

*THE EPISTLE OF*  
***HEBREWS***

# BACKGROUND MATTERS: AUTHORSHIP

- ❑ Hebrews 13:18-25
- ❑ Hebrews probably is not an epistle (more like a sermon) and it really is not “general epistle” (it is written to a specific group of people).
- ❑ The Author of Hebrews:

PAUL IS THE AUTHOR. IT SOUNDS LIKE PAUL, MUST BE PAUL. *Eusibius, Scofield Bible, etc.*

NO. STYLE DIFFERS. *J. Calvin, M. Luther, etc*

NOT PAUL, BUT THE AUTHOR IS FROM WITHIN PAUL'S CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE.

# BACKGROUND MATTERS: THE DATE AND THE RECIPIENTS

- ❖ **THE DATE OF WRITING:** Between 60-70 A.D. as suggested by **8:4; 13:10; 13:23**
- ❖ **THE RECIPIENTS OF HEBREWS.**
  - (1) They are called “**brethren**” (e.g. **3:1, 12; 10:19; 13:22**)
  - (2) The author knows these people (**13:18-25**) and identifies with them as fellow believers (e.g. **2:1,3; 3:14,19; 4:1-3; 6:9; 10:26,30,39; 12:28**).
  - (3) They have believed (**4:3; 10:39**) and are told to do things that only believers can do; such as “hold fast” to their confidence (**3:14; 4:14; 10:35-36**); to serve God with reverential fear (**12:28**).
  - (4) They are never told to seek justification or to turn to Christ, but rather to “hang in there.”

# THE PURPOSE OF HEBREWS

- (1) WRITTEN TO BELIEVERS WHO HAD BEEN FAITHFUL TO CHRIST IN PAST TIMES OF PERSECUTION. (10:32-34)
- (2) IN THE PASSING OF TIME THEY HAD GROWN DULL SPIRITUALLY AND HAD STOPPED MATURING. (5:11-13)
- (3) PROBABLY TO AVOID FURTHER PERSECUTION AND TROUBLE SOME WERE BEGINNING TO RETREAT BACK INTO THE SAFETY OF JUDAISM.
- (4) THE BOOK IS A REMINDER AND A CHALLENGE TO HIS FRIENDS.

- **Christ is superior to all.**
- **He is the great King-Priest.**
- **He is coming again to rule on the earth.**
- **Faithfulness now will result in reward then.**
- **Be like the faithful OT people (ch.11) & not like Esau (ch. 12).**

# **BACKGROUND MATTERS: THE “WARNING” PASSAGES**

- ❖ **THE 5 WARNING PASSAGES ARE 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:26-39; 12:12-29.**
- **The warnings are directed at true believers not “professed ones.”**
- **There is a serious possibility of these people experiencing loss.**
- **The passages are not warning about the loss of their justification since that is not the focus of Hebrews. (And it is against the biblical truth of ETERNAL SECURITY)**
- **These passages are warning of the loss of reward in Messiah’s coming kingdom.**
- **The author warns them not to trade future rewards for present comfort/convenience.**

# **BACKGROUND MATTERS: PRACTICAL FOCUS**

- ❑ **The readers of Hebrews are to SEE JESUS CHRIST CLEARLY, not as the carpenter from Nazareth but as the exalted, supreme KING-PRIEST who is coming back to earth to RULE the world and REWARD His people.**
- ❑ **In view of WHO HE IS and WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO, we must “hang in there” and persevere as pilgrims in this world. HEBREWS 11.**

# THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

**A BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST IS FOREVER SECURED BY THE KEEPING POWER OF GOD.**

❖ **SECURITY IS NOT THE SAME AS PERSEVERANCE.**

■ **SECURITY FOCUSES ON THE WORK OF THE TRINITY.**

■ **PERSEVERANCE FOCUSES ON THE EFFORTS OF THE BELIEVER.**

❖ **SECURITY IS NOT THE SAME AS ASSURANCE.**

■ **ASSURANCE IS THE BELIEVER'S KNOWING HE IS SAVED.**

■ **HE MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW HE IS SAVED. EITHER WAY HE IS SAVED AND IS ETERNALLY SECURE.**

# THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

- **SOME ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:**
- **ROMANS 8:31-39**
- **ROMANS 5:6-10**
- **JOHN 3:16; 5:24** (Upon trusting in Jesus, we receive “eternal life” not “conditional life”).



# THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

- OUR SECURITY RESTS SQUARELY ON GOD'S COMMITMENT AND POWER TO BRING US TO FINAL SALVATION (i.e. glorification).
- THE **FATHER** HAS DECREED TO BRING US TO GLORY AND HIS POWER KEEPS US. (cf. Ephesians 1:4; Rom.8:29-30; John 10:29; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
- THE **SON** WILL NOT LOSE ANY PEOPLE GIVEN TO HIM AND THEY WILL NEVER PERISH (cf. Hebrews 10:11-12; John 6:38-40; 10:28).
- THE **SPIRIT** REGENERATES & SEALS US (keeps secure) UNTIL THE DAY OF FINAL SALVATION. (John 3:1-6; Eph.1:14; 4:30).

# THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

- ❖ **SOME QUESTIONS THAT ARE ASKED.**
- **CAN A PERSON WHO HAS RECEIVED GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST EVER BE LOST?**
- **WHAT IF THEY "DENY" THE FAITH?**
- **WHAT ABOUT JOHN 15:6?**
  - **The issue is "abiding" and being an UNPRODUCTIVE believer. The issue is not eternal life. (Remember Jesus is using a metaphor---never build a doctrine on a figure of speech.) The unfruitful believer faces God's temporal judgment & future evaluation. 1 Cor. 3:15; Luke 14:34**
- **WHAT ABOUT GALATIANS 5:4?**
  - **The issue is law keeping (not sinning) in living the Christian life).**
- **WHAT ABOUT MATTHEW 24:13?**
  - **Believers who are faithful to the end of their lives in these terrible Tribulation days will be receive a fullness of life in His coming kingdom.**
- **WHAT ABOUT 1 TIMOTHY 4:1?**
  - **The "departure" is not from personal faith but from THE faith (that is; from the body of Christian truth). Issue here is that of FALSE TEACHERS.**

# THE SUPERIORITY OF THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST 1:1-2:4

- ❖ He is the ULTIMATE REVEALOR of God: 1:1-2a.
- In the past, God spoke at various times and in various ways. E.g. **Numbers 12**
- But God's word through the Son is final and complete. This includes the message through the Apostles. Note **John 16:12-14**.
- New Covenant revelation is superior to the Old Covenant revelation...in the "last days".
- ❖ He is the HEIR of all things: 1:2.
- The Son has an inheritance. Looking especially at His being King and inheriting the nations.
- **NOTE: Ephesians 1:18; Heb. 12:2 w/ 1:9; Matt. 25:21; Psalm 2:8. Daniel 7:13-14**
- ❖ He is the CREATOR of all things: 1:2.
- He is the Creator and is entitled to be King.
- **Colossians 1:15-17; John 1:3**

# THE SUPERIORITY OF THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST **1:1-2:4**

- ❖ He is FULLY God: 1:3.
- He bears the glory of God
- He faithfully depicts the character of God. Note **John 14:9.**
- As such He obviously is superior to all.
- ❖ He is the SUSTAINER of all: 1:3.
- He is in absolute control of the universe. (note again **Colossians 1:17**)
- He can sustain His people in times of difficulty.
- ❖ He is the REDEEMER: 1:3.
- Focus is on His work on the cross. **Heb. 9:11-14**
- The “right hand” of God. **Heb. 8:1; 10:12; 12:2:** these verses are based on **PSALM 110.**

# **THE SUPERIORITY OF THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST 1:1-2:4**

- ❖ **He is the ULTIMATE REVEALOR of God: 1:1-2a.**
- ❖ **He is the HEIR of all things: 1:2.**
- ❖ **He is the CREATOR of all things: 1:2.**
- ❖ **He is FULLY God: 1:3.**
- ❖ **He is the SUSTAINER of all: 1:3**
- ❖ **He is the REDEEMER: 1:3**

# THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST: 1:1-2:4

- ❖ **HE IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS: (1:4-14)**
- **Why a focus on angels? **Colossians 2:18** but also...**
- **Jesus established the New Covenant (by His death); while angels are mediators of the Old Covenant (Note **Hebrews 2:2** and **Acts 7:53**).**
- **He is the SON OF GOD---they are servants.**
  - **2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2**
  - **The “more excellent name” is “MY SON.”**
  - **He has this status “today” referring to when He sat at the right hand of the Father after His resurrection from the dead. Romans 1:3-4.**
  - **He will be elevated to the status of the Davidic king and rule.**
  - **1:6 – “Again”-This will take place at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming when the “Firstborn” (superior/pre-eminent one) comes to the “earth”; the place inhabited by people.**

# **THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST - 1:1-2:4**

- ❖ **A LOOK AT TWO PSALMS THAT ARE IMPORTANT IN THE DISCUSSION OF HEBREWS.**
- ❖ **PSALM 110**
- **Hebrews 1:3, 13; 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:17, 20; 8:1; 10:12-13; 12:2**
- **(1) The Divine King --- 110:1-3**
- **(2) The Eternal Priest --- 110:4**
- **(3) The Victorious Warrior --- 110:5-7**
- ❖ **PSALM 2**
- **Hebrews 1:3; 5:5**
- **The eternally begotten Son (the Anointed One – Messiah) is to receive His inheritance: which is the nations of the earth.**
- **He will rule from Zion after He has in great wrath defeated His enemies.**

# **THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST 1:1-2:4**

- ❖ **HE IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS BECAUSE:**
- **The Son** fulfills the O.T. Covenants---the **angels** do not. **1:4-6**
- **The Son** is to be WORSHIPPED---the **angels** worship Him. **1:6**
- **The Son** will RULE AS KING---the **angels** will minister as servants. **1:7-9, 14**
- ❖ **1:7, 14** – Angels minister as servants of God (Psalm 103 & 104)
- ❖ **1:8 & 9** – The Son will reign. (Psa. 45 & 110)



# THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD: JESUS CHRIST 1:1-2:4

- ❖ HE IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS:
- ❖ **1:8 & 9** – **The Son**, who is Deity, will reign. (Psa. 45 & 110)
  - His reign will be forever. **Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28**
  - His reign will be one of righteousness. **Isa. 11**
  - His reign will be characterized by great joy. **Psa. 45:7; Heb. 12:2; Matt. 25:21, 23**
  - His reign will include His “companions” (who are not the angels). “metochoi” = companions, partakers, partners, those who share. **Heb. 3:1, 14; 2 Tim. 2:12**
- ❖ **The Son** is eternal and is the Creator while **angels** are not. **1:10-12** (Psalm 102)
- ❖ **The Son** presently sits as High Priest waiting to rule as King. (The victory is His not the **angels**) **1:13**

# HEBREWS 2

## THE FIRST WARNING (2:1-4)

- Key is **1:14**. “...THOSE WHO **WILL INHERIT** “SALVATION”.
- IMPORTANT POINTS TO OBSERVE:
  - (1) HERE “SALVATION” IS SEEN AS SOMETHING FUTURE.
  - (2) THERE IS A FUTURE ASPECT OF OUR JUSTIFICATION (When we are glorified). BUT IT IS SECURE AND WE CANNOT “DRIFT AWAY” FROM IT.
- We cannot “drift”/depart from positional truth.
- Proverbs 3:21 and Hebrews 5:1

## THE FIRST WARNING (2:1-4)

- (3) WE CONCLUDE THAT THE AUTHOR IS SPEAKING OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN JUSTIFICATION (glorification) (cf. **Heb. 9:28**)
- (4) THIS STATEMENT COMES AFTER QUOTES FROM THE PSALMS WHERE “SALVATION” IS OFTEN USED TO SPEAK OF DELIVERANCE FROM ENEMIES AND TROUBLES AS WELL AS ENTRANCE INTO GOD’S FULL BLESSINGS.

# **“SALVATION” IN THE O.T.**

## **(yeshua---yasha)**

- **THESE WORDS “SALVATION” AND “SAVE” HAVE A VARIETY OF MEANINGS INCLUDING “deliverance”, “preserve”, “help”, “aid”, “freedom from restraint”, “moral/spiritual/physical welfare.”**
- **THESE WORDS ARE USED ABOUT 810 TIMES, BUT ONLY ABOUT 60 TIMES DO THEY CLEARLY REFER TO “ETERNAL SALVATION” (that is deliverance from eternal punishment and reception of eternal life).**
- **THIS IS JUST 7% OF THE TIME.**

# **“SALVATION” IN THE N.T.**

## **(soteria and sozo)**

- **SIMILARLY TO THE O.T. THESE WORDS HAVE A VARIETY OF MEANINGS SUCH AS “bodily health”, “well-being”, “make whole”, victorious endurance”, “prosperity” and “spiritual deliverance.”**
- **THESE WORDS ARE USED ABOUT 150 TIMES, BUT A LITTLE LESS THAN 40% OF THE USES REFER TO SPIRITUAL SALVATION. E.g. Matt.9:21; Acts 27:34; 2 Cor. 1:6; 1 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 2:8-9.**

# SALVATION IN HEBREWS

- **1:14; 2:3; 9:28; 5:9; 6:9; 2:10; 11:7; 5:7; 7:25.**
- **HEBREWS IS CONCERNED WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN JUSTIFIED (redeemed). ONLY INCIDENTLY IS J/R MENTIONED. CHRIST'S WORK AS HIGH PRIEST NOW IS FOR BELIEVERS, NOT FOR THE UNSAVED.**
- **“SALVATION” = PARTICIPATION WITH CHRIST IN HIS FUTURE KINGDOM. It is the rewarding of believers who faithfully persevere for Christ in this life.**

# **“SALVATION” IN HEBREWS**

- **“SALVATION” REFERS TO FUTURE BLESSING/RULERSHIP INTO WHICH BELIEVERS CAN BE BROUGHT, BUT IT IS CONDITIONED ON WORKS OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. The believer must persevere faithfully in this life.**
- **THIS FULFILLS THE GRAND PURPOSE FOR MAN (cf. Gen 1, 2 and Rev. 20-22).**
- **CONTEXT (and focus) OF HEBREWS IS ON JESUS THE KING-PRIEST (order of Melchizedek) RETURNING TO RULE THE “INHABITED EARTH.”**

# THE FIRST WARNING - 2:1-5

- ❖ WE MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO:
  - (1) TRUTH ABOUT FUTURE “SALVATION”  
(reward/blessing in Messiah’s kingdom)
  - (2) WHAT WE “HAVE HEARD” (**1:5-13; 2:3**)
    - WE must not “drift” from this truth.
    - Disregarding OT truth which came through angels brought negative consequences in the past. (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:18)
    - Not to listen to our superior revelation is to invite negative consequences for ourselves in Messiah’s Kingdom.
  - (3) THE SUBJECT BEING DISCUSSED IS THE COMING RULE OF MESSIAH OVER THE  
**“INHABITED EARTH” (2:5).**



# **1<sup>ST</sup> WARNING: 2:3-4**

## **THE LORD JESUS**

**HE OFFERED THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM AND  
SPOKE OF IT AND THE REWARDS  
AND BLESSINGS IN IT. Matt.4; 19; 25; Luke 19**

### **“THOSE/THEM” (Apostles)**

**APOSTLES WORKED MIRACLES TO VALIDATE  
THEIR MESSAGE OF CHRIST/HIS KINGDOM**

### **“WE/US” (Writer-recipients-Church)**

**MUST NOT DRIFT AWAY/NEGLECT THIS  
REVEALED TRUTH FROM CHRIST THROUGH  
THE APOSTLES.**

# **The Word “WORLD” - oikoumene (oikoumene) 1:6 and 2:5**

**“The surface of the earth as the dwelling place of mankind, in contrast with the heavens above and world below---‘earth, world’.”**

**“What is important is not the particular area of the earth, but the corresponding concept of the surface of the earth as the place of human habitation.”**

**“ ‘the world to come in Heb. 2:5. This has generally been interpreted as being equivalent to the ‘coming age’, but the use of oikoumenh would seem to imply the inhabited world.’”**

**-Louw & Nida, I. 10.**

## **REVIEWING THE FIRST WARNING - 2:1-4**

- ❖ **WE MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO TRUTH ABOUT FUTURE “SALVATION” (reward/blessing in Messiah’s kingdom)**
- ❖ **WE must not “drift” from this truth about blessing in the future kingdom of God.**
- ❖ **Disregarding OT truth brought negative consequences in the past; and so disregarding truth from the Lord Jesus (the superior revelation) and the Apostles also has negative consequences.**

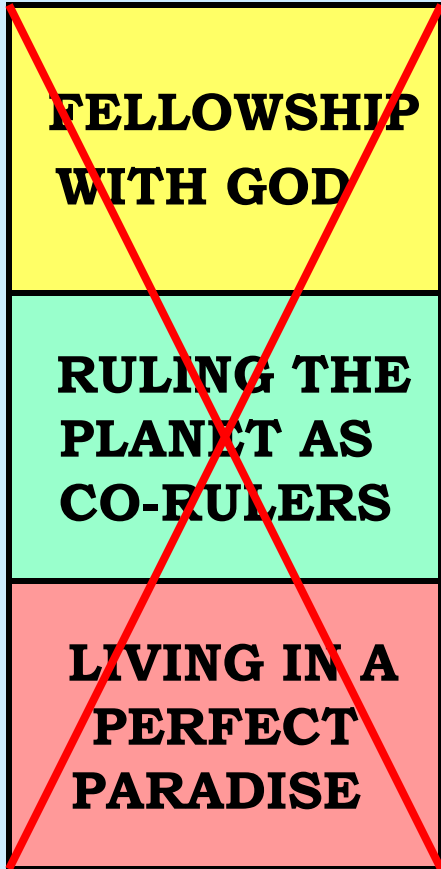
# THE FUTURE KINGDOM OF GOD

THERE ARE **TWO** PHASES TO THE  
FUTURE KINGDOM OF GOD

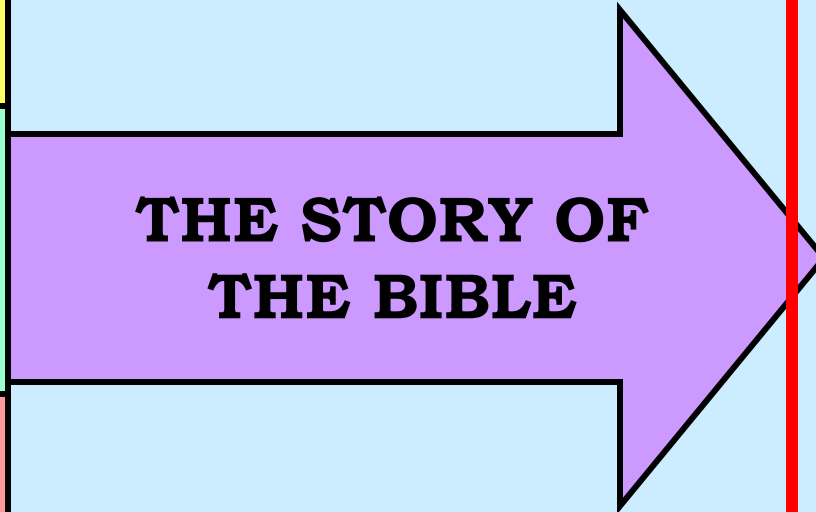


(1) MILLENNIAL	(2) ETERNAL
MESSIAH (THE SON) RULES ON THE <u>PRESENT EARTH</u> FOR 1,000 YEARS	THE TRINITY RULES ON THE <u>NEW EARTH</u> FOREVER
PURPOSE: FULFILLING OF COVENANTS WITH ISRAEL & TO BEGIN RESTORATION OF THAT WHICH WAS LOST.	PURPOSE: TO RESTORE COMPLETELY THAT WHICH WAS LOST IN EDEN. A RETURN TO "PLAN 'A'"

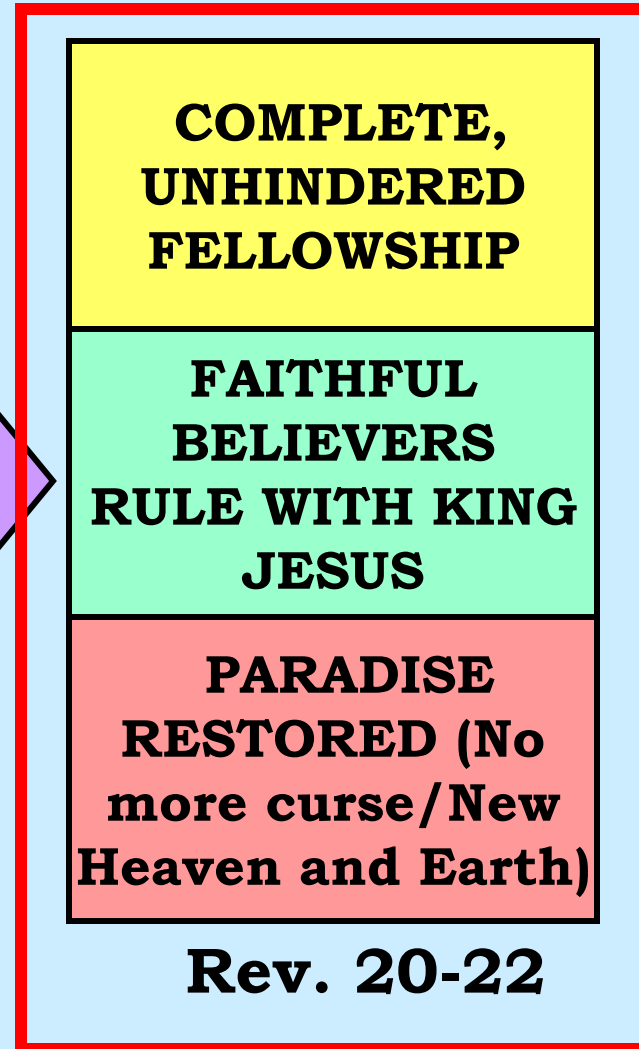
# GOD'S ORIGINAL PURPOSES



**Genesis 1-3**



**“SALVATION” =**



**Rev. 20-22**

# BETWEEN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> WARNING PASSAGES (2:5-3:6)

**2:5**---SUBJECT: THE SON'S RULE OVER THE INHABITED EARTH. (Returning to the point that Jesus, not angels, will be King on this earth).

**2:6-8** (from **Psalm 8**)---MAIN POINTS:

- (1) MAN ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO BE "KING" OF CREATION (**Gen. 1:26-28**).
- (2) ULTIMATELY FULFILLED IN THE GOD/MAN, MESSIAH JESUS. ("**Son of Man**") Luke 24:44-45
- (3) MAN'S RULERSHIP IS HIS GREAT, FINAL SIGNIFICANCE (e.g. **Rev. 21:24**).
- (4) JESUS MESSIAH IS NOT YET KING (**2:8**).

# THE BOOK OF DANIEL

- ❑ **WHAT?** A focused study of the key Old Testament Book of Daniel.
- ❑ **WHEN?** Saturdays - February 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30a.m. to 3p.m.
- ❑ **WHERE?** At Desert Springs (most likely in the Grace & Truth classroom)
- ❑ **HOW MUCH?** \$30 (\$50 per couple). This includes lunch both days as well as bound notes and a book.
- ❑ **HOW TO SIGN UP?** Let Howard Warren know. [hwarren173@cox.net](mailto:hwarren173@cox.net)

**2:9-18: JESUS IS QUALIFIED TO RULE BECAUSE HE BECAME A MAN, DIED FOR US, GAINED VICTORY OVER SIN, DEATH AND THE DEVIL.**

**AUTHOR**

**(Captain/  
Leader)**

**INITIATOR OF OUR  
RESTORATION  
BACK TO GOD'S  
PURPOSES FOR  
MAN**

**BROTHER**

**OUR OLDER  
BROTHER WHO  
TEACHES AND  
MODELS TRUTH  
FOR US**

**HIGH PRIEST**

**CARED FOR OUR  
SIN PROBLEM  
AND WHO  
INTERCEDES  
FOR US**



**2:9-18: JESUS IS QUALIFIED TO RULE BECAUSE HE BECAME A MAN, DIED FOR US, GAINED VICTORY OVER SIN, DEATH AND THE DEVIL.**

**2:9-10 - OUR CAPTAIN/LEADER SUFFERED WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT CERTAIN “BENEFITS”.**

**(1) HE IS GIVEN THE RIGHTS OF KING & PRIEST**

**(2) HE CAN NOW BRING HIS CHILDREN TO “GLORY”---Glorification + Future “salvation” glory**



**(3) HE NOW COMPLETES THE GOAL (“perfect”) OF FULL RESTORATION OF ALL THAT WAS LOST**

**2:9-18: JESUS IS QUALIFIED TO RULE BECAUSE HE BECAME A MAN, DIED FOR US, GAINED VICTORY OVER SIN, DEATH AND THE DEVIL.**

**2:11-15 - OUR “OLDER BROTHER” MODELS TRUTH AND TEACHES US NEEDED LESSONS.**

**(1) WE NOW BELONG TO ONE FAMILY. John 1:12**

**(2) HE TEACHES US ABOUT OUR FATHER.**

**(3) HE MODELS AN ATTITUDE OF TRUST AND DEPENDENCE IN TIMES OF SUFFERING/TRIALS**

**(4) HE HAS FREED US FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH.**

**2:9-18: JESUS IS QUALIFIED TO RULE BECAUSE HE BECAME A MAN, DIED FOR US, GAINED VICTORY OVER SIN, DEATH AND THE DEVIL.**

**2:16-18 - OUR “HIGH PRIEST” BECAME A MAN AND SO CAN NOW BRING HELP TO MAN.**

**(1) HE GIVES HELP TO BOTH BELIEVING JEWS AND BELIEVING GENTILES.**

**(2) HE EXPERIENCED ALL OF LIFE’S TRIALS AND TESTINGS. (Note 1 Peter 2:21; James 1:2, 12)**

**(3) IF WE ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR PILGRIMAGE HERE ON EARTH WE NEED THE HELP OF OUR HIGH PRIEST.**

**(4) HE CAN AID US IN TIME OF TEMPTATION. (Such as when we are tempted to “drift” from Truth).**

# SO FAR IN HEBREWS

- **Jesus is superior to all and to Him has been given ruler ship of the earth.**
- **Believers have a wonderful future and we also have an inheritance that is dependent on our faithfulness.**
- **We must not “drift away” from the truth and reality of this because there are consequences to do so.**
- **Though Jesus does not now reign, He will.**
- **Through His sufferings, He has reached the goal of full and total restoration of all that was lost.**
- **As our CAPTAIN/LEADER, Jesus initiated the restoring of all that was lost in Eden.**
- **As our OLDER BROTHER, Jesus (who is not ashamed to call us “brothers” since we are sanctified) teaches us about the Father and models how we are to deal with suffering.**
- **As our HIGH PRIEST, Jesus can give us needed assistance so that we can “hang in there” and be successful in times of suffering.**

# BETWEEN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> WARNINGS: HEBREWS 3:1-6

- ❖ **3:1**—WE ARE TO FIX OUR ATTENTION ON JESUS.
  - He is our **APOSTLE** (One sent with authority)
  - He is our **HIGH PRIEST** (Deals with our sin and failure).
- ❖ **3:2**—Jesus **FAITHFULLY FUNCTIONS** in these roles just like Moses **FAITHFULLY FUNCTIONED**.
- ❖ (God's "house" = THE O.T. TABERNACLE)
- ❖ **3:3-5**—The emphasis is not on the place but on the **FUNCTION**. (Not all were faithful in "GOD'S HOUSE"; such as Aaron, his sons and Korah).

# BETWEEN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> WARNINGS: HEBREWS 3:1-6

- ❖ **3:6a**—Jesus was completely **FAITHFUL** as He functioned as the Apostle and High Priest. We are to follow His example.
- ❖ **3:6b**—We are “HIS HOUSE” (the **faithful** functioning/worshipping house of believer-priests) ***IF*** we “hang in there” and do not withdraw from our priestly activities in the **LOCAL CHURCH** (***3:12-13; 10:25***).
- ❖ **NOTE:** He is **NOT** focusing on our position in the Universal church (the body of Christ), but on the ministering/worshipping life in the Local Church.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> WARNING (3:7-4:13): THE EXAMPLE OF THE 'EXODUS GENERATION'**

- ❖ **3:1-6 – The Model of Faithfulness: the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- ❖ **3:7-19 – The Illustration of Unfaithfulness: the “Exodus Generation”**
- ❖ **4:1-13 – The Goal of Faithfulness: Entering God’s Rest**
- ❖ **Using the “Exodus Generation” as a negative illustration of not being FAITHFUL, the author will now point out that **DISOBEDIENCE** and **UNBELIEF** do have consequences.**
- ❖ **The consequence is not getting to enter into **“GOD’S REST”**.**

# **“THE EXODUS GENERATION”**

## **PSALM 95 and NUMBERS 14**

- ❖ **Psalm 95 is quoted by the author; and Numbers 14 is the story of the 12 spies who spied out the land of Canaan. We learn that:**
- ❖ **They were redeemed by the blood of the Passover Lamb.**
- ❖ **They are declared to be “THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE”**
- ❖ **They “provoked” the Lord often in the wilderness wanderings.**
- ❖ **They were characterized by UNBELIEF and DISOBEDIENCE (but not apostasy).**
- ❖ **As a result they forfeited God’s “rest.**
- ❖ **God did forgive them, but “rest” was not experienced.**
- ❖ **THESE ARE VIEWED AS BELIEVERS BY THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS.**



# **“THE EXODUS GENERATION” According to the Apostle Paul**

- ❖ **1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-10:11.** Paul uses the “Exodus Generation” in the same way as the author of Hebrews. (Remember the author of Hebrews was apparently part of the “Pauline circle of influence”).
- ❖ Paul’s discussion is on the issues of being “disqualified” and **REWARDS** (gained or lost).
- ❖ The “Exodus Generation” is Paul’s example of people who had great spiritual privilege (10:1-4) but lost out on God’s reward because they “craved evil things.”
- ❖ The need (in Hebrews & 1 Corinthians) is for spiritual discipline and faithfulness, **NOT TO BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.**
- ❖ Paul views them as believers who lost out because they were disqualified.

# THE WORD “REST”

- ❖ **ITS USE IN HEBREWS: 3:11, 18; 4:1, 3-6, 8-11**
- ❖ **ITS O.T. BACKGROUND:**
  - **DEUTERONOMY 12:9-10**
  - **DEUTERONOMY 25:19**
  - **JOSHUA 1:13**
- ❖ **ITS O.T. USE: “Rest” is....**
  - **CONNECTED WITH THE LAND**
  - **CONNECTED WITH THEIR “INHERITANCE”**
  - **OBTAINED BY ENTERING, CONQUERING AND SETTLING THE LAND OF CANAAN**

# DEFINING “REST”

- **Rest is not “SPIRITUAL SALVATION”**
- **Since it is something that we labor for.**
- **Since God also experienced “rest”.**
- **“REST” is the REWARD God gives when we complete the tasks He has given to us to accomplish.**
- **Rest=REWARD**

# HEBREWS 4 *WARNING AND HOPE*

## ■ WARNING

- DON'T COME SHORT OF IT
- DON'T BE LIKE THE EXODUS GENERATION

## ■ HOPE

- A PROMISE REMAINS
- BE DILIGENT "TODAY"
- YOU TOO CAN BE A "PARTAKER"

# THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WARNING: A REVIEW

## ➤ THE MAIN IDEA:

- We are to faithfully function as believer priests in the Body of Christ.

## ➤ POSITIVE EXAMPLES:

- Jesus who faithfully functioned as Apostle and High Priest.
- Moses who faithfully functioned as he served in the Tabernacle

## ➤ NEGATIVE EXAMPLE:

- The “Exodus Generation”
  - They were redeemed by the blood of the Passover Lamb.
  - They were spiritually privileged; BUT....
  - They were “disqualified” from rest/reward because of their disobedience and unbelief

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WARNING: A REVIEW

- **WHAT IS AT RISK?**
  - **(1) Entering or not entering “rest” (reward)**
  - **(2) Being a companion (or not) of the King. (“partaker”/metochoi).**
- **THE HOPE (4:1)**
  - **The offer of reward is still available!**
- **THE WARNING (4:1)**
  - **A person can fail. (“come short” of rest).**
- **THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ENTER REST AND “COMPANIONSHIP”**

# HEBREWS 3:14

## “PARTAKERS OF CHRIST”

- Not **“IN CHRIST”** (NIV), but **“OF CHRIST”** (NASB)
- This phrase is not looking at our position in Christ...it is looking at our relationship with Him.
- There is a **CLEAR, STATED CONDITION** for becoming a “partaker”.
- This stated condition indicates that being a partaker will NOT be true of everyone.
- **“PARTAKER”** = A SHARER OR COMPANION ...HABITUALLY IN THE COMPANY OF ONE ANOTHER. (note 1:9). Similar to Matt. 25:21, 23 and 2 Timothy 2:12
- There is no “professed believer” in this passage.

## **ON BECOMING A “PARTAKER” (3:14) and Entering into “Rest” (4:1)**

- **We need to be diligent in our Christian living. (3:14; 4:11)**
- **We need other believers in our lives. (3:12-14)**
- **We need to have a focus on the future. (4:9, 11)**
- **We also need to focus on “TODAY” (3:13; 4:7)**
- **We need to avoid disobedience and unbelief in our lives. (3:12, 18, 19)**
- **We need the Word of God (4:12)**
- **We need our great High Priest (4:14)**



# HEBREWS 4:2,6: “GOOD NEWS”

- **“GOOD NEWS”** (*euangelizo*) = “to have glad tidings proclaimed to one” (Abbott/Smith)
- Usually about Christ’s work on the cross and the provision of eternal life.
- In the O.T. (LXX) USED OF GOOD NEWS GENERALLY AND OF MESSIANIC BLESSING (e.g. Isa. 40:9-10).
- CONTEXT OF HEBREWS. A section warning about missing out on rest (reward) because of disobedience and unbelief.

# More On the “GOOD NEWS”

- THE “GOOD NEWS” PREACHED TO THE EXODUS GENERATION WAS NOT ABOUT JESUS’ CROSS.
- ALSO THEIR “GOOD NEWS” CANNOT BE THE “GOOD NEWS” OF JUSTIFICATION WHICH THEY LOST BECAUSE OF DISOBEDIENCE.
- THEIR “GOOD NEWS” WAS THE PROMISE OF “REST”/INHERITANCE IN CANAAN.
- OUR “GOOD NEWS” IS THAT IF WE “HANG IN THERE” (3:6,14) WE WILL ENTER GOD’S REST (REWARD).
- **4:12**---THE WORD (which contains our “good news”) GIVES US GOD’S REQUIREMENTS THAT WE ARE TO BELIEVE AND OBEY; AND THUS WE CAN LEARN HOW TO ENTER GOD’S REST.

## **ON BECOMING A “PARTAKER” (3:14) and Entering into “Rest” (4:1)**

- **We need to be diligent in our Christian living. (3:14; 4:11)**
- **We need other believers in our lives. (3:12-14)**
- **We need to have a focus on the future. (4:9, 11)**
- **We also need to focus on “TODAY” (3:13; 4:7)**
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- **We need the Word of God (4:12)**
- **We need our great High Priest (4:14)**

# **JESUS CHRIST, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST – 4:14-10:18**

**4:14-16** – Sometimes we fail in our faith and obedience; but we have help. Our great High Priest, Jesus, helps us.

**5:1-4** – The two qualifications to be a **PRIEST** of God:

(1) must be a human being.

(2) must be appointed by God.

**5:5-10** – Both are true of Jesus. He was set apart as a **PRIEST** after the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**, and He became flesh.

# **JESUS, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST – 4:14-10:18**

**4:14-16** – We have a great High Priest, Jesus, who dispenses **GRACE** and **MERCY** to help us.

---Since the “throne of grace” is so important to attaining God’s “rest”, it is important to emphasize Jesus’ qualifications as our High Priest.

**5:1-4** – The two qualifications to be a **PRIEST** of God:

(1) must be a human being.

- **Helps people approach God**
- **He knows what it is to be weak**

(2) must be appointed by God.

**5:5-10** – Both are true of Jesus.

- **He is “son” and “priest” (5:5-6) Psalms 2 & 110**
- **He came to “completeness”---obedient to every aspect of the Father’s will---passed every test and every temptation.**
- **By our obedience we can obtain “salvation” (5:9)**

**He was set apart as a **PRIEST** after the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**.**

# **JESUS CHRIST, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST**

## **- 4:14-10:18**

- ❖ **He was set apart as a PRIEST after the order of MELCHIZEDEK.**
- ❖ **SCRIPTURES: Psalm 110:4 and Genesis 14:17-20**
- ❖ **What is the “order of Melchizedek”? What makes it different from other priesthoods like the Levitical priesthood?**
- ❖ **Hebrews 5:11**
- ❖ **What difference does it make right now if a Christian does or does not really understand that Jesus is of “the order of Melchizedek”?**

# **JESUS---A PRIEST OF THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK**

- ❖ **Jesus is a KING/PRIEST.**
- ❖ **He is functioning now as a priest but He has yet to rule as king.**
- ❖ **This points to the SUPERIORITY OF THE WORLD TO COME (where Jesus will be the King).**
- ❖ **This truth deeply affects the way believers think now (cf. Heb. 11); and is a significant factor in living a quality Christian life now.**

# **THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT OF HEBREWS 6**

## **(The 3<sup>rd</sup> Warning Section of Hebrews)**

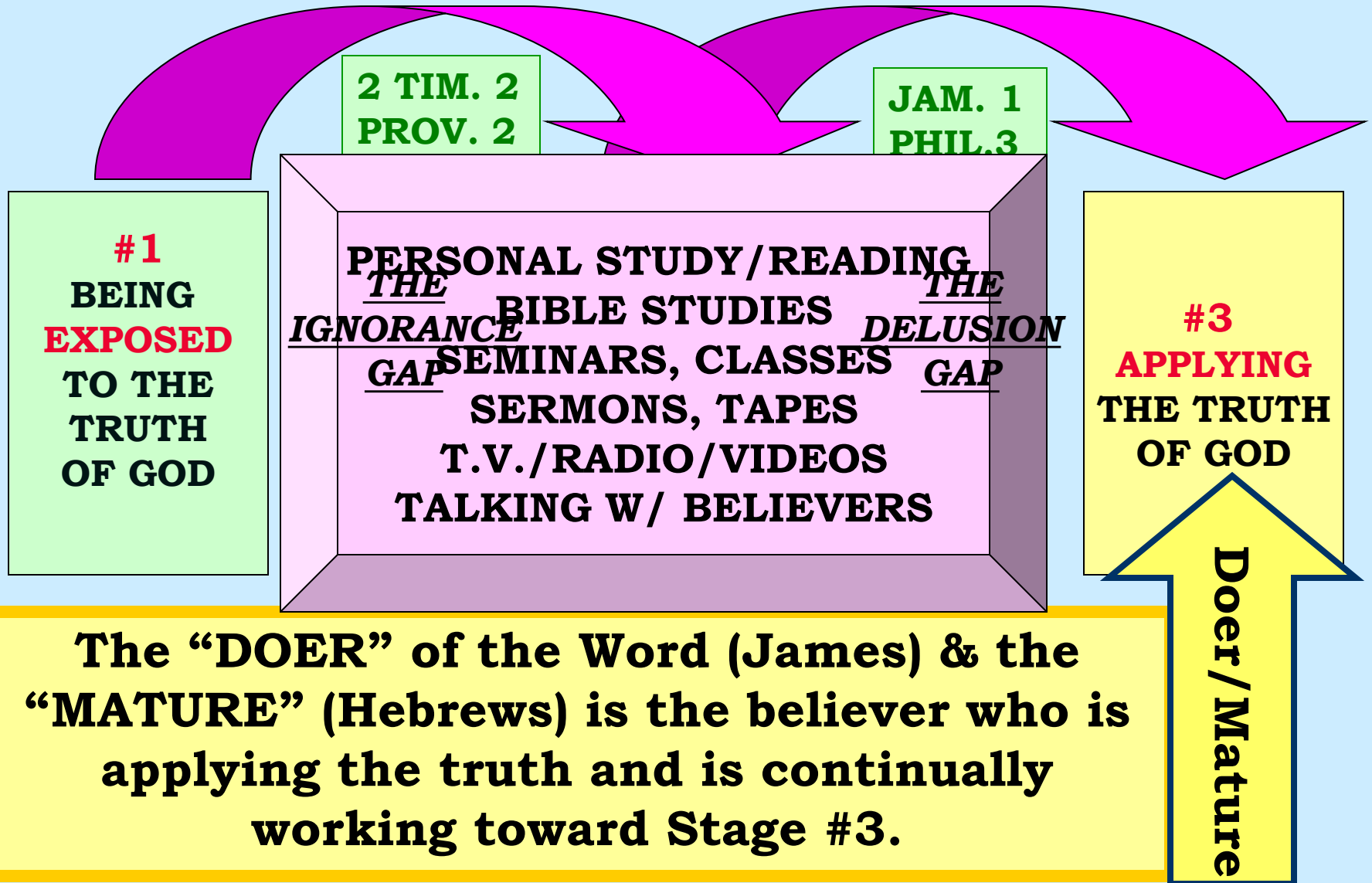
- **THE SUBJECT IS CHRIST BEING OF THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK--5:10**
- **THE READERS ARE: “DULL OF HEARING”; SPIRITUAL BABIES; BUT THEY ARE NOT UNBELIEVERS--5:11-14**
- **THE ISSUE IS THE NEED TO “PRESS ON TO MATURITY”--6:1**
- **NO DISCUSSION OF JUSTIFICATION IS FOUND IN THIS SECTION.**



## 5:12-13 – A WORD ON SPIRITUAL MATURITY

- **Babies** drink milk. Spiritually “milk” refers to elementary truths of the Christian faith.
- **Mature people** eat solid food. Spiritually “solid food” refers to the more substantive truths of God.
- **Maturity** comes about when a person personally, intellectually works with truth.

# STEPS IN BECOMING A MATURE BELIEVER



# LEADING UP TO HEBREWS 6

- ❖ Hebrews is directed to those who are believers (e.g. 1:2, 14; 2:1, 3; 3:1, 12-14; 4:1-3, 11-16 etc)
- ❖ Speaking of the future time when the Son is anointed and rules on the inhabited earth over His inheritance. 1:9; 2:5
- ❖ Speaking of the possibility of being one of the King's companions. 1:9; 3:14
- ❖ Speaking of the need to “hang in there” and be faithful. 3:6-14
- ❖ Speaking of the possibility of entering God's “rest”. 4:1-11
- ❖ Speaking only incidentally of justification by faith. 2:10-11
- ❖ Hebrews 6 is preceded by two of the warning passages.

# THE 2 PREVIOUS WARNINGS

## ■ 1st WARNING - 2:1-4

- ❖ Don't neglect ("drift away from") the revealed truth of reward ("salvation") in the coming rule of the Messiah on the "inhabited earth".

## ■ 2nd WARNING -3:7-4:13

- ❖ Don't be like the Exodus generation and fail to enter **REST** (reward) because of unbelief and disobedience.
- ❖ They ignored their "good news" (of rest in the land) because of their disobedience and unbelief.

# **HEBREWS 6:1-3**

## **THE NEED FOR MATURITY**

- **THE SUBJECT OF THE DISCUSSION: Their need to press on to spiritual maturity.**
- **The need to move on from the O.T. ritual laws (old covenant) which will not bring them to “perfection” (reaching the goal of spiritual maturity).**
- **They needed to understand and embrace New Covenant truth (“meat”) on all these matters.**
- **Jesus’ coming had set aside the rituals of the old Levitical system which now had no life in them (9:14)**
- **6:3---it is possible to come to maturity with the Lord’s help.**
- **NOTE: If they do not press on towards maturity then they will decline (“fall away”) which has some grim consequences.**

## **HEBREWS 6:4**

### **“ONCE BEEN ENLIGHTENED”**

- **REFERS TO SAVING FAITH (10:32)**
  - **“LIGHT” commonly refers to regeneration.**
  - **2 Cor. 4:3-7; John 1:9; 8:12.**
  - **The next 4 phrases describe one who is “ENLIGHTENED” (spiritually saved).**
- (1) TASTED OF THE GIFT FROM HEAVEN:**
- **“Gift” = used in the N.T. of a spiritual or supernatural gift that is given to a regenerated person; or, of regeneration itself.**
  - **= Righteousness, grace and the Holy Spirit.**
  - **“Tasted” = experiencing not ‘sampling’. Cf. Hebrews 2:9.**

**HEBREWS 6:4**  
**“ONCE BEEN ENLIGHTENED”**

- (2) PARTAKER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** = We are “companions” of the Spirit. His many ministries that we are involved in.
- (3) TASTED THE GOOD WORD** = The good things that God has spoken about.
- (4) TASTED THE POWERS** = The miracles of the NT era (2:4) which reveal the coming Messianic Kingdom

## **HEBREWS 6:6**

### *“have fallen away”*

- An **UNBELIEVER** cannot **“fall away”** ...they are not, and never were, in the position to fall away from the spiritual realities just mentioned.
- **“Fall away”** is in contrast to “pressing on to maturity” (or completeness).
- **In view here is a deep hardness in a believer’s life.**
- **A believer who come to the point where they have no concerns about the Word, Christ or the future will experience serious loss.**



**6:6-** *“impossible to renew them again to repentance”*

■ **IMPOSSIBLE FOR WHO???**

- ❖ **Beyond the persuasion of other believers...have become calloused.**
- ❖ **Repented previously (“again”) but now they will not.**
- ❖ **Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:23-25; 1 John 5:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:30 (10:21-22)**
- ❖ **Like the “Exodus Generation” (Note the finality of Heb. 3:11).**
- ❖ **God does not permit them to go on.**

# HEBREWS 6 – A Word of Review

- **Those being addressed: BELIEVERS.**
- ❑ They are “babies” (5:13)
- ❑ They are “enlightened” (6:4) and the 4 descriptive terms are true of them.
- **The issue:** “pressing on to spiritual maturity”---not justification/salvation.
- **Only believers can “fall away” from their relationship with God; in view is a settled condition of turning away from God.**
- **When a believer arrives at this settled condition no other believer is able to turn them back to the Lord.**

## **HEBREWS 6:6** - *“have fallen away”*

- An **UNBELIEVER** cannot **“fall away”** ...they are not in the position to fall away from the 4 spiritual realities just mentioned.
- **“Fall away”** opposite of “pressing on to maturity”/completeness). **4:14 & 10:23**
- Note **4:11**. Falling comes about by disobedience and is the opposite of “entering rest” (not spiritual salvation).
- **3:12**. Falling away is departing from God when a rebellious spirit is present.

## **6:6- “*crucify...and put to shame*”**

- **In the present tense --- (continuous, habitual action) of the believer.**
  - **There are two basic views regarding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.**
- (1) World – Jesus a criminal deserving of death. His claims are false ones.**
- (2) God- Jesus is the Lamb and is innocent.**
- **ISSUE: By their lives, these believers are taking view #1 and are **DISHONORING CHRIST**.**
  - **Practically, they are turning from the truth and adopting the world’s view of Christ. (Christ’s claims are really false!)**
  - **Their life denies the reality and the efficacy of Christ’s death. No one can see any difference between them and the unbeliever.**

# HEBREWS 6:7-8 – The Illustration

## THE GROUND AND THE RAIN

- **“GROUND”** (singular) = The individual believer in Jesus Christ is in view.
- **“RAIN”** = The blessings just mentioned in 6:4-5 which have “rained” upon the believer.
- The believer who has received these blessings may produce **good** crops (a life that is fruitful) or **bad** crops.
- **“THORNS”** = a life producing that which is without value (note Gen. 3:17-18)
- **“WORTHLESS”** (**adokimos**) – 1 Cor. 9:27
- **“BURNED”** – The field is not destroyed but that which it produced. Note 1 Cor. 3:15. Works are in view here in the context...6:10 and 12.

# HEBREWS 6 – A Word of Review

- **Those being addressed:** Believers (they are “babies” (5:13) & are “enlightened” (6:4).
- **The issue:** “pressing on to spiritual maturity”---not justification/salvation.
- **The possibilities:**
  - Repent and get back on the path to maturity.
  - Become so hardened that it becomes impossible for another believer to get them to return to the Lord. (Not saying what the Lord may or may not do).
  - A believers life can produce good or bad.

## 2 Possible Crops That Can Come From One Plot of Ground

Rain (God's blessing) falls on each individual "field" which can then produce fruit or thorns

- **GOOD CROPS**  
COME BECAUSE  
OF DILIGENCE
- **GOOD CROPS**  
HAVE GREAT  
VALUE
- **WILL INHERIT  
THE PROMISES**
- **BAD CROPS ARE  
WORTHLESS**  
*(adokimos)*
- **FACE TEMPORAL  
JUDGMENT (cf.  
Deut. 29:22-28)**
- **WILL LOSE  
REWARD**

## **6:9-12 - A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

- ❖ They are **“BELOVED”**. (6:9)
- Seems to be saying that these friends of his have not come to the situation of 6:4-6. (But headed in that direction!)
- **“better things”** = “things that accompany salvation”. Note again 9:28.
- ❖ God notices all that you do. (6:10)
- ❖ **6:11-12**. So be **“diligent”** (same word is found in **4:11**) and do not be **“sluggish”** (same as **5:11**).
- If you remain diligent and “hang in there” you will receive the promises related to the Son’s kingdom.



## **6:13-20 --- A WORD OF ASSURANCE and MOTIVATION**

- ❖ **6:13-15** Abraham is someone you can imitate (6:12). (Based on Gen. 22:17-18)
  - **Abraham believed God.**
  - **Abraham was patient.**
  - **Abraham received the promise.**
- ❖ **6:16-17 OATHS.**
  - **Men commonly make oaths---idea is to end all argumentation.**
  - **God made an oath.**
    - He did not need to.**
    - Done to emphasize God's clear intent**

## **6:13-20 --- A WORD OF ASSURANCE and MOTIVATION**

### **❖ 6:18-20**

- We are secure (“refuge”)**
- We need to “hold fast”.**
- God will fulfill His promises.**
- The KING/HIGH PRIEST Jesus Christ will bring this to pass in the future.**

**\*\*\*AND NOW BACK TO THE DISCUSSION  
OF 5:10!!! (7:1)**

# THE MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST (7)

- ❖ **THE BASIC TRUTHS FROM CHAPTERS 7-10.**
- ❖ **The author is showing why it is foolish to go back to the old Mosaic system since the new is superior.**
- (1) **We have a superior High Priest; He is both a KING and a PRIEST.**
- (2) **We are under a NEW, BETTER, ETERNAL, GUARENTEED covenant.**
- (3) **We have a sacrifice for our sins that is superior.**
  - **It is complete and sufficient.**
  - **It takes away sin.**
  - **It sanctifies us.**
  - **It cleanses the conscience.**

# **THE MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST (7)**

**7:1-3** – The story of Melchizekek is found in Genesis 14:18-20; Ps.110:4

- His names: peace, righteousness, king
- OT record is silent on his beginning and his end. A type of Christ.

**7:4-10** – Melchizedek (king/priest) is seen as superior to both Abraham and Levi.

- He was given a tithe by Abraham.
- He blessed Abraham.
- Levi (so to speak) gave a tithe to Melchizedek.

# **THE MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST (7)**

**7:11-28** – The Levitical Priesthood (LP) is inferior to the Melchizedekian Priesthood (MP).

➤ **Psalm 110 is appealed to. Why would God announce the MP?**

**There are several points made by the author of Hebrews regarding MP in contrast with the LP.**

# THE MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD (7)

- (1) The **LP** could not bring perfection and so was replaced by **MP**. (7:11, 18-19)
- (2) A change of priesthood = a change of law. (7:12)
- (3) The **MP** not from Levi, but from Judah. (7:13-14)
- (4) **LP** had to be of the right lineage while Jesus was appointed to the order of **MP**. (7:15-16; 5:5-6)
- (5) **LP** was temporary and was set aside, **MP** is permanent and will never be set aside. (7:16-17, 21 and 24)
- (6) The **MP** came with an oath from God but there was no oath in connection with the **LP**. (7:20-21, 28)
- (7) **MP** is based on a “better” covenant. (covenant is “*diatheke*” {διαθεκε} which emphasizes a will, which is a one-sided legal arrangement (that is, the covenant is unconditional). (7:22)
- (8) Jesus guarantees the results of this “better” covenant. (7:22)

# **THE MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD (7)**

## **JESUS IS THE SUPERIOR PRIEST:**

- **He is eternal and His priesthood is permanent.**
- **He is able to give all needed grace for our spiritual journey (“save”).**
- **He is holy and undefiled.**
- **He offered just one sacrifice for sin.**

# **THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (8-10)**

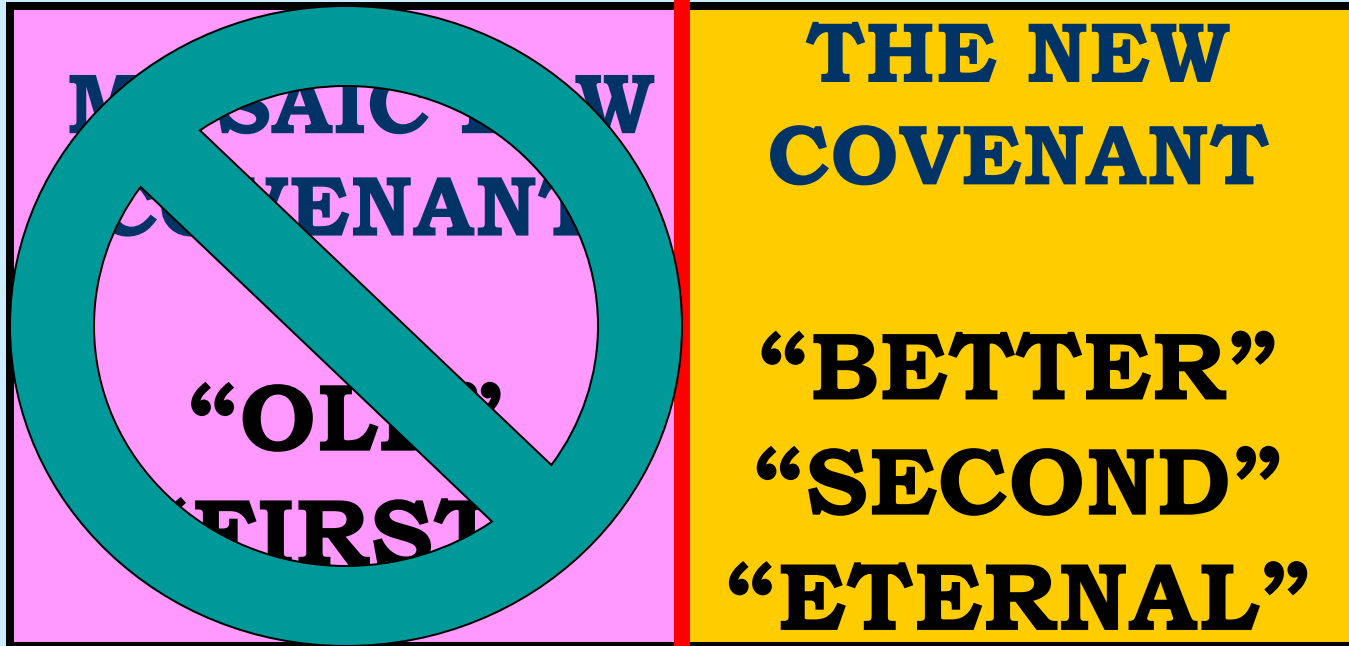
**8:1-6** – A transference has taken place from earth to heaven; and from the old LP to the new High Priest, Jesus.

- **8:1** – Our HP is in heaven next to the Father.
- **8:2** – Ministry is in the true tabernacle.
- **8:3** – He has something to offer (ch. 9).
- **8:4-5** – LP on earth serve in a copy.
- **8:6** – Jesus' ministry is better.

**8:7-13** – Based on a better covenant, Jesus now offers to Israel, and to all of mankind, a way back to God.



# THE NEW COVENANT



# **THE NEW COVENANT IN HEBREWS**

- **7:22** – “**BETTER**” – Jesus guarantees its ultimate results.
- **8:6** – “**BETTER**” – Jesus is the mediator of it.
- **8:7** – “**SECOND**” It replaces the **FIRST** which was inadequate.
- **8:8** – “**NEW**” – It will be fulfilled with Israel and Judah.
- **8:10** – “**NEW**” – Established with Israel.
- **8:13** – “**NEW**” – Makes the First (Old) covenant obsolete.

# **THE NEW COVENANT IN HEBREWS**

**9:15** – “**NEW**” – Christ’s shed blood is the basis of it. He is its Mediator.

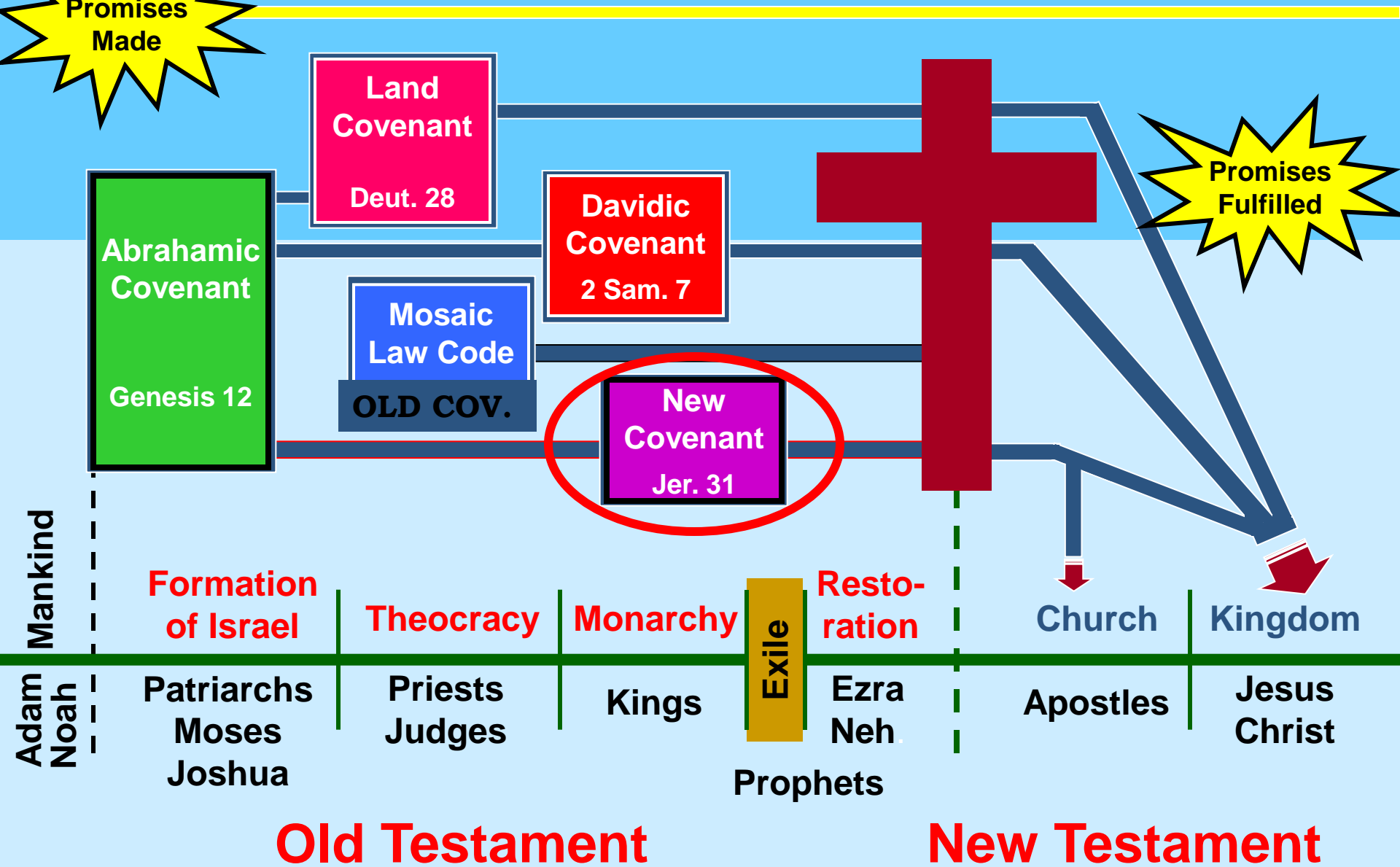
**10:9** – “**SECOND**” – Replaced the 1<sup>st</sup> when the body of Christ offered. New takes effect, Old is finished.

**10:16** – “**THE covenant**” – Jeremiah 31 again referred to.

**12:24** – “**NEW**” – Jesus the Mediator of it.

**13:20** – “**ETERNAL**” – Emphasizes the character of it...never will be set aside by another covenant.

# God's Covenants with Israel



# **BASIC PROVISIONS OF THE NEW COVENANT**

## **(1) LAW PUT IN THEIR HEARTS**

- “Law” refers to God’s requirements
- A new motivation to serve, love and live for the Lord...inner desire and not external pressure. Cf. Ez. 36:26-27; Hos. 1:9; 2:23.
- A new attitude towards sin.

## **(2) ALL WILL KNOW THE LORD**

- An anointing (capacity) to understand truth.
- A working of the Spirit in believers.

## **(3) FORGIVENESS FOR WICKEDNESS**

- Sin is paid for
- Positional, progressive forgiveness.

## **CONSIDERING THE NEW COVENANT**

- (1) The New Covenant is based on the death of Christ (Matt. 26:27-29; Luke 22:20).**
- (2) It was made with JUDAH/ISRAEL and not the Church. (The Church is not Israel).**
- (3) In the future, Israel will come into it (Rom. 11:25-29). This is the primary purpose of the “Tribulation.”**
- (4) At the time of Christ’s death and resurrection it replaced the Old/First covenant which was given at Mt. Sinai (Heb. 8:7; 10:9).**

## CONSIDERING THE **NEW COVENANT**

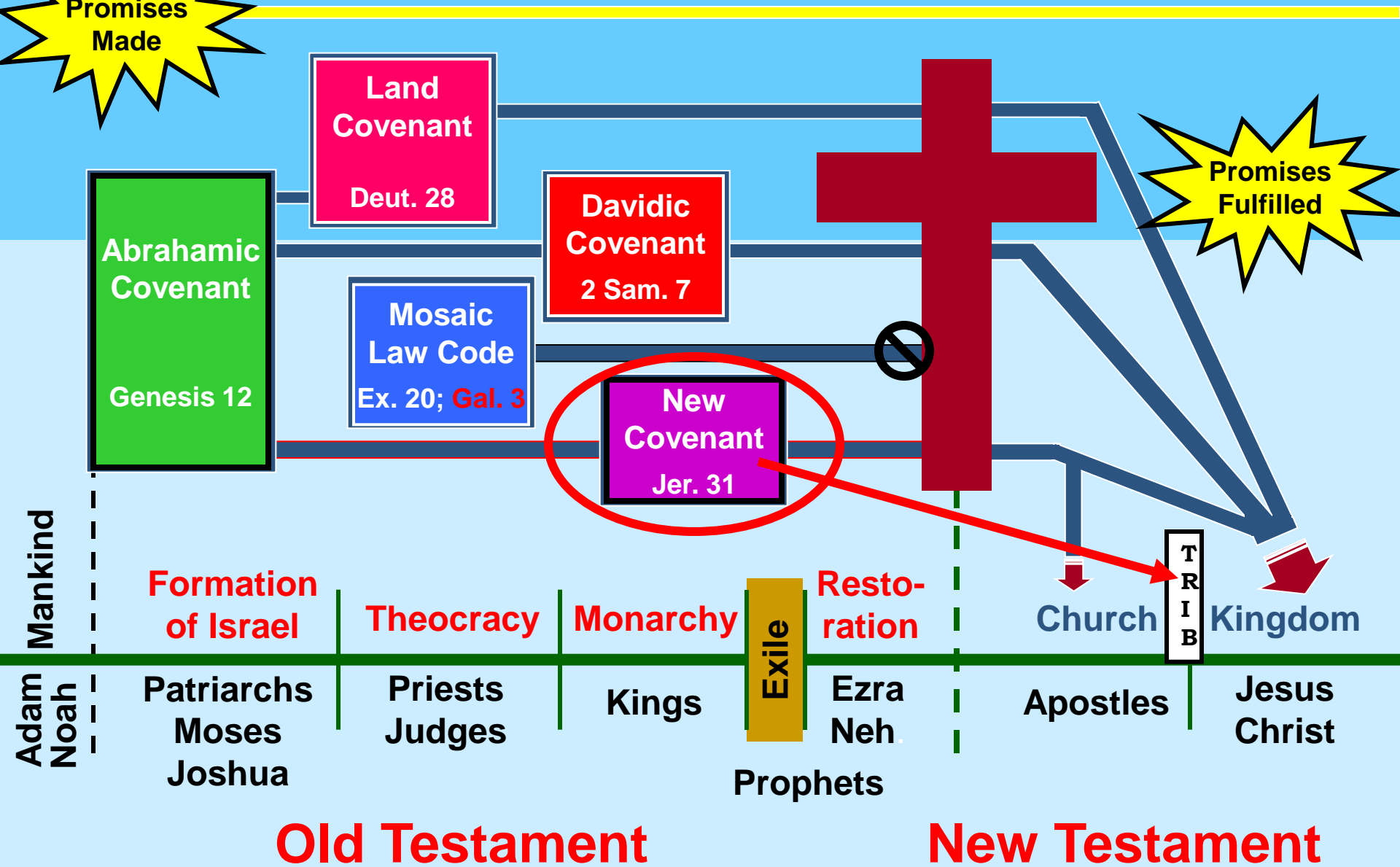
- (5) The Church was unknown to the OT prophets, but gentile blessing was always known in the OT (cf. Gen. 12:3; 18:18)
- (6) Believers today are a “seed of Abraham” (Gal. 3:16, 29). But the Church is not the FULFILLER of the Covenant, but is a **“PARTAKER”** in it (Rom. 11:11-17).  
Matt. 15:21-28 provides an illustration.

## **THE NEW COVENANT: Review**

- (1) The New Covenant is based on the death of Christ.**
- (2) It was made with JUDAH/ISRAEL.**
- (3) In the future, Israel will come into it.**
- (4) At the time of Christ's death and resurrection it replaced the Old/First covenant which was given at Mt. Sinai.**
- (5) The Church was unknown in the O.T. but gentile salvation was known.**
- (6) The Church is not a fulfiller of the New Covenant, but rather is a **partaker** in it.**



# God's Covenants with Israel



**Old Testament**

**New Testament**

# GALATIANS 3:6-14

## ❖ THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM (3:6-9)

- How was Abraham justified? *By faith!!!*
- Justification by faith is not a new thing. It has always been God's way of saving people.
- Jews & Gentiles are both justified by faith.

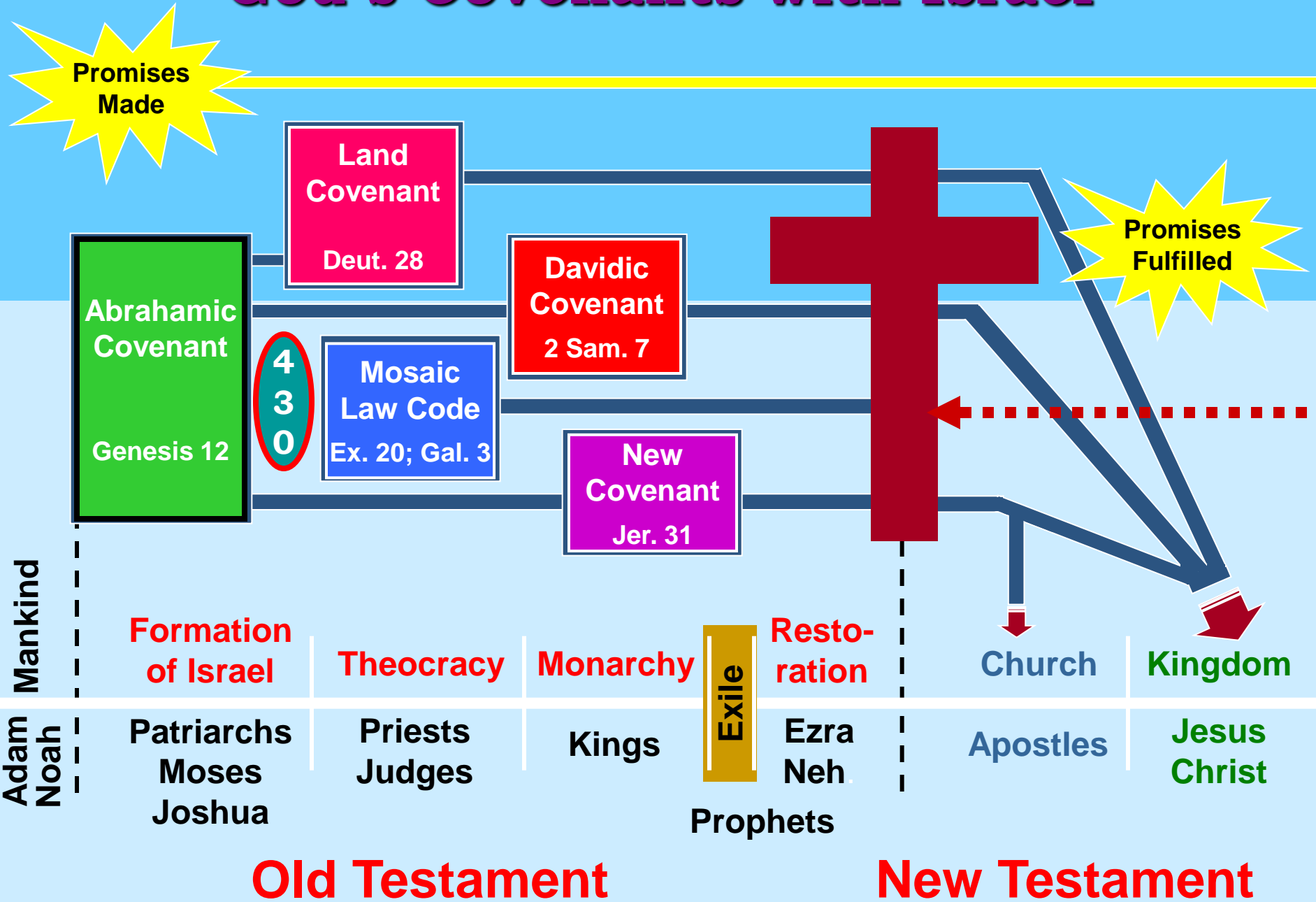
## ❖ THE LAW CODE OF MOSES (the Old Covenant)

- The Law curses: all laws have penalties attached to them. (3:10)
- The Law cannot save. (3:11)
- The Law is contrary to faith (3:12)
- Christ redeemed people from the penalty of the Law (3:13-14)

# GALATIANS 3:15-18

- **Ratified covenants cannot be changed. (3:15)**
- **It is through Christ that the promises related to restoration & reconciliation come. (3:16)**
- **The Law came later but did not set aside the ratified Abe. Covenant. (3:17)**
- **The blessings come through the Abrahamic Cov. (faith) not through the Mosaic Covenant (works). (3:18)**
- **If restoration & reconciliation come through the AC, then why did God bother bringing in the Law???**

# God's Covenants with Israel



## GALATIANS 3:19-25

- **The Law was given to reveal sin.**
- **The Law was designed to be temporary.**
- **The Law would be set aside when **THE FAITH in Messiah** would come.**
- **The Law was never designed to save anyone.**
- **The Law was a “TUTOR”.**
  - **It was a *TEACHER*.**
  - **It was a *PROTECTOR*.**

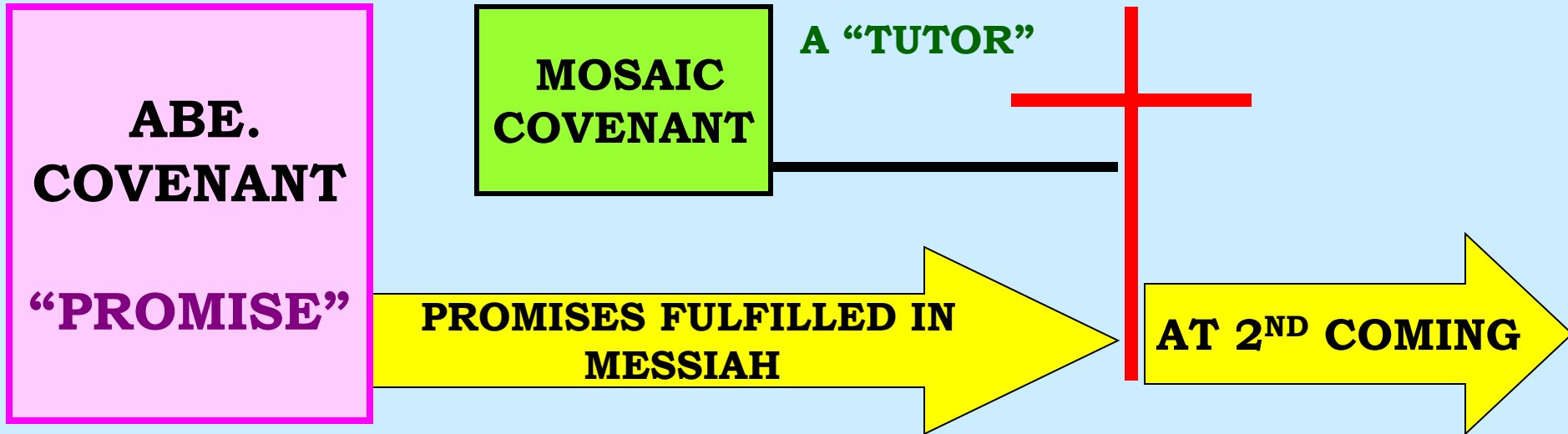
# SALVATION---THEN AND NOW

- **QUESTION:** Were people in the O.T. times saved in the same way or in a different way than in the N.T. and today?
- **ANSWER:** The way of salvation has always been the same.

<b>THE NEED FOR SALVATION</b>	<b>IT IS THE SAME BECAUSE ALL HAVE SINNED</b>
<b>THE BASIS OF SALVATION</b>	<b>IT IS THE SAME. CHRIST'S BLOOD TAKES SIN AWAY.</b>
<b>WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR SALV.</b>	<b>IT IS THE SAME. FAITH HAS ALWAYS BEEN REQUIRED.</b>
<b>THE OBJECT OF FAITH</b>	<b>THE SAME...IN THE ONLY TRUE GOD WHO CAN JUSTIFY.</b>
<b>THE CONTENT OF FAITH</b>	<b>THIS WILL BE DIFFERENT IN EACH DISPENSATION</b>

# THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

## DOCTRINAL 2:16-4:31

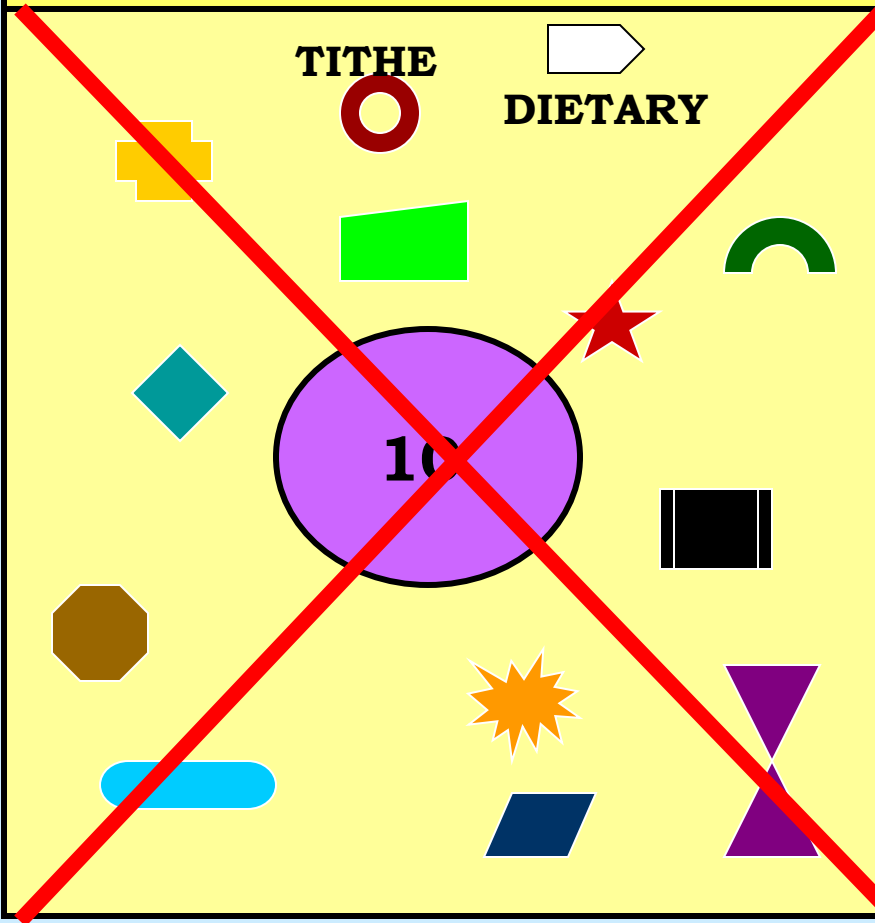


**RATIFIED  
BY GOD IN  
GENESIS 15**

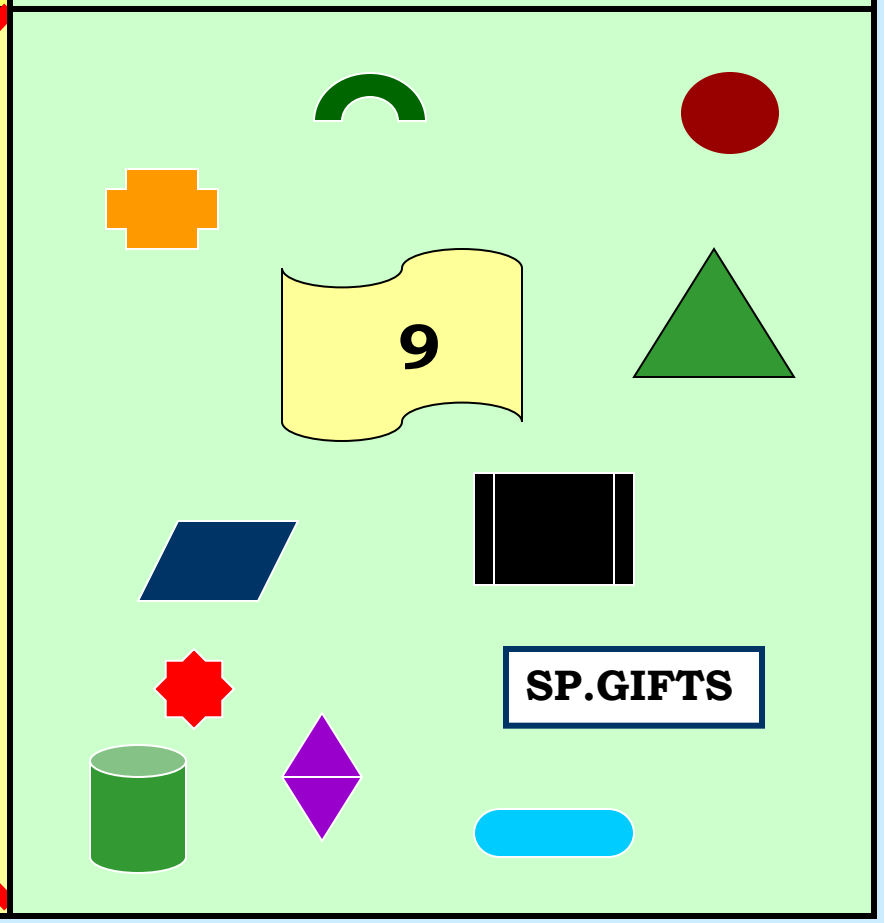
**CANNOT CHANGE THE  
PARTIES OR PROVISIONS  
OF A RATIFIED COVENANT**

# Christians and the Mosaic Law

## THE LAW OF MOSES



## THE "LAW" OF CHRIST



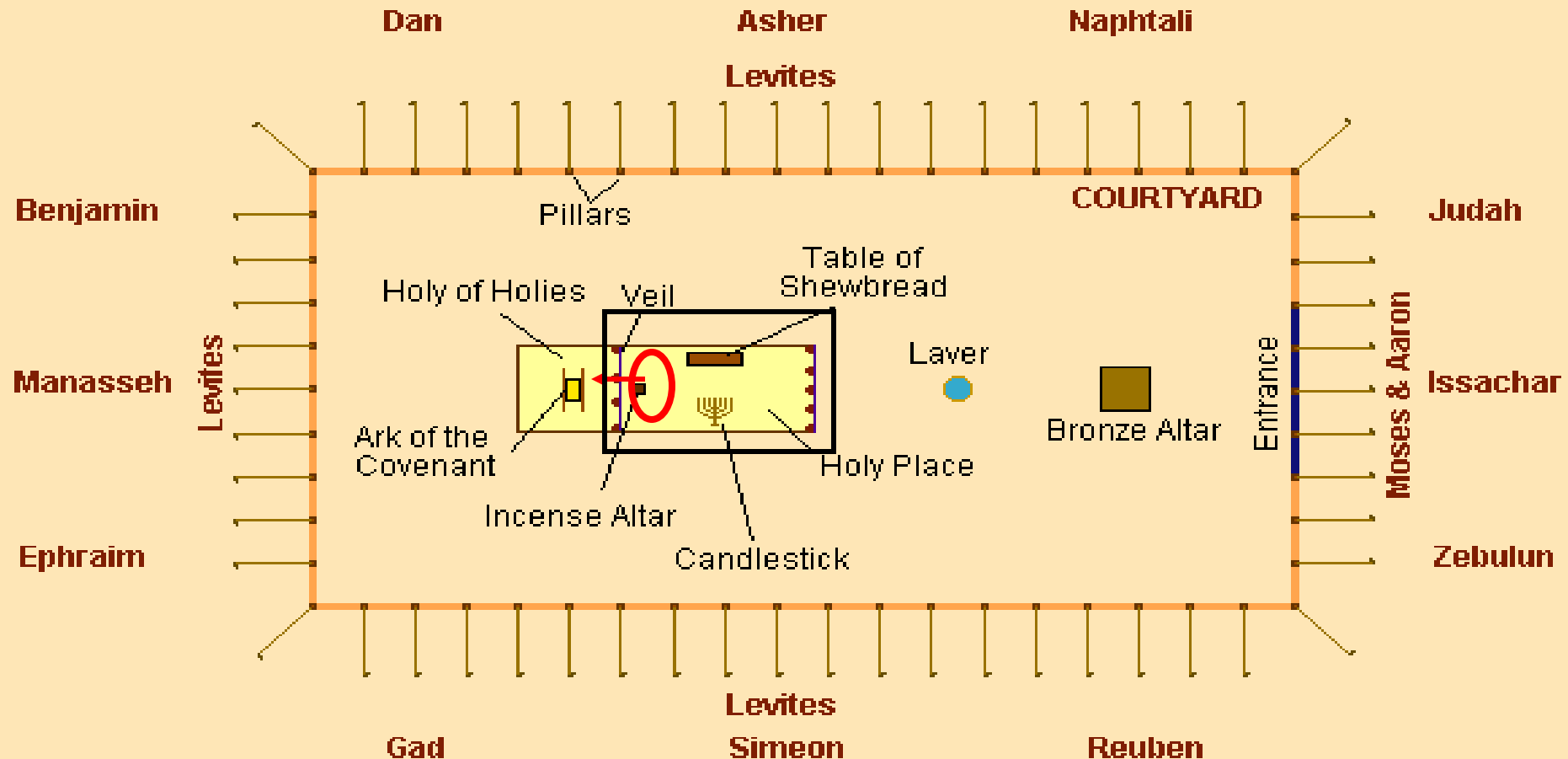


# THE WORK OF JESUS THE HIGH PRIEST (8-10)

The Old Covenant had an earthly sanctuary – 9:1-5

The Old Covenant had worship regulations – 9:6-7

## Tabernacle



**Exodus 30:6; 40:5**

**Leviticus 16:11-14**

# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (9)

**9:1-10** – The sanctuary of the Old Covenant had value as a type (picture), but it was inadequate.

- The OC sanctuary restricted access to God's presence. Only the High Priest could enter; and he entered just one time (per year).
- Sacrificial blood was required.

**9:8-10** – The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16).

- As long as the Tab/Temple were operational (Old Covenant in force), the way into the heavenly Holy of Holies was not seen.
- This system could not cleanse the conscience of people.

**9:11-15** – Christ work is SUPERIOR to the Old Covenant.

- He entered the heavenly tab. (the actual presence of God) and accomplished two basic things.

(1) Brought eternal redemption

- One time; His own blood; into the actual presence of God.
- “redeem” (lutrosis) = released by the full payment of a ransom.

(2) Cleanses the conscience (vss. 9 and 14)

- God's wrath is now satisfied (the conscience cannot be silenced as long as God is angry about sin). This knowledge of a completed sacrifice brings freedom.

# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (9)

**9:11-15** – Christ work is SUPERIOR to the Old Covenant.

- He entered the actual presence of God one time with His own blood.
- Because we have a clean conscience we can now serve God (9:14). (Satan knows the importance of this---tries to make us feel guilty about our sins)
- The “eternal inheritance” (9:15). The two inheritances. “**Serve**” in 9:14; use in 6:12. (Also note 1:2, 14; 6:17; 11:7-8; 12:17)

**9:16-28** – The role of death (blood) in inaugurating a covenant.

**A WILL:** (1) terms set by the Testator, and (2) death is necessary.

Both covenants instituted by blood...Christ’s death was necessary.

In heaven now functioning as High Priest; but He is coming to earth again.

# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (9)

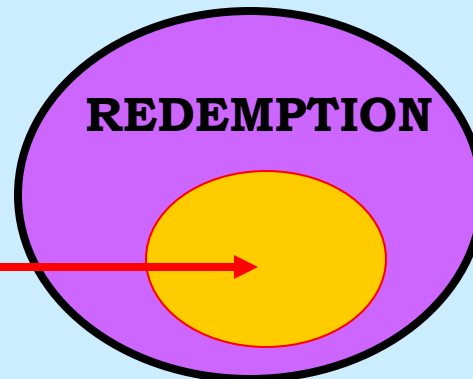
**9:16-28** – Death in inaugurating a covenant.

- **9:26** – Jesus’ one time sacrifice of Himself removes sin completely.
- **9:27** – The danger of death has been dealt with by Christ.
- **9:28** – Christ’s comings.

**#1** – The once for all payment for sin.

**#2** – To bring “salvation” without reference to sin (since that was taken care of at the first coming).

“THOSE WHO  
EAGERLY AWAIT  
HIM” (2 Tim. 4:7-8)



## Reviewing Hebrews 9

- **Under the Old Covenant system there was:**
  - (1) **Restricted access to God**
  - (2) **A constant sacrificing of animals**
  - (3) **An inability to cleanse the conscience**
- **Under the New Covenant system there is:**
  - (1) **Eternal redemption (through Christ's one time sacrifice)**
  - (2) **A clear conscience (because God's wrath is satisfied by Christ's one time sacrifice)**
- **As a result we can:**
  - (1) **Enjoy living in freedom without guilt**
  - (2) **Serve and worship God**

# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (10)

- ❖ Final words about Christ's sacrifice; again emphasizing the complete adequacy of Christ's "once for all" sacrifice.

## 10:1-4 – The OT sacrifices.

- **"shadow"** = these were just a type of what Christ would do. (8:5; Colossians 2:16-17)
- **"good things to come"** = Christ's priestly ministry (9:11)
- **"make perfect"** = having a clear conscience (used in 9:9) as well as in 10:2.
- There was no end to the Levitical sacrifices because it was IMPOSSIBLE for them to remove sin.
- If they did the job of removing sin then sometime they would have ceased being offered.

## 10:5-10 – Replacing the animal sacrifices.

- Based on Psalm 40:6-8a (LXX)
- This anticipates someone coming who would provide something better than animal sacrifices.
- Christ is the perfect fulfillment. His incarnation (took on a body) made it possible for Him to perform God's will. (Note John 4:34).
- Christ's one time sacrifice fulfills Psalm 40.

# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (10)

- ❖ **10:5-10 – Replacing the animal sacrifices.**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> covenant (old) was set aside and the 2<sup>nd</sup> covenant (new) was established.**
- **Now we have been “sanctified” (made holy). This is the equivalent of Paul’s “justification.”**
- **Our POSITION is in view not our PRACTICE. (Not the idea of “progressive” sanctification)**

# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (10)

## ❖ 10:11-14 – Standing and sitting.

- Old Covenant priests never sat down because their job was never done.
- Christ sat down because His sacrifice was sufficient for all time.
- Again **Psalm 110** is referenced.
- Christ will remain seated until His enemies will be subdued.

## 10:15-18 – The New Covenant.

- Spirit gives testimony that NC forgiveness is final.
- Therefore, there is no need for further sacrifice.
- To turn back to the Old Covenant is to deny the truth of the NC; and you return to something that cannot bring cleansing and forgiveness.



# THE WORK OF JESUS, THE HIGH PRIEST (10)

## 10:19-25 – New Covenant Provisions (“we have”)

- (1) **WE HAVE** confidence to enter the Most Holy Place. Christ’s death has provided access to God (Matt. 27:51) and so with “boldness” we can enter the Holy of Holies.
- (2) **WE HAVE** a great High Priest. Christ is our High Priest and we are believer priests who have duties that we are to perform.
  - In light of these truth, three exhortations are given. “LET US” focuses on our privileges and responsibilities.

# THE THREE EXHORTATIONS - 10:22-25

- **#1 – Draw near to God.** We must continually (present tense) draw from God the grace and strength we need to function as believers. This must be done:
  - With hearts devoted to Him
  - In simple faith believing what He has said
  - Without guilt (based on Christ's work)
  - Washing of regeneration which leads to personal holiness. Integrity in our lives.
- **#2 – Hold fast the confession.** Keep a tight grip on your Christian faith...don't let it slip away from you. (4:14)
  - We can do this because God will be faithful to His promises---eternal redemption; clean conscience; coming kingdom; future reward, etc.

## **THE THREE EXHORTATIONS - 10:22-25**

- **#3 – Encourage love and good deeds in other believers.**
- **Maintaining spiritual vitality and purity is part of our roles as believer-priests in the New Covenant community (cf. 3:12-13).**
- **Two suggestions are made.**
- **#1 – be faithful in meeting together**
- **#2 – be expectant related to the Lord's imminent return.**

# **THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WARNING - 10:26-39**

## ➤ **The 3 previous warnings:**

**#1 – Don't drift away from the truth about our future reward in Messiah's kingdom. (2)**

**#2 – Don't be like the "Exodus generation" who lost out on rest (reward) by their disobedience and unbelief. (3 & 4)**

**#3 – Watch out that your spiritual dullness doesn't cause you to fall away from the Lord and you become like ground that produces thorns, beyond the reach of restoration from other believers. (5/6)**

➤ **In light of our superior High Priest, the superior sacrifice and the superior covenant "let us" be diligent in our relationship with God and in our responsibilities to other believers. (10:23-25)**

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WARNING - 10:26-31

- The issue is “presumptuous” sins. (See **Lev. 4:2, 13, 22; Num. 15:22-31.**)
- Speaking to believers. (“we”; “was sanctified”; “after being enlightened”; “His people”).
- David would be an example of presumptuous sinning.
- **“knowledge of the truth”** = authentic Christian experience. E.g. **1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:25**
- A pattern of sin: “hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (**3:12-13**) leading to a moment of “apostasy.”
- They refuse to repent (**6:6**) and be cleansed by the blood of Christ. There is nothing else that can remove their sin. In sin they remain.
- Contrasting the punishment of the Old and New. (**10:28-29**).
- **“trample”** = looks with disdain/scorn. **“common”** = unclean. **“insulted”** --- looking at a practical rejection of the Holy Spirit’s work of dispensing God’s grace under the New Covenant.

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WARNING - 10:26-31

Warning of two possible consequences.

➤ **(1) Temporal judgment**

- **Isaiah 26:11** and **Deuteronomy 29:22-28**
- These refer to judgment here and now, and not the fires of hell. (e.g. Hebrews 6:8)
- Judged now for treating with contempt that which is sacred. Cf. 1 Corinthians 11:30; 10:22
- Death or other forms of discipline (2 Sam. 24:14; Lamentations 1:1-3, 13; 5:1-22)

➤ **(2) Loss of future reward**

- **10:35**: the possibility of GREAT REWARD.
- **10:36**: endure to receive the PROMISE.

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WARNING - 10:32-39

- ❖ **Words of encouragement, 10:32-39**
- **10:32-34** – Remembering their former displays of courage and faith.
- **10:35-36** – Calling them to endure.
- Faithful endurance will bring reward (not spiritual salvation).
- Notice that these are exhorted to “endure” not “get saved.”
- **10:37-39** – The need for continuing faith.
- He is coming back!
- The “righteous one” is not to “shrink back” but is to live in FAITH...this one trusts God’s statements/promises.
- “soul” = the life of a person
- There are many who did “endure” and they are examples to us...Hebrews 11, the people who believed God.

# **THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WARNING - 10:32-39**

## **❖ Applying it to us.**

**#1 – It is possible for a believer to willfully turn from the Lord. But if they do that “it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”**

**#2 – “Shall we sin that grace might abound?” When faced with sinning, remember the severity of this passage.**

**#3 – When other believers are sinning willfully, we must courageously share with them the danger that they are in. (This is clearly a form of “tough love”).**

**#4 – We need to remind ourselves that “it will be worth it all when we see Jesus.”**



# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ **Leading up to Hebrews 11, believers have been encouraged to:**
  - **Draw near to God, responding to the truth of Christ's superiority.**
  - **Not throw away their confidence/faith in Christ and, by so doing, face God's discipline.**
  - **Endure by responding/living in faith.**
- ❖ **The two paths possible for the “righteous” person (10:38-39).**
  - #1 – Persevere by faith which will result in being rewarded and in avoiding temporal judgment.**
  - #2 – “Shrink back” which does not please God and which will result in loss.**

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ **Some questions.**
- **What does a “person of faith” look like?**
  - **Those in Hebrews 11.**
- **What is faith?**
  - **A life of faith (not “saving” faith) is the subject of this chapter.**
  - **“FAITH” = a confidence/trust in what God has said. (We may not “see” these things).**
  - **Key---it is that which God has specifically talked about; and therefore it is a certainty.**
  - **This is why the ancestors gained God’s approval and merited His reward. **11:2 & 6****
- **What is the significance of being a “stranger” or “alien”?**
  - **Being a “resident stranger” creates the needed way of thinking about this life. **11:13-16, 9****
  - **NOTE: This principle of living by faith has been operational from the very beginning. (Observe that on the “creation issue” that we must start with scripture and not with the theories of science). **11:3****

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ **MEETING THE PEOPLE OF FAITH.**
- ❖ 11:4-7: People before the Patriarchs.
- **11:4 – Cain and Abel**
  - **Genesis 4:4**
  - **Key – God did reveal what constituted an “acceptable sacrifice.”**
- **11:5-6 – Enoch**
  - **Genesis 5:21-24**
  - **He believed God and was rewarded by not experiencing death.**
- **11:7 – Noah**
  - **Genesis 6-9**
  - **He believed God’s warning about the coming flood and this brought “salvation” (that is; physical deliverance). Noah already a believer. (6:9) Matt.24:37-39**
  - **Noah became an “heir”---cf. Hebrews 1:2; 6:12, 17; 11:6**
  - **Also observe the impact of one believing person on others.**

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

## ❖ **MEETING THE PEOPLE OF FAITH.**

### ❖ 11:8-22: The Patriarchs

#### ➤ **11:8-10 – Abraham**

- Abraham believed God and left the old (Ur) and came to the new (Canaan). The readers needed to do the same.
- The inheritance is connected with the new.
- “TENTS” --- this emphasizes the key point of the temporary nature of this life.
- There was something better beyond the “tents.” cf. **Revelation 21:2, 9-27.**

#### ➤ **11:11-12 – Sarah**

- Genesis 18:11-13.
- Sarah, like Abraham, had an initial response of unbelief. But upon further reflection she (and Abe) came to believe God’s promise.

#### ➤ **11:17-19 – Isaac and Abraham**

- Genesis 22
- Perhaps the greatest demonstration of Abraham’s faith....that God would raise Isaac from the dead.
- But great faith also on the part of Isaac.

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ **MEETING THE PEOPLE OF FAITH.**
- ❖ *11:8-22: The Patriarchs*
- **11:20-21 – Jacob and Isaac**
  - **Genesis 27:27-40**
  - **Isaac demonstrated faith in God's promise related to the Abrahamic Covenant.**
  - **Genesis 47:31**
  - **Jacob saw a future for each of his sons as God had guaranteed that there would be.**
- **11:22 – Joseph**
  - **Genesis 50:22**
  - **Joseph believed God's promise that the land of Canaan belonged to Israel.**

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ 11:23-31: Moses and Joshua
- **11:23-29 – Moses (Exodus 2-14)**
  - **Main point: Biblical faith does not retreat in the face of difficulty and opposition.**
  - **Moses' parents trusted God in face of hostility.**
  - **Moses chose to identify with Christ and reject the temporary benefits of Egypt.**
  - **At the Exodus, Moses endured many encounters with Pharaoh and then received God's deliverance (salvation).**

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ *11:23-31: Moses and Joshua*
- **11:30 – Joshua (Joshua 6)**
  - **He believed God’s word about the taking of Jericho...an unusual military approach.**
- **11:31 – Rahab (Joshua 2)**
  - **Faith works for gentiles too; even ones that are notoriously sinful.**
- ❖ *11:32-38: The Time After the Conquest*
- **11:32-35a – People who were victorious in their faith and saw results in this life.**
- **11:35b-38 – Many heroes of faith faced great hardships and suffering. But these looked beyond the present to future resurrection and reward.**

# Hebrews 11 – The Matter of Faith

- ❖ **11:39-40: The Epilogue**
  - **All obtained God's approval (see 11:2).**
  - **They did not obtain the promise in this life.**
  - **What is offered to all is "rest" (4:1).**
  - **The rich and complete blessings of the inheritance in Messiah's kingdom.**
  - **All these OT saints (along with us) will enjoy and experience the full blessings of the New Covenant. (Eph. 1:9-10)**
- ❖ **12:1 – These OT saints are a "cloud of witnesses". They are an example to us to endure and to trust God's promise of a wonderful world to come when the full New Covenant blessings are manifested in the Messiah's kingdom.**



# THE EXHORTATION TO ENDURE: HEBREWS 12

## ❖ 12:1-3 – THE CALL TO ENDURANCE

- Run the race (life) with success.
- Several key factors in doing this.
- (1) Remember that many others have run the race successfully. (the “cloud of witnesses” bear testimony that we can win!)
- (2) We need to get rid of those things that keep us from doing so. **Weights** (encumbrances)? **Sin**?
- (3) Need to focus on the Lord Jesus who is the greatest example of all. 2:9; 3:1
  - He is the author (2:9) of our faith.
  - He is the One who will bring the completion to our faith. (Our glorification & our inheritance).
  - He “ran” successfully in spite of the cross being a terrible experience and evil men.
  - He did all this with “joy” set before Him (1:9).  
Final restoration.

# **THE EXHORTATION TO ENDURE:**

## **HEBREWS 12**

- ❖ **12:4-11 – THE FATHER’S DISCIPLINE**
- **Standing behind the seemingly hard and painful circumstances is a loving Father who disciplines us.**
- **12:4 – We all have the tendency to over estimate the severity of our trials.**
- **“Blood” is likely looking at martyrdom.**
- **It is because we live in a sinful, fallen world that we are engaged in spiritual war. None of us have fought as actively and aggressively as we could.**

# THE EXHORTATION TO ENDURE: HEBREWS 12

- ❖ **12:4-11 – THE FATHER’S DISCIPLINE**
- **12:5 & 6** – Being a child of God means we are born by love and grace into His family, but IT ALSO MEANS THAT THE FATHER WILL WORK AT FREEING US FROM SIN AND WEIGHTS.
- “Discipline” = child training. What do good parents do when they see bad behavior and/or unhealthy habits?
- **12:7 & 8** – Enduring in this discipline brings to us the full benefits of that training.

# THE EXHORTATION TO ENDURE: HEBREWS 12

## ❖ 12:4-11 – THE FATHER’S DISCIPLINE

- **12:9-11** – We need to appreciate what the Father is doing. **James 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-4.**
- **Our earthly fathers discipline us and we respect them for it---even though they didn’t always do it right.**
- **Our Heavenly Father always does it right and so we are to “submit” voluntarily to Him (vs. 9), which implies a right attitude.**
- **Our time of earthly discipline was brief and so the Father’s discipline will be brief.**
- **Discipline is often painful (**1 Peter 1:6-7**) but we are “trained” (gumnadzo = gymnasium) by it.**
- **Righteousness is produced.**

# THE EXHORTATION TO ENDURE: **HEBREWS 12**

- ❖ **12:12-17 – THE RESPONSE TO DISCIPLINE AND SUFFERING**
- **Help others in their time of difficulty**
- **Help yourself---look at your own conduct; single mindedness in life (straight path)**
- **Pursue peace with other believers. (“all” as in the body of Christ.)**
- **Pursue sanctification---looking at present, progressive sanctification. “See” = our fellowship with Him.**
- **Keep the “house of God” in good order.**
- **Don’t be like Esau.**
- **He was immoral & had a secular mindset (godless).**
- **He foolishly traded his **FUTURE inheritance** for **PRESENT gratification**.**
- **There came a point where repentance was not possible.**

## THE 5<sup>th</sup> (and final) WARNING - 12:18-29

- **REVIEW: 12:15-17: ESAU** is an example of a person who traded future inheritance for present comfort and gratification. (Opposite of Heb. 11)
- There came a point in time where it was too late to change the consequences.
- **Don't be like Esau!!!**
- ❖ **The FIFTH WARNING** is similar to the first one in 2:1-4 where **“WE”** are to listen to our superior revelation and live by it.

## **THE 5<sup>th</sup> (and final) WARNING - 12:18-29**

- **12:18-29** – The importance of listening to what God has said in the superior New Covenant revelation.  
**Mt. Sinai vs. Mt. Zion.**
- ❖ **12:18-21 – MT. SINAI (Old Covenant)**
- When the Old Covenant was inaugurated it was a terrifying event. **Exodus 19:9-23; Deut. 4:10-14; Deut. 9:19**
- Sinai brought fear and despair to Israel.
- (So why do you want to go back to that???)

## **THE 5<sup>th</sup> (and final) WARNING - 12:18-29**

- ❖ **12:22-24 - MT. ZION (the New Covenant)**
- **Mt. Zion is one of the hills on which the city of Jerusalem sits.**
- **“Mt Zion” is the destiny of believers.**
- **Psa. 48:1-3 (46:4; 2:6; 110:2); Rev. 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:10, 16.**
- **“Mt. Zion” symbolizes the place of God’s dwelling and ruling; where final, full fellowship and blessing comes because of the New Covenant.**
- **THOSE WHO WILL BE AT “MT. ZION”**



## **THE 5<sup>th</sup> (and final) WARNING - 12:18-29**

- (1) **Millions of angels (in joyful assembly).**
  - (2) **The church with inheritance rights.**  
**Heb. 1:14-2:4**
  - (3) **God, the One who judges. Psa. 9:7-12**
  - (4) **The O.T. saints**
  - (5) **Jesus, the Mediator of the New Cov.**  
**(Abel's blood cries out for judgment and vengeance; Christ's blood cries out for pardon and forgiveness).**
- ❖ **12:25-29 – OUR RESPONSE**
- **Do not stubbornly refuse to listen to the New Covenant revelation (cf. 2:2-3).**
  - **O.T. Israel didn't listen--God displeased**

# THE 5<sup>th</sup> (and final) WARNING - 12:18-29

- God shook the earth (at Sinai)
- God in the future will shake both the earth and the heavens. **Haggai 2:6**
- God will bring down (shake) the nations. **Dan. 2:44**
- This world will be completely destroyed in the future. **2 Peter 3; Heb. 1:10-12**

Present  
Age

Messianic Kingdom  
(The Millennium)

The Final, Eternal  
Kingdom of God

Renewed Present Earth

The New Earth

- **BUT** there is something which is “unshakeable”; God’s kingdom. (We are citizens and heirs of this kingdom).

# **THE 5<sup>th</sup> (and final) WARNING - 12:18-29**

## ➤ **OUR RESPONSE:**

- (1) Gratitude**
- (2) Service**
- (3) A healthy respect for God, the consuming fire. (Deut. 4:24)**

# OUR DUTIES AS BELIEVERS

## HEBREWS 13

### ❖ OUR MORAL DUTIES – 13:1-5

- Love for fellow believers. **John 13:35** (Our responsibility towards other believers has been an emphasis in Hebrews).
- Be hospitable and generous. **Rom. 12:13**. Thinking of Genesis 18? **1 Peter 4:9**
- Give attention to those with special needs. **James 1:27 (10:34)**. “in the body” is looking at our common human condition; a call for empathy.
- Guard yourself from immorality. **1 Thess. 4:3-4**. Two issues: those who view marriage negatively (1 Tim. 4:3), and those who seek sexual gratification outside of marriage.
- Be content and never greedy. **1 Timothy 6:6-10; 6:17-19**. Persecution would bring economic downturn...need to trust the Lord to supply.

# OUR DUTIES AS BELIEVERS-**HEBREWS 13**

## ❖ **OUR SPIRITUAL DUTIES – 13:7-17**

- **Follow the teaching and example of godly leaders.**  
**13:7-8**
- **Remember the example of those godly leaders who have died.**
- **The great model is Jesus who will never die.**
- **Avoid those strange teachings that do not edify.**  
**13:9**
- **In contrast to those faithful teachers.**
- **Food likely is looking at foods used in the sacrificial system; a legalism/asceticism in view.**  
**Colossians 2:21-23; 1 Tim. 4:1-2**
- **Focus on God's grace in our lives.**
- **Focus our attention on Jesus, trusting and obeying Him.** **13:10-14**
- **Again contrast is with the old system.**
- **We must leave the old and identify with Jesus, our sacrifice.**

# OUR DUTIES AS BELIEVERS-**HEBREWS 13**

## ❖ **OUR SPIRITUAL DUTIES – 13:7-17**

### ➤ **Manifest praise, 13:15**

- Leaving the sacrificial system does not mean we don't bring offerings to God.
- Praise brings with it a clearer perspective of God and on life itself.
- Not to give thanks evidences idolatry. **Rom. 1:21**
- Our sacrifice of praise is made richer and more worthy of the Lord by our studying His Word.

### ➤ **Manifest generosity, 13:16**

- Another area of acceptable sacrifice is our generosity towards others. **2 Cor. 8:14; 9:12**

### ➤ **Be in obedience to leaders, 13:17**

- This has fueled harmful authoritarianism.
- “Obey” (peitho) means to persuade or win over. It is obedience which results from persuasion. **Mark 10:35-45**

# AN APPLICATON FROM HEBREWS

To live in this world in a way that honors God, and to serve Him, effectively handling sin, worldliness and the problems of life, we must have a CLEAR, UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF CHRIST. The readers of Hebrews needed this view and so do we. JESUS IS NOT THE CARPENTER FROM NAZARETH BUT RATHER HE IS **THE EXALTED, SUPREME KING-PRIEST**.

## **THE IMPACT OF HEBREWS**

- **Hebrews 10:24 – “let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.”**
- **What in the book of Hebrews made the greatest impact on you?**
  - **A new idea**
  - **A new emphasis**
  - **A fresh application**



