sacrifice—10

Faith

A Superior Principle

(Hebrews 11 - 13)

- The great examples of faith—11
- The endurance of faith—chastening—12
- Closing practical exhortations—13

CHRIST

A Superior Person

- Better than the prophets (1:1—3)
- Better than the angels (1:4—2:18)
- Better than Moses (3:1—4:13)
- Better than Aaron (4:14—6:20)

MELCHIZEDEK

A Superior Priesthood

A superior order

A superior covenant

A superior sanctuary

• A superior sacrifice

(Heb. 7)

(Heb. 8)

(Heb. 9)

(Heb. 10)



Hebrews 8

- Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.
- ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

'Holy Trinity' by Hendrick van Balen, c. 1620.

⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said,

"See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Exodus 20:40



God's Amazing Story of Redemption & Atonement

The Epistle to the Hebrews

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF LAW

- 1. Blood of animals
- 2. Written on stone
- 3. Shadow of reality
- 4. Glorious
- 5. Had an end
- 6. Law of Moses
- 7. Law of works
- 8. Law of sin & death
- 9. Many sacrifices
- 10. Powerless to save
- 11. Annual atonement
- 12. Earthly tabernacle
- 13. Ministry of death
- 14. Outer form- flesh
- 15. Condemnation



"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second."

- Hebrews 8:7 -

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

- 1. Blood of Christ
- 2. Written on hearts
- 3. Substance
- 4. More Glorious
- 5. Had no end
- 5. Law of Messiah
- Law of faith
- Law of Spirit of life
- 9. Only one sacrifice
- 10. Powerful to save
- 11. Eternal atonement
- 12. Heavenly worship
- 13. Ministry of life
- 14. Inner reality-Spirit
- 15. Reconciliation

New Covenant

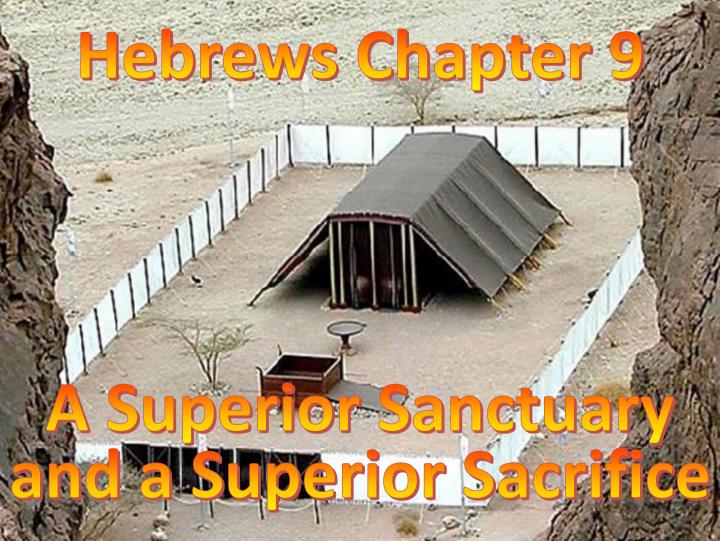
Old Covenant

- "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
- "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.
- For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

The New and Better COVENANT

Hebrews 8



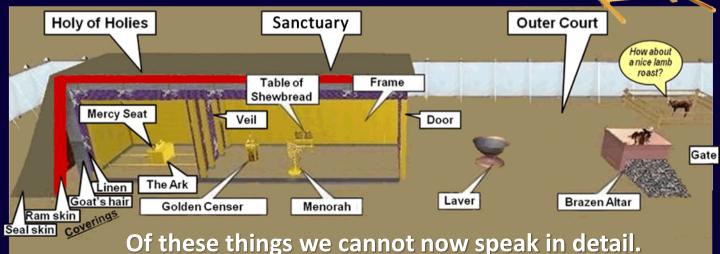
Hebrews 9

The Earthly Sanctuary

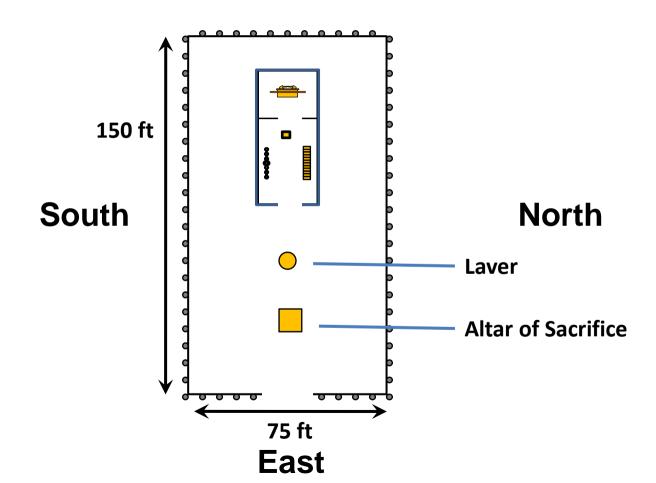
¹ Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.



² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; ³and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.



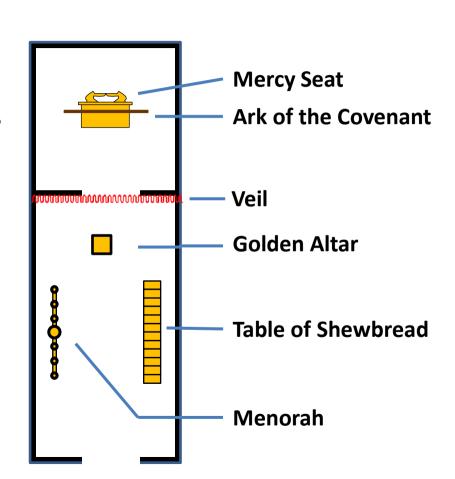
The Tabernacle



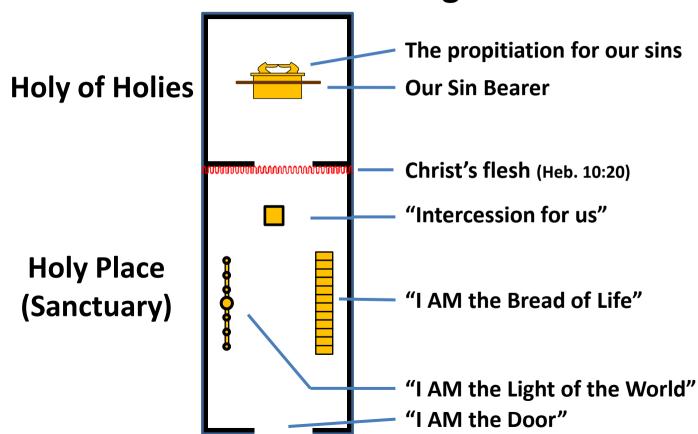
The Tabernacle

Holy of Holies

Holy Place (Sanctuary)



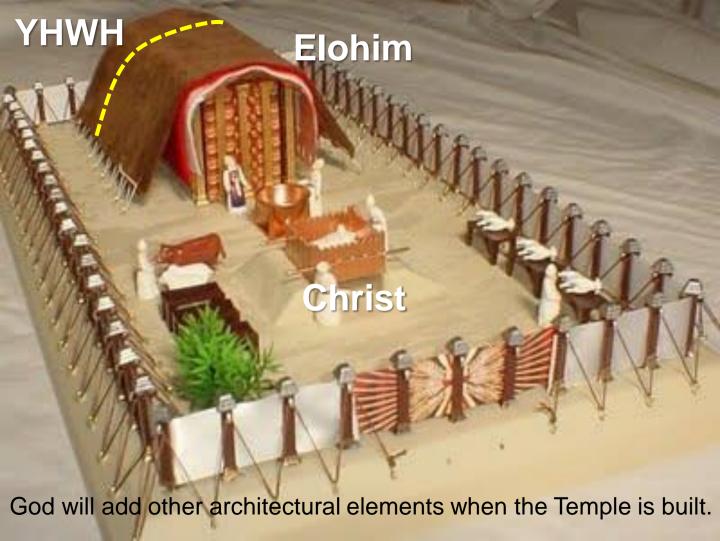
"The Word was made flesh and tabernacled among us..." (John 1:14

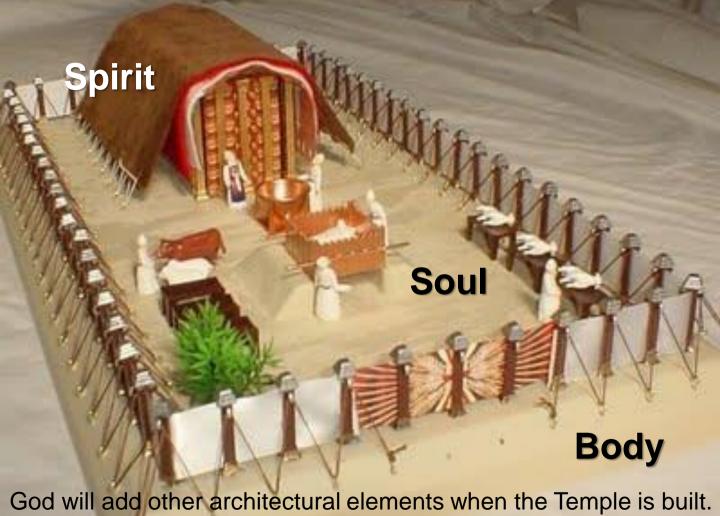


Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore honor God with your body.

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 -



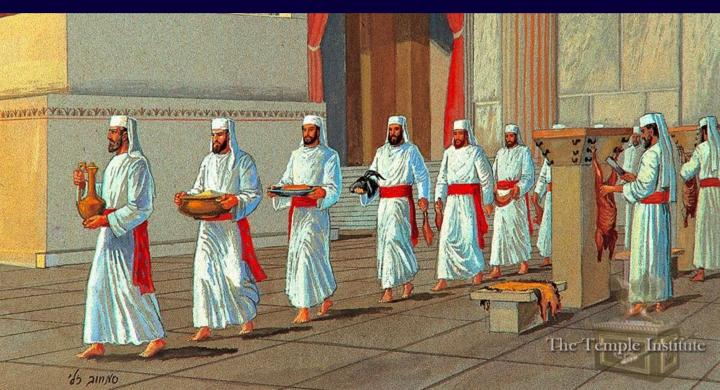


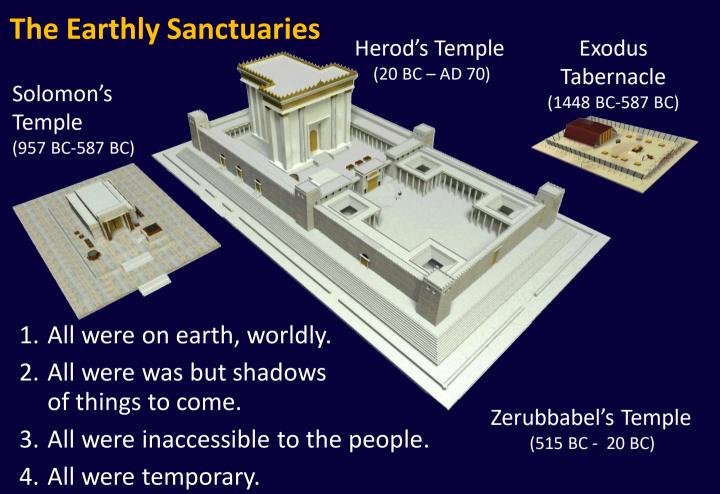
Earthly Service

- 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, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; 8the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

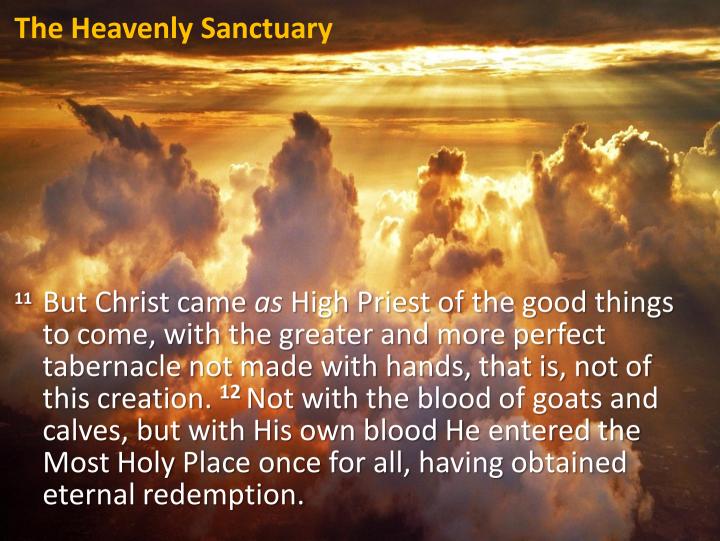


- ⁹ It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience -
- ¹⁰ concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.





5. All were ineffective in changing the hearts of the people.



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,



The blood of bulls cleansed ceremonial uncleanness of the priests



The blood of *goats* cleansed ceremonial uncleanness of the people.



The ashes of the red heifer were used for the cleansing of people who touched corpses



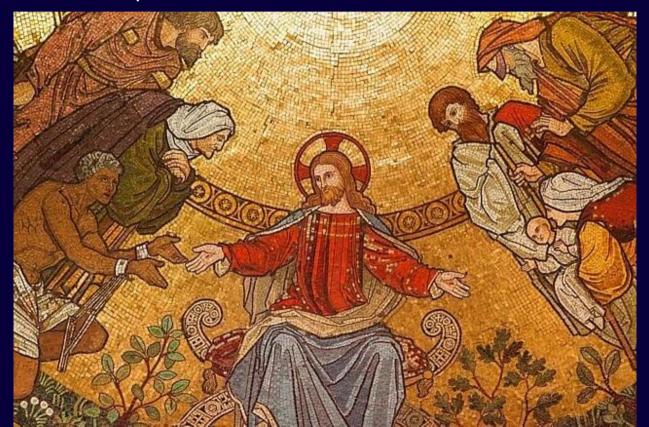
Red heifer ashes were mixed with water to ceremonially sprinkle and purify.

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Key points

- 1. The **means** of cleansing was the blood of Jesus.
- 2. The basis of cleansing was the voluntary death of Jesus.
- 3. It was without blemish since Jesus had no moral failure.
- The object was to purge the conscience from dead works of the Levitical system (which is now at an end).
- 5. The **goal** of Jesus' death was for the believers to serve the living God; not to return to the dead works.

¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.



The Mediator's Death Necessary

¹⁶ For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

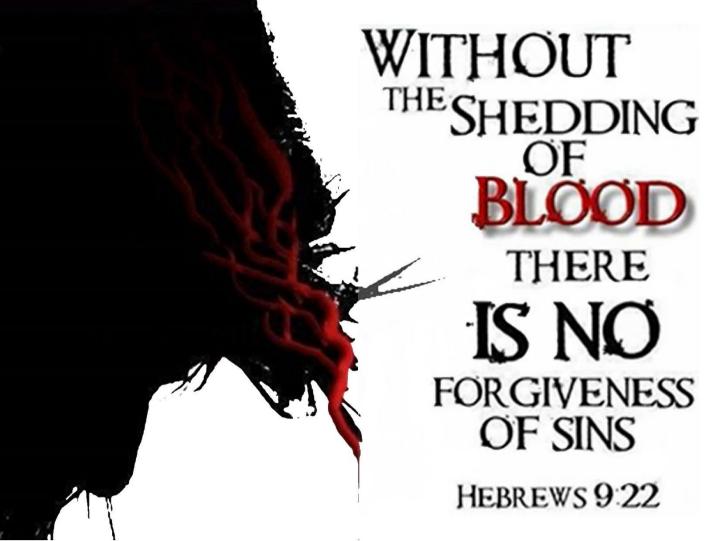
"WELL, I
THOUGHT THE
READING OF
GRANDPOP'S WILL
WAS GOING
REALLY WELL
UNTIL GRANDPOP
SHOWED UP."



- 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, ²⁰saying,

"This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." Exodus 24:6–8

²¹Then 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.



"During the thousand plus years of the Old Covenant, there were more than a million animal sacrifices. So considering that each bull spilled a gallon or two of blood and each goat a quart, the Old Covenant truly rested on a sea of blood."



"During the Passover, a trough was constructed from the Temple down the Kidron Valley for the disposal of blood – a sacrificial plumbing system."

Greatness of Christ's Sacrifice

- 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.
- 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—
- 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.

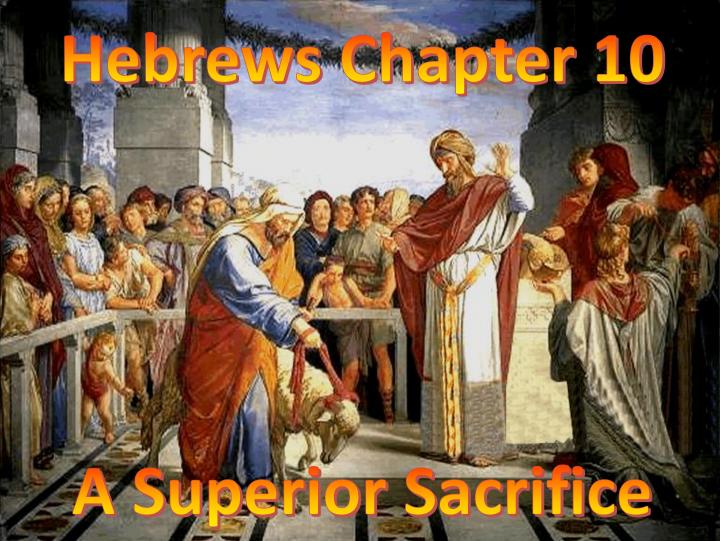
²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.



Hebrews 9:27

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

Christ... will appear... to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28



Hebrews 10

Animal Sacrifices Insufficient

- 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.
- ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.
- But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.
- ⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.`

Christ's Death Fulfills God's Will

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.' " Psalm 40:7

Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" Psalm 40:6 (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." 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.

Christ's Death Perfects the Sanctified



never never

time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

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

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



'God Inviting Christ to Sit on the Throne at His Right Hand' by Pieter de Grebber, 1645.

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

 Jeremiah 31:33

¹⁷ then He adds,

"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Jeremiah 31:34

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

Hold Fast Your Confession

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²²let 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.



- ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
- And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 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.



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.



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

- 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?
- ³⁰ For we know Him who said,

"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

And again,

Deuteronomy 32:35

"The Lord will judge His people."

Deut. 32:36; Psalm 50:4

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



It is a fearful thing To fall into the hands Of the Living God!

Hebrew 10:31

Keep yourself away from sin!

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated [enlightened], you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

partly while you were made a spectacle of both by reproaches and tribulations, and

partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;



'The Twenty-six Martyrs of Japan,' Nagasaki, 1597.

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.

- ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.
- ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:
- "For yet a little while,
 And He who is coming will come
 and will not tarry.

 Isaiah 26:21

 Now the just shall live by faith;
 But if anyone draws back,

My soul has no pleasure in him."

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

Habakkuk 2:3-4

FAITH

A Superior Principle

• Great examples of faith (Heb. 11)

• The endurance of faith (Heb. 12)

Closing practical exhortations (Heb. 13)

Hebrews Chapter 11



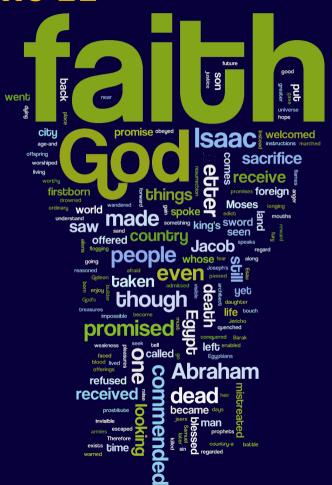
Heroes of the Faith

Hebrews 11

By Faith We Understand



- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony [witness].
- 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.





- the substance of things hoped for
- the evidence of things not seen.

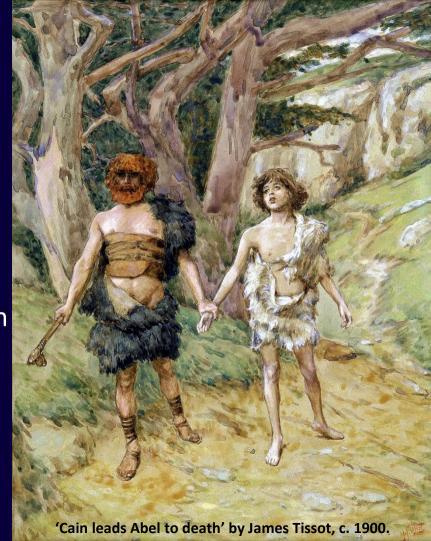


- the substance of things hoped for
- the evidence of things not seen.

(For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.)



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.





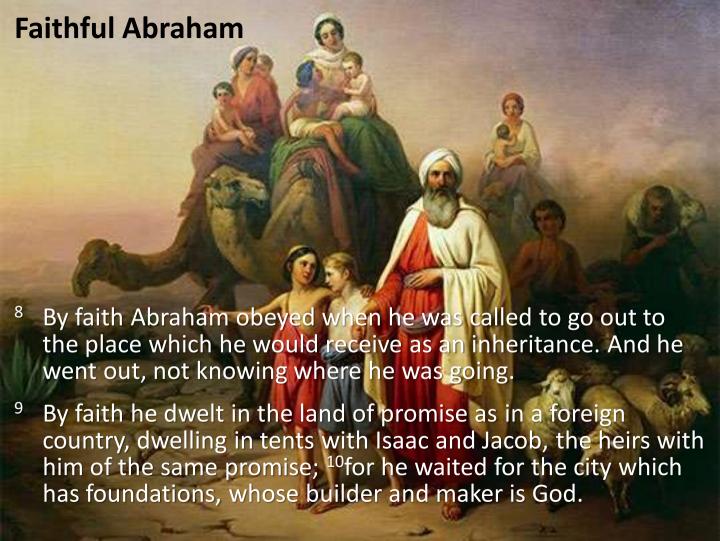
"And Enoch walked with God, and he was not; for God took him."

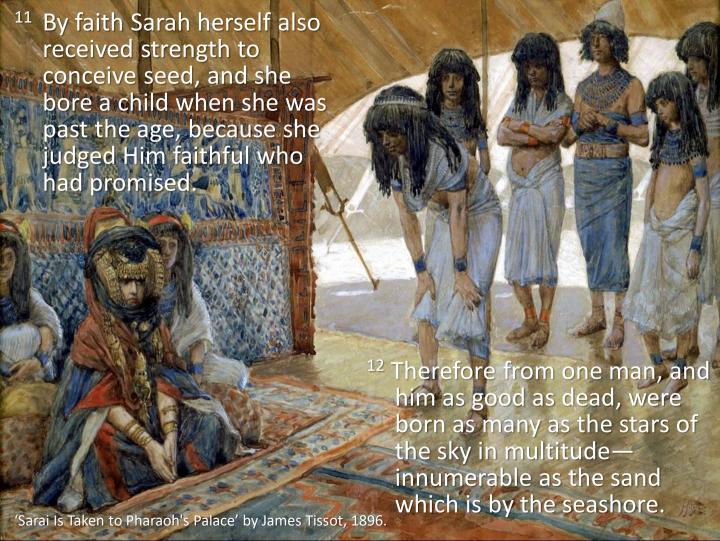
Genesis 5:24

- 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.
- ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is,and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

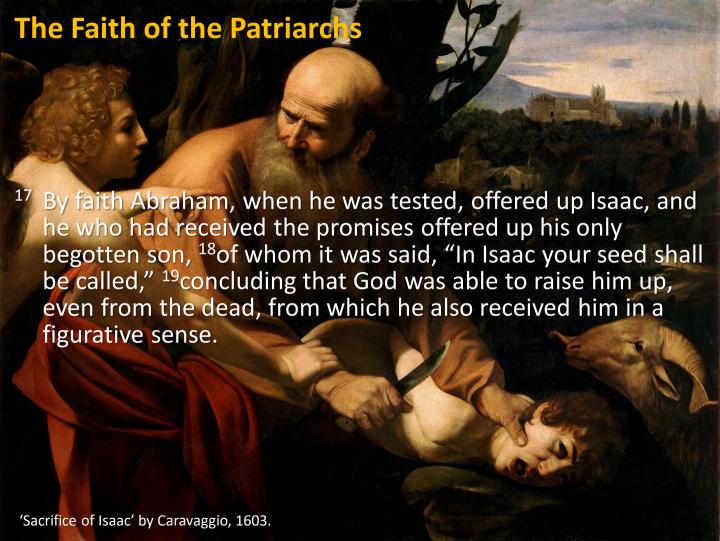
Noah's Ark by Edward Hicks, 1846.





The Heavenly Hope

- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.
- ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.
- ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.



- By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
- By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.
- By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

'Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh' by Benjamin West, 1768.

The Faith of Moses

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.



By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the

reward.

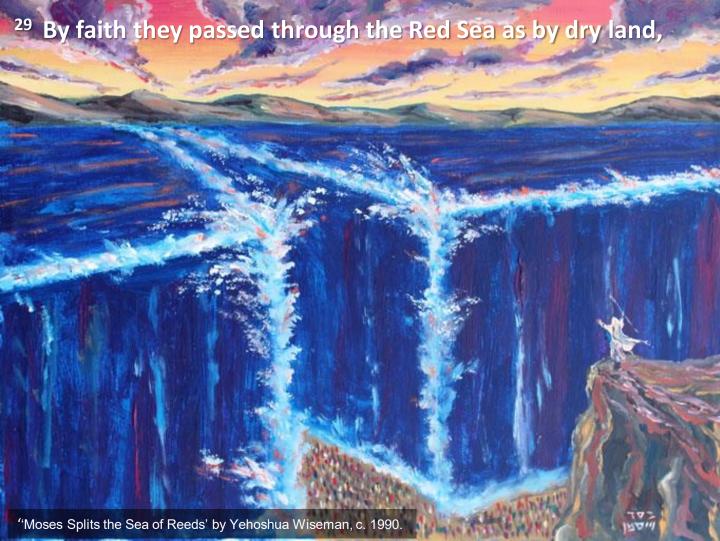


'Moses beholds the murder of the Israelite.'

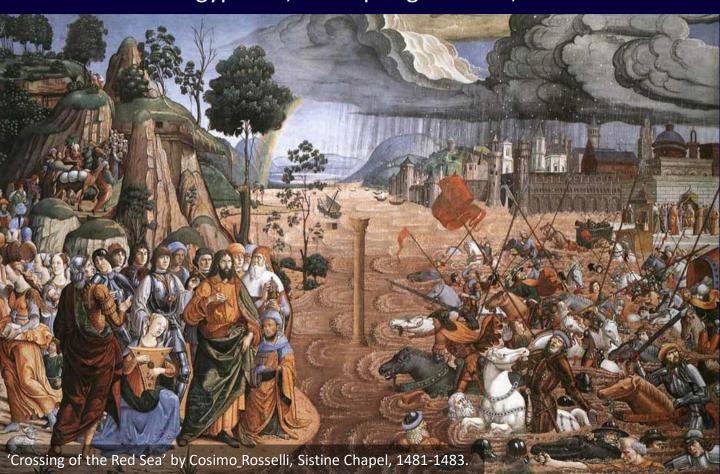
By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.



The Feast of the Passover



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



By Faith They Overcame

- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.
- 31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

'The Harlot of Jericho and the Two Spies' by James Tissot, c. 1898-1902.



For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched 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.



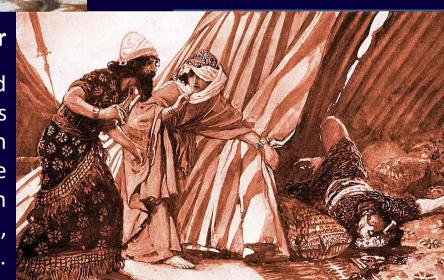


Gideon - Reluctant Warrior

He was aware of his weaknesses and plagued with doubts, but reluctantly answered when YHVH called and the Israelites prevailed, not in their power, but through dependance on God alone.

Barak-Obedient Warrior

A warrior who answered God's call despite struggles with doubt, Barak's triumph over the superior Canaanite army was complete when Jael, a courageous woman, killed the enemy general.

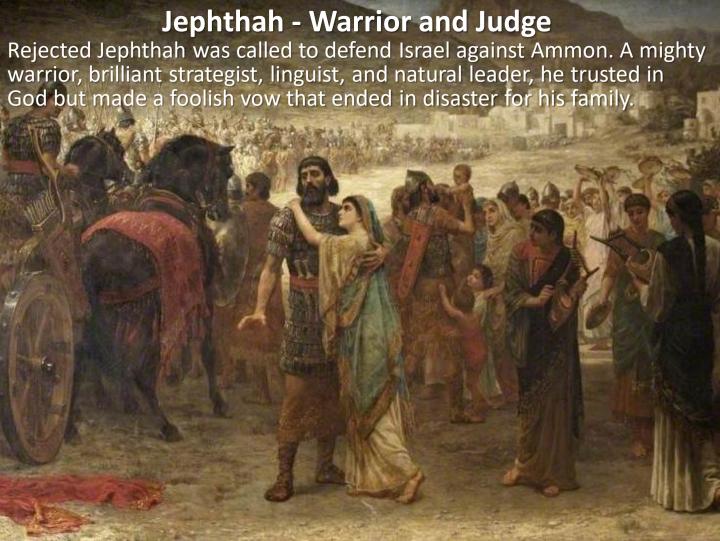


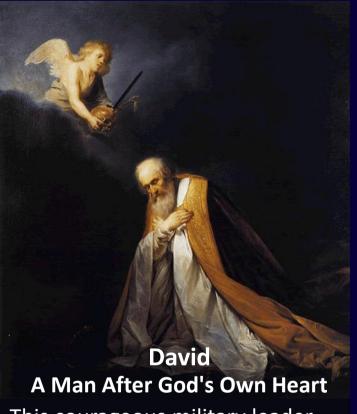
Samson Judge and Nazirite

Samson was called to begin the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines. Despite his superhuman exploits, the Bible highlights his epic failures and mistakes made from giving into weaknesses of the flesh. But in the end, he returned to the LORD. Blind and humbled, Samson finally realized the true source of his great strength - his dependence on God.



'Samson and the lion' by Francisco Hayek, 1842.





This courageous military leader, king, and slayer of Goliath was a liar, adulterer, and murderer, yet he had a passionate love and unshakeable faith in YHVH.



... and the Prophets



Hosea was chosen as an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he did not stop loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.



Amos was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.



Obadiah is the shortest Old Testament book with 21 verses. It proclaims judgement against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem



Jonah is the best known because a giant sea animal set him back on course after he went astray. His job was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent. They did and he sulked.

Micah stripped off to demonstrate severity of the destitution in the coming captivity. This popular method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nineveh's destruction 100 years after Jonah, and ten years later, Nineveh burned down and the Assyrian Empire collapsed.



Joel prophesied

during a time when the

land of Israel suffered

from a great plague of

locusts. Joel proclaims

a precursor to the Day

of the Lord.

this is a sign from God as

Habakkuk was a psalmist and musician who ended his book with a hymn of grace and redemption to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.



Zephaniah issued stern judgements directed against Israel, Judah, and their neighbours for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.



Haggai makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.



Zechariah like
Ezekiel received vivid
prophecy in symbolic
visions. His visions
included flying scrolls,
olive trees, and angels.
He predicted the First
and Second Comines of

the Messiah

Malachi was a reformer who directed his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.



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

'Daniel in the Lion's Den' by Rubens, c. 1615.

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.

'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace' by Jacob Willemszoon de Wet, 1610.





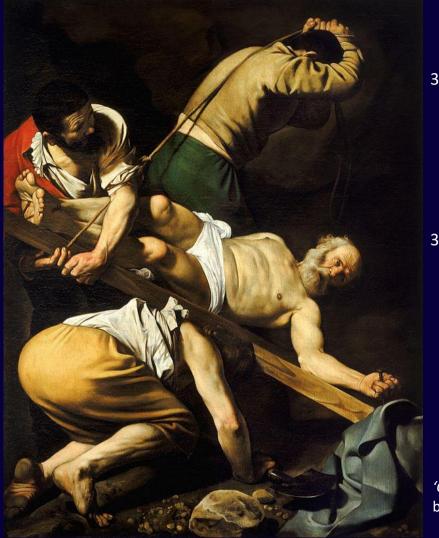
'Elijah and the Widow of Sarepta' by Bernado Strozzi, 1630s.

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

'Jeremiah lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem' by Ilya Yefimovich Repin, 1870.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again.



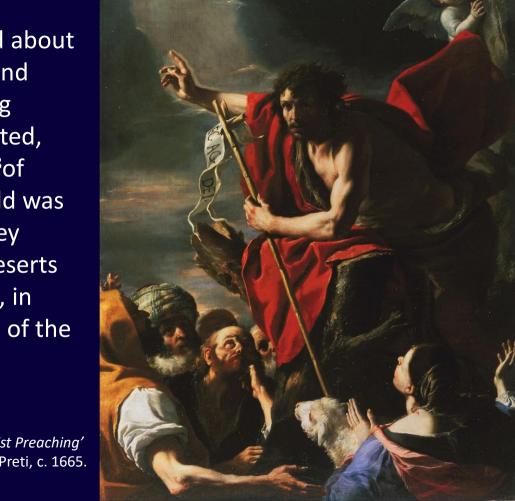


- of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.
- They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,

'Crocifissione di San Pietro' by Caravaggio, 1610.



They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.



'St. John the Baptist Preaching' by Mattia Preti, c. 1665. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,



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

⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

perfect apart from us.

People

1. All these - those in 11:4-38 and all who placed

their faith in the Lord and steadfastly endured

PraiseProblem3. But did not receive God's promise of Christ and

Problem 3. But did not receive God's promise of Christ and His finished work.

Provision 4. The Law made nothing perfect, through Christ all now have the promise of a better hope

Perfection

5. Christ's work complete, perfection is available to
Old and New Testament saints simultaneously