

Chapter One: A Better Messenger

Hebrews

There's Something Better

The writer of Hebrews begins his “book of better things” by reminding us about Jesus, who is the great God, who as a part of the Godhead the greatest resident of heaven and is the great fulfillment of Scripture.

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Various times, various ways	Gen 12:1-3, Exodus 4, Daniel 2 (Patriarchy and The Old Law)
Last Days	Christian era, Acts 2:17
His Son	Matthew 17:5, John 14:9-10
He made the worlds	Genesis 1:1-2, 1:26, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17

3 who as the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, upholds all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Express image of his person	Colossians 1:15 (meaning exact replica)
By himself purged our sins	Matthew 26:28, Hebrews 2:14-18, John 1:29
Sat down at the right hand	Hebrews 8:1, Hebrews 10:11-13, Acts 7:55-56

4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?

Better	Better in Hebrews refers to what is effective in obtaining our salvation (7:19, 22, 9:23, 10:34). The word better appears 13 times in this book.
Compared to the angels	Angels were sometimes called sons of God, 2 Samuel 7:14, Job 1:16. But Jesus alone is the only begotten Son of God. While the angels are “ministering spirits” (v. 4-14), Jesus is the Son. And while the angels delivered good news, Jesus took the form of a man, suffered on the cross and removed our sins (Hebrews 5:8-9).
An excellent name	His name is renowned because of his identity and actions

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” 7 And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.”

Firstborn	Not referring to origin (Jesus is eternal) but rather place and importance, Colossians 1:15
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Ministers

Angels are not sons, but ministers or servants. As great as they are, in comparison to Jesus they are a flickering flame.

8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. **9** You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

The Son...O God

The Father refers to the Son as God

Scepter...loved righteousness

Because of his humble obedience, Christ has been exalted, Philippians 2:5-11

10 And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. **11** They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; **12** Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

Lord

Jesus created the world. It reflects his power and wisdom. Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 14:1

You remain

He is eternal and unchanging, not a part of the ever changing and transitory creation. Revelation 1:8, John 8:58, Psalm 100:5

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? **14** Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Enemies a footstool

Jesus has conquered all enemies: sin, death, Satan 1 Corinthians 15:57, 1 John 3:8, Colossians 2:15

Ministering spirits

The angels are servants while Jesus is the Lord. Angels or any other created being can never compare to Jesus Christ.

The Angels	Jesus
Created beings	The creator
Servants of God	The Son of God
No real power or throne	All power and the highest throne
Changing and perishable	Eternal and unchanging
A messenger but not a mediator	The one and only mediator for man to God

Lessons From Hebrews Chapter One

1. You can never, ever overemphasize Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus and God are individual and are one. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit comprise the Godhead.
3. Never confuse a messenger of God and the true God himself. No one has God's authority but God.

Chapter Two: Peril of Neglect

In this chapter, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that we must be obedient to God. For those who have disobeyed in the past were punished greatly. In contrast to those in the past, we have a great high priest who identifies with us and has given himself for us.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

Therefore	Since Christ is a spokesman greater than angels (Hebrews 1)
Drift	Naval term, a boat going past its destination or a ring slipping off of a finger World's greatest sin is neglect...the 'white collar sin'

2 *For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, **4** God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?*

For if...how shall	Hebrew writer uses the lesser to greater argument Great opportunity brings great responsibility, Mark 4:9
Spoken through angels	Law of Moses, Deuteronomy 33:2, Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19
How shall we escape?	If they were judged under the Old Law, note that we have 1. The message directly from the Son 2. Verified by eyewitnesses 3. Authenticated by God's power, Acts 2:22, 2 Cor. 12:12
Neglect	Not reject, but neglect. Both bring punishment, Matthew 22:5
Great salvation	Two points make salvation great: forgiveness here on earth and eternity in a perfect heaven.
Confirmed	The purpose of miracles is to confirm the word spoken John 3:2, Mark 16:17-18, 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

5 *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. **6** But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? **7** You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.*

Subjection	Jesus is over all things, the angels are not
Son of man	Jewish expression for mankind (Ezekiel called son of man 80 times) Ps 8 (referring to Christ or mankind)?
Little lower than angels	Deplorable condition of man without Christ, Romans 1:18-32
Set him over work of hands	Genesis 1:28,

8 *You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Not...all things under him The pessimist sees the sorry human condition and puts a period, the Savior sees the human condition and puts a comma.

1 Corinthians 15:55

Jesus...little lower than the angels Jesus followed the nature of the children of Abraham rather than the angels

Taste death for everyone Romans 3:24-25, Romans 5:8, of whom I am chief

10 *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” 13 And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”*

Captain of their salvation (word can also mean founder) Hebrews 12:2

Perfect Jesus, Hebrews 5:9, 7:28 and his work Hebrews 10:14, 12:23

Sanctify Hebrews 10:10, 13:12

Brethren...children Jesus is our brother as well as our Savior
We are adopted into the family of God, Romans 4:18

14 *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.*

He shared the same Some points concerning the incarnation, John 1:14
1. Man was made to be great
2. Sin made man not great
3. Jesus became man to restore man’s greatness

17 *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

High Priest Mediator to God, 1 Timothy 2:5 Fully God and fully man

Propitiation A Stand In, Deuteronomy 21:8, Psalm 25:11, Romans 3:25

Able to aid Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 13:5

Lessons from Chapter Two:

- 1. We have a tremendous salvation, v. 3
- 2. Danger of neglect, v. 3
- 3. With great opportunity comes great responsibility
- 4. God is just as well as love
- 5. God is good to man, v. 5-8
- 6. Jesus is our Savior, 2:10, 2:17
- 7. Jesus is our brother, 2:12-14 and friend 2:10, 2:17-18

Chapter Three: Peril of Neglect

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1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, **2** who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house.

Consider
Apostle
High Priest

Set your focus, sight on Jesus Christ
A representative sent with a message
Hebrews 2:17

3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. **4** For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. **5** And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, **6** but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Moses

Delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage, Gave Law to the Hebrew people, led Israel to the Promised Land, Many Jews claimed to be his disciples, John 9:28

But Jesus is greater

in office (3:1) Moses was an representative, Jesus is both representative and High Priest

In glory (3:3-4) Builder of house has more glory than the house. Here speaking of House of Israel

In rank (3:5-6) Son of God is superior than servant of God.

In Position (3:5-6) Christ is over the house

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, **8** Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, **9** Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. **10** Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in *their* heart, And they have not known My ways.' **11** So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

Therefore

Since Christ is greater than Moses

Holy Spirit says

Quote of Psalm 97:7-11

Proof that the Scriptures are the Spirit's speaking, 2 Tim 3:16

Angry

Israel had heard Moses's (and God's) voice

They saw his works for forty years

And yet the still tested and rebelled against God

For this reason, they were punished, 1 Corinthians 10:10:1-13

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; **13** but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, **15** while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Unbelieving heart

Unbelief is often a moral than an intellectual response

Exhort one another

We have a responsibility to one another

We must protect ourselves and one another

Today

Don't put off important matters like salvation

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? **17** Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? **19** So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Israel's sins

Unbelief, 3:19

Disobedience, 3:18

Did not know God's ways, 3:10

They hardened their hearts, 3:8, 15

They went astray in their hearts, 3:10

They tested God, 3:8-9

Chapter Four: Peril of Disobedience

Dovetailing nicely with chapter three, the writer explains our ultimate goal is not earthly land or earthly peace. Our ultimate goal is to get to heaven in the presence of God. To get there, we rely on the history of those in the past, the Word of God and the work of our High Priest—Jesus.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Promise	God's promise of rest has neither been fulfilled nor taken away. Hebrews uses the word 'promise' more than any other book in the New Testament (Galatians is 2 nd and Romans is 3 rd)
Fear	Christians are free from fear (Romans 8:15), but must exercise great respect before God, Luke 12:4-5
Us as Well As Them	Israelites received good news (defeat of their enemies and promised land, Exodus 23:30-33), we received good news (heaven, Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:1-6). But as Israelites lost their promise because their faith faltered, so we too are in danger of losing our promise to a failing faith.

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest," although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; 5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest." 6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Rest	Not the Sabbath Day: Celebrated before and after, Psalm 95:11 Not Canaan for some Jews did enter Promised Land, Psalm 95:11 David around long after Canaan possession Refers to Heaven: 1. It is a promise made by God (4:1) 2. Received through faith and patience (6:12, 15) 3. Still remains to be entered (4:6, 9, 11)
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The ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy (Psalm 95) is not the rest of Joshua (Canaan), nor of David (freedom from Philistines and peace), but is heaven and a rest with the people of God in the presence of God.

11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Be diligent (SPOIDAZO)	To exert oneself, due diligence Give <u>diligence</u> to make calling and election sure, 2 Peter 1:10 Give <u>diligence</u> to present yourself approved unto God, 2 Timothy 2:15 <u>Endeavoring</u> to keep unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, Ephesians 4:3 People long for rest (Psalm 55:6) but most are unwilling to pay the price necessary for it.
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Why strive?	The Word referring to the Scripture, Revelation 1:16, 2:12 Living Makes alive those in contact with it, John 6:63, 1 Peter 1:23 Active Isaiah 55:10-11 Sharp Opens up even the deepest, hardest heart
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14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Seeing then	Pointing back to 2:17 and 3:1
High Priest	The perfect man (Jesus) makes a perfect High Priest
Heavens	Three are known biblically: aerial/sky (Matthew 6:26), sidereal/planets (Matthew 24:29), dwelling place of God (Matthew 5:16). Jesus passed through all three
Sympathize	Not just knowledge of our shortcomings, he has made them his own
Let us come boldly	Symbolism of Old Testament Priest approaching Holy Place We approach God to find mercy and grace

Practical Lessons

1. We have a great High Priest
2. We must work through faith to obtain the promises
3. God's Word is powerful
4. We can come boldly to the throne of God

Chapter Five: Peril of Immaturity

Jesus, as the Son of God and as a man, perfectly fills the role of a High Priest or mediator between us and God. In this chapter, the Hebrew writer explains Jesus' qualifications for this role and then takes a moment to encourage his readers to grow spiritually.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

Taken among men, compassion	Two of the main personality traits necessary for a priest. Jesus has both: he lived as a man and he is full of compassion.
Compassion	Jesus' mercy and grace is not a sign of his belittling sin. As Aaron did when he built the golden calf, Exodus 32:1-6 As Eli when refusing to discipline his children, 1 Samuel 3:13
Subject to weakness	Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15), but he was tempted (Matthew 4) and tested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. 4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

Called by God	Not referring to a myserious "call" a man receives to preach, rather, it is a following of God concerning who is to act as the Priest. Aaron (Exodus 28:1-29:28), Eleazor (Numbers 20:23-29), Phineas (Numbers 25:10-13) and his children were called by God to serve in the role of priest, an exception was Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-4:1). Those who rebelled and named themselves as priests were Korah (Numbers 16:1-35), Saul (1 Samuel 13:8-14), Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:16-21), Jeroboam and his 'reforms' (1 Kings 12:25-13:5)
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5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." 6 As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"; 7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

Two qualifications of Jesus	1. Relationship/called by God "Son, begotten you" Psalm 2:7 2. Of mankind "Order of Melchizedek" Psalm 110:4
Jesus High Priest	Jesus was chosen by God: had flesh and blood nature (Hebrews 2:14), had human weakness without sin (Hebrews and 4:15) and suffered as we do (cries and tears, John 11:35, Luke 19:41).

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **10** called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,” **11** of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Learned obedience	Jesus was obedient from his birth to ascension, Romans 5:19, Philippians 2:5-11. His suffering on the cross was a consequence of practicing God’s will while he lived among sinners.
Jesus as High Priest	He acts on behalf of men in relation to God (Hebrews 5:1) and he reveals to men the will of God (John 12:48-50). Jesus acts on behalf of men dying for their sins, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. He offers gifts and sacrifices for sins, Leviticus 16:1-34, Hebrews 5:3.
Eternal salvation	In contrast to the temporary salvation of Joshua (Hebrews 4:8)
To all who obey	It is necessary to obey to become and to remain a child of God, Romans 6:17, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, 1 Peter 1:22, Revelation 2:10.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **13** For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. **14** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

You ought to be teachers	Every Christian should have the ability and inclination to teach others. James 3:1 speaks of responsibility, not opportunity. We must spread the good news.
First principles	Literally “rudimentary elements” or basics of the faith.
Milk, solid food	The Word of God has milk for babies (Hebrews 5:13, 1 Corinthians 3:1-2, 1 Peter 2:2) and meat for adults (Hebrews 5:13).
Senses exercised to discern	Though a lack of training, they could not discriminate between good and evil, both in doctrine and in morals. This is a great danger today, 2 Timothy 4:1-3

Lesson from Chapter Five:

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| 1. Jesus is our High Priest. | 1 Timothy 2:5, John 1:29 |
| 2. We must obey even as Jesus obeyed. | Acts 2:38, 2 Peter 3:17 |
| 3. We must grow beyond childish ways spiritually. | 2 Peter 1:5-11, Acts 8:4 |

Chapter Six: Peril of Falling Away

Christians have the ultimate blessings to be thankful to God for in life. Yet there is a danger we face in neglecting God and turning to follow our own ways and plans. This chapter explains the dangers of falling away and reminds us of the consequences we face in so doing.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

Elementary doctrine

There is more to Christianity than just obeying the gospel (repentance, faith, baptism, miracles, judgment and heaven)

Not laying again a foundation

The foundation is necessary for a building, but is useful only if it is built upon. We cannot remain where we are spiritually and be pleasing to God, Luke 14:28-30. We must repent and grow.

4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

It is impossible

Four Impossible of Hebrews

1. Impossible to restore, Hebrews 6:14
2. Impossible for God to lie, Hebrews 6:18
3. Impossible for blood of animals to take away sin, Hebrews 10:4
4. Impossible to please God without faith, Hebrews 11:6

What sin is impossible to find forgiveness for?

1. Some say suicide, Acts 1:25 (not likely)
2. Some say immorality, 1 Cor. 6:9-11 (can repent)
3. Some say murder, Acts 2:23, 38, 41 (can repent)
4. Some say profanity, Mt. 26:74, Gal. 2:9, 1 Pet. 5:1 (no)

God will forgive every sin that we repent of

Romans 1:16, Matthew 12:31-32, Matthew 11:28, Acts 2:23, 38, 41, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Their experience: obedience to the gospel

Have been enlightened (seen the light)
Tasted heavenly gift and shared in the Spirit
Tasted the word of God and powers of above

Crucifying again the Son of God/contempt

Their sins were freshly shaming Christ

How does one commit this sin today?

1. Disbelief, John 12:37-40
2. Continued rejection of God's mercy, Gen 6:3
"quit praying for them," Jer. 7:16, 11:14
Romans 1:24, 26, 28
3. Continue in deliberate sin, Hebrews 10:26
4. Go past feeling, Ephesians 4:19, 1 Timothy 4

Have I committed this sin?

Not if I can still obey, Heb. 5:9; not if I can still repent, 2 Pet 3:9

7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

The land

The writer explains his point by his version of the parable of the soils, Luke 8. Water falls on good land and poor land. What produces fruit on some land will produce worthlessness on other land. We must cleanse our hearts to produce good fruit.

9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

We feel sure of better things

His confidence in them was due to:

1. Their work and love in service to others
2. Their full assurance in not being sluggish, Gal. 6:9
3. Their mentors or examples, Heb. 6:12, 10:36, 1 Cor. 11:1

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

God made a promise

Abraham trusted God in faith and was blessed

God cannot lie, Titus 1:2

We have strong encouragement to be faithful: He keeps his promises!

19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Our extreme confidence

An anchor of the soul in the storms of life

An entrance to where others are not allowed (behind curtain)

Jesus as our forerunner, 1 Corinthians 15

Jesus as our High Priest

Chapter Seven: Priesthood of Melchizedek

In this chapter we are acquainted with a priest in the Old Testament named Melchizedek. This priest is used by the writer to explain the superiority of the Priesthood of Christ over the Old Testament priesthood of the Tribe of Levi. This study will help us to appreciate the role of Christ in the remission of our sins.

Hebrews There's Something Better

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. 3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Melchizedek

The Priesthood of Christ resembles the priesthood of Christ in that it is Royal (King of Salem), Righteous (Priest of God Most High), Peace Promoting (met Abraham coming back from slaughter/King of Peace), Holy (Priest, received a tithe from Abraham), Personal (Met and blessed him), not inherited (without father, mother or genealogy), and Eternal (neither beginning of days or end of life)

Who was Melchizedek? (Genesis 14:18-20) Not Jesus (resembled him), not Holy Spirit, but a figure from history that the inspired writer has chosen to illustrate the difference in the Priesthood of Christ from the Levitical Priesthood of the Old Law.

4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! 5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. 6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. 8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. 9 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Inferior is blessed by superior

Melchizedek was a spokesman for God to Abraham
Therefore: Abraham paid to him a tithe
The Levites (through Abraham) are less than Melchizedek

11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? 12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. 13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. 15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." 18 For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. 20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, 21 but this one was

made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" **22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. **23** The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, **24** but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. **25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. **26** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. **27** He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. **28** For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Christ is a Priest after the Order of Melchizedek and is Superior to Levi

1. Christ provides perfection for men but the Levites could not. (7:11-14)

Perfection (TELEIOS) means completeness.

The Levitical priesthood and the Old Law are welded together. If one fails, they both fail. Since law and priesthood are bound together, when one changes the other must change as well.

Christ is a priest from the tribe of Judah (7:13-14), therefore there had to be a change of the law (7:12) for Moses only authorized priests from the tribe of Levi. The reasoning of 7:14 is the principle of exclusion or silence. If God authorizes something specifically it must be done in that way, if God commands something generically, then man has a variety of ways to obey.

EXAMPLES OF PRINCIPLE OF SILENCE

Christ is head of the Church, Ephesians 1:22-23: no man can put himself in Christ's place

We must pray through Jesus, John 16:23: we cannot pray through any other person

Baptism is immersion, Ephesians 4:5, Romans 6:3-4, not sprinkling or pouring

We are to sing in worship, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16 not play the piano or guitar

We are to preach the gospel to all the world, Matthew 28:18-20: via radio, TV or personally

We are to gather together on Sundays, Acts 20:7, morning, noon or night, or all three!

We are to serve one another, Philippians 2:1-4, foot washing, mowing yards or giving food

2. Christ is a priest by an indestructible life but the Levites were priests by Physical descent (7:15-17)

The Levites were bound by their heritage, external factors (Leviticus 21:16-24) and mortality.

Christ is endless and is chosen not by external factors but by his perfection inside and outside

3. Christ grants men access to God but the Levites did not (7:18-20)

The Law was done away with because it was weak and useless, the better hope (Christ) brings us closer to the Lord than the Old Law could.

4. Christ assumed his office by an oath of God but the Levites took their office without an oath (7:20-22)

The Levites took office by physical descent, but God swore an oath to Christ: You are a priest forever.

5. Christ is one priest because of an endless life but the Levites were many because of death (7:23-25)

According to Josephus, there were 83 High Priests from Aaron to Destruction in AD 70, Christ lives forever to make intercession for his people, 1 Timothy 2:5

6. Christ is sinless but the Levites were sinners (7:26-27)

7. Christ offered one sacrifice but the Levites offered many sacrifices (7:27)

8. Christ is perfect but the Levites had weaknesses (7:28)

Chapter Eight: A Better Covenant

Having finished his discussion of Melchizedek and establishing the legality of Jesus' Priesthood, the writer of Hebrews now turns to the necessity of the New Covenant. Of course with the New Covenant installed the Old Covenant must pass away.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 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.

Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood:

His ministry is heavenly; theirs is earthly, 8:2, 4

His ministry is continual; theirs is only one day a year (Atonement), 8:2, 4

His ministry is substance; theirs is a shadow, 8:2, 5

We have a High Priest, Seated, A Minister

Jesus fulfills our every needs

True tabernacle

The church is not a manmade institution, Hebrews 9:11, 24
Matthew 16:18, Colossian 1:15, 18

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. 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." 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

Jesus not a priest on earth

Jesus' eternal priesthood is apart from the Law of Moses

According to the pattern (CHREMATIZO)

Moses was to copy what he saw exactly

He followed a pattern: just as Noah did in building the ark (Genesis 6:22), David and Solomon in building the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:7, 11-13, 19) so Moses followed a pattern in creating the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30, 27:8).

Note: The pattern today is all the New Testament says on a particular subject. Those who criticize pattern authority usually accept one of three decisions. First, they may have a pattern too although it will be smaller than the one they denounce. For example, if they reject partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), they will insist on its observation at some time. The fact that they have communion, however frequent or infrequent, is part of their pattern. Second, if they reject the smaller pattern concept, consistency demands that they reject the total New Testament message in doctrine and morals. If there is no pattern in the Bible for church organization or the way of salvation, what right does one have to think there is a pattern for morality? This posture leaves an individual at sea without chart or compass. Third, the man who refuses the New Testament pattern may reach a point where he believes in latter day revelation (i.e., God speaks to him directly or he considers his impulses and hunches as divine communication).

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord. 10 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. 11 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. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

I will make a new covenant Quotation of Jeremiah 31:31-34, proof that the New Covenant was planned all along.

Six Ways the New Covenant Is Superior to the Old Covenant

1. Its founded on better promises
Promises for all the world and for eternal life, Romans 8:31-39
2. The old was faulty but the new is faultless (8:7)
Those under the Old often were not faithful; those under the new are perfected by Christ (Romans 8:3)
3. The old was on stones, but the new is on hearts (8:10)
Those under the New Covenant are given a new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17), of course it was possible for those under the Old Testament to have the Law in their heart (Psalm 119:11), but that was not the normative case.
4. The Old had the Lord as God over the people in a nationalistic sense, the new has the Lord over the people in a spiritual, universal sense (8:10)
The gospel is for all mankind, Galatians 3:28, Mark 16:15-16
5. The Old had those who did not know God but the New has only those who do know God (8:11)
A Jew entered into the old covenant by physical birth and a Jewish boy was circumcised on the eighth day. It is not possible today to be in the Kingdom of God without knowing the Lord, Romans 10:17.
6. The Old did not give remission of sins but the new does (8:12)
Under the old covenant, sins were remembered annually (10:3). From a practical standpoint, those who sacrificed regularly under the Old were forgiven, but technically or legally, forgiveness did not occur before the cross.

13 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 Old Law was done away with at the cross (Colossians 2:14-17), and ready to vanish away very well could be referring to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 at the hands of Rome.

Practical Lessons

1. Jesus is our mediator
2. The work of Jesus is done, he is now at the right hand of God
3. Be thankful for the New Covenant

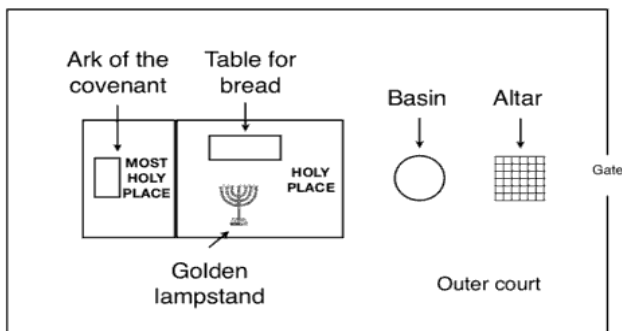
Chapter Nine: The Tabernacle

After teaching why the Old Covenant needs to pass away in chapter eight, chapter nine describes to us how it has passed away. Using the tabernacle as a parable, the writer points us to the perfect sacrifice of Christ.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

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; 3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which 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; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.



Plan of the Jewish Tabernacle (Exodus 25-31, 35-40)

1. Brazen Altar
2. Laver or Basin
3. Table of Showbread, Lev. 24:5-9 12 loaves on Sabbath
4. Golden Candle Stick: seven candles never extinguished
5. Altar of Incense
6. Ark of Covenant: tablets, budding rod, manna
7. Mercy seat: top of ark guarded by Cherubim

6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. 7 But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; 8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. 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.

Once a year:	The point is that the Tabernacle was designed to be full of barriers
High Priest:	Entered the Holy of Holies on Day of Atonement three times: with incense, with blood for himself and with blood for the people.
Symbolic:	Tabernacle was merely an outward illustration of heaven

11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 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, 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 Differences Between the Animal Sacrifices and Christ's Sacrifice

<u>Christ</u>	<u>Blood of Bulls and Goats</u>
Personal	Impersonal
Thought Out	Ritual
Effective and Complete	Repeated Each Year

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. **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. **18** Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood. **19** For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, **20** saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." **21** Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. **22** And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

First covenant	Jesus' death atones for sins under the Old And New Covenant
Death of testator	While a man is alive, he can do what he wants with his things Forgiveness of sins, Mark 2:10, Luke 7:36-50, John 8:1-11, Luke 23:39-43. But after his death, his will goes into effect, Acts 2:38
Shedding of Blood	Abraham, Genesis 15:7-21, Moses Exodus 24:5-6, Solomon and Jesus
Remission	Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 10:4, Matthew 26:28

23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24** For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; **25** not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— **26** He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. **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. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

A Contrast of the Old System and New System of Sacrifice

Old	New
Tabernacle is earthly shadow	Heaven is true place of God
Repeated sacrifices	One sacrifice
Blood of others	His own blood
Covering sin	Putting away sin
For Israel only	For all sinners
Left the holy of Holies	Entered Heaven and remains there
Come out to bless the people	Will take his people to heaven

Lessons:

1. The Old Law has vanished
2. There is no salvation without Christ, Hebrews 9:22
3. Death and judgment are coming, Hebrews 9:27

Chapter Ten: The Point of the Book

The Letter has so far described why the old way these Hebrews used to live under the Covenant was no longer a possibility. Now the writer encourages his readers to trust in God to see them through their struggles.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Shadow	The Old System was only a shadow or teacher leading to the New Covenant, Colossians 2:14-17, Galatians 3
Those sacrifices	Old Covenant sacrifices were: Ineffective in removing conscious guilt Were temporary in power Were not comparable to Jesus' blood

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." 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.

Sacrifice...you did not desire	Quotation of Psalm 40:6-8 Written by David at the end of Saul's persecution and before he became king, it focuses on God desiring a pure heart over ritual worship.
Body...prepared	Jesus' entire purpose in earthly life was his sacrifice Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 24:44, John 2:17
Takes away first...second	The Old Covenant and New Covenant are incompatible. You cannot correctly follow both Testaments, the New must have priority.

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. 15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

How is Christ's sacrifice greater than the Old Testament system of sacrifices?

1. Christ was offered sacrificially once and is complete (v. 11-12)
2. Christ perfectly sanctifies the sinner while the Old System only rolled it back year after year, v. 13-14
3. It is a more personal religion. Rather than being ethnic (Jewish) it is written on the hearts of all believers, v. 15-16
4. It is a complete system of sacrifice in that our sins are remembered no more, v. 17-18

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21** and having a High Priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. **24** 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.

Therefore...	A summary of what has been written before: We have boldness by blood of Christ We have a new and living way through the veil We have a great High Priest in heaven—Jesus Our sins are completely washed away
Let Us	Seeing this as our blessings... Let us draw near With a true heart, Matthew 6:24, James 1:8 In full assurance of faith, Hebrews 11:6, Titus 1:2 Hearts sprinkled, in contrast to animal blood Our bodies washed with water, Romans 6:3-4, 1 Peter 3:21 Let us hold fast and consider and encourage one another In good works, in church attendance, and in preparing for Judgment

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **28** Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Sin willfully	Present participle in speech that denotes a continuing action. Not a mistake or a struggle but instead a HABIT in sinning. Remember the description earlier of apostates, Hebrews 6:4-6
Three witnesses	Three witnesses were required of the death penalty in the Old Testament. Those who deliberately rebel against God undergo the testimony of trampling Jesus, the blood of his covenant and the spirit of his grace.
Condition of apostates no longer a remains a sacrifice for their sins	Fearful expectation of judgment An angry, vengeful God is waiting on them

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: **33** partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; **34** for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. **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: **37** "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

Endured a great struggle:	Persecution (athlesia) a combat or contest of athletes Great sufferings (10:32), Public abuse (10:33), 1 Corinthians 4:9), Seizure of their property (10:33)
Their reaction: They were people of compassion	They looked forward to heaven and kept their confidence and had endurance

38 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.

Just shall live by faith	Habakkuk 2:4 Encouragement to endure struggles of life and trust in God.
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Chapter Eleven: The Power of Faith

To reinforce the call in chapter ten to remain faithful, the Hebrew writer now turns to the halls of history to encourage and teach faithfulness. This list of patriarchs show us how God rewards the faithful even when they face seemingly insurmountable odds.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 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. 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.

Faith	One of the foundational principles of our relationship with God, 1 Cor. 13:13, Hebrews 10:38, Ephesians 2:8-9
Substance	The writer of Hebrews is the only one who formally defines faith Hupostasis: that which brings confidence, or assurance
Evidence	We have evidence of the things of God, Romans 1:20, Psalm 14:1, 19:1
Not seen	In the past: God's dealing with man which we have not witnessed In the present: the spiritual battle for our souls, Ephesians 6:12 In the future: the Second Coming, the Judgment
World's were framed by word of God	Ex nihilo (out of nothing), "God said" appears ten times in Genesis One

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.

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. 7 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.

Abel	Righteous (Matthew 23:35, Cain evil, 1 John 3:12, Jude 11) Due to type of sacrifice? Romans 10:17 Due to amount of sacrifice? (first fruits) Due to attitude? Genesis 4:4-5, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Proverbs 15:8 How we worship and our attitude in worship are both important Abel died for his faith... Envy, bitterness, hatred, murder: this is the usual order of persecution of the faithful Envy may be the largest sin in the church yet it has no place among God's people. "Still speaks" his legacy of faithfulness still rings out today Death is never the last word in the death of a righteous man.
Enoch	Genesis 5:21-24, Jude 14-15, walked with God and preached a coming Judgment To walk with God (Gen. 6:9) is to have fellowship with him, to walk before him (Gen 17:1) is to live in the awareness that he sees every action, to walk after him (Deuteronomy 13:4) is to follow his direction

Without faith impossible Regardless of a person's goodness, morality and contributions to society, he does not please God unless his actions are prompted by faith. Men must believe in God, in God as a rewarder and in the necessity of diligently (not carelessly or negligently) seeking him.

Noah Had he ever seen rain? Genesis 2:5-6
He moved with fear and saved his household through obedience, Genesis 6:22
He was righteous and blameless in his generation, Genesis 6:9, Ezekiel 14:14, 2 Peter 2:5

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Abraham called From Ur of the Chaldees (Acts 7:1-4) and later from Haran (Genesis 12:1-5).

Not knowing where he was going Abraham trusted God to care for him in all things
His descendants did not receive the land of Canaan until a long time after he died, Genesis 15:13-16

Sarah receive strength Sarah did have shortcomings (Genesis 17:15-21) but she acted by faith. Her story is found in Genesis 17:19, 18:11-14, 21:2, 15:5-6, 22:17, 32:12. And through her many children of promise were born.

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.

Not having received the promises They ultimately looked forward to Christ's fulfillment
They were strangers and pilgrims Christians today are pilgrims sojourning in a land in a land which is not their own (1 Peter 2:11, 1:17) for their citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20)
It is not what you live in that makes a difference but what you look for in life that matters.
But they had one another: the best way to grow is to walk with the faithful
The world is a bridge. The wise man will pass over it while the foolish man tries to build his house on it.

Had opportunity to return Had it not been for their faith, they (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob) could have returned to their homeland. This was always a possibility but they rejected it for God

God is not ashamed Their names were used by God to introduce himself to later generations, Exodus 3:6, 15, 4:5.

CHAPTER ELEVEN CONTINUED...

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Abraham

Had to reconcile God's promise of Isaac as the child of promise through whom many children would come and God's command to sacrifice him. After waiting for twenty-five years for the boy to come, now he was to destroy the promise. He determined that God would bring him back from the dead, Genesis 22:5

Abraham is included in every extended discussion of faith in the New Testament, Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19, Romans 4:1-25, Galatians 3:6-29, James 2:21-23

Isaac

Even though he was wronged, Isaac acted by faith with his sons

Jacob

As he lay with his staff on his bed he by faith spoke to each of his sons. His prophecies in Genesis 49 act as an outline to the Old Testament.

Joseph

By faith spoke of the Exodus (Genesis 50:24-25) and gave instructions concerning his burial, Exodus 13:19, Joshua 24:32

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Moses

He was beautiful, that is, his parents saw that God had a special purpose for him and they did what they could to lead their boy in the direction to please God.

While taught in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, Moses made the choice (foolishly in the eyes of the Egyptians) to live as one of the outcast in order to be known among the people of God. It was impossible for Moses to identify with both Egyptian society and Hebrew culture—he made the right choice.

His motivation was three fold:

He recognized sin's pleasures are fleeting.

He recognized Christ's (God's) riches as greater than Egyptian (worldly) riches.

He saw a greater reward for faithfulness

His faith allowed him to stand before the Pharaoh, to proclaim and endure the Passover, and to cross the Red Sea

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

Walls of Jericho	Even though it did not make sense, when they obeyed, the walls fell. There is an important lesson here as to the correlation of faith and obedience and the timing of the two.
Rahab	Many have claimed she was not a prostitute, but the language of Joshua 2:1 indicates that she sold her body for money. Rahab was saved by her active faith in helping the spies. While she was far from perfect (who is?) the point here is her active faith in God.
Gideon	Defeated Midianites with 300 men, Judges 6-8
Barak	(with Deborah) defeated Canaanites, Judges 4-5
Samson	Pushed back Philistines, Judges 13-16
Jephthah	Defeated Philistines, Judges 11
David	Delivered Israel from her enemies
Samuel	Only man to hold offices of Judge, Prophet and Priest

In conclusion, these men and women were not people with superhuman powers, they were ordinary people with flaws. But their faith in God allowed them to accomplish great things by God's power. When we yield ourselves to God and are active in our belief, great things will be accomplished.

and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. 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.

Subdued kingdoms	Beginning with Moses' victories over Sihon and Og
Worked righteousness	Israel subdued the Promised Land and followed God
Obtained promises	In conquests, land and children
Stopped mouths of lions	Samson (Jud 14:5-6), David (1 Sam 17:34-36), Daniel, (Dan 6)
Quenched violence of fire	Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel 3:8-30
Escaped edge of sword	Esther and many others
Out of weakness became strong	Gideon, Abraham, David and Goliath, Jonathan, 1 Sam. 14:6
Valiant in battle	Many instances
Defeated armies of aliens	Many instances
Women received dead raised	Elijah and Elisha, 1 Kings 17:17-24, 2 Kings 4:18-37
Tortures	Many instances, especially in the Apocrypha
Sawn in two	Reference to Isaiah the prophet
World was not worthy	
Did not receive the promise	Maybe a few temporal reward but greater heavenly reward
Something better for us	Our reward is much greater than all these mentioned

Chapter Twelve: Running the Race

As he finishes the review of the faithful of old, the author of Hebrews returns to present day admonitions to his reader for them to remain faithful. Looking to a comparison of the Mount Sinai Law and the Christian Law, he shows the superiority of our present system.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Therefore	Looking back to the crowd of faithful saints in chapter 11
Cloud of witnesses	As if these great ones of the past are cheering us on
Weight of sin	Allusion to runners in ancient games removing any hindrance
Run with endurance	Passive endurance and active persistence in faithful service
The race	Runner must strive, 2 Timothy 2:5, Philippians 3:14 Runner must exercise self control, 1 Corinthians 9:25 Runner must follow the rules and finish, 2 Timothy 2:5, 4:7
Looking to Jesus	Extreme focus, Matthew 14:22-33
Author and finisher	He is the beginning and the end, Revelation 1:8

³For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Consider	We endure because of what Jesus endured (v. 3) Because of what those before us endured (v. 4) And because God is in charge (v. 5-6)
Chastening	A sign of a parent's love is discipline, Proverbs 3:11-12, 1 Samuel 3:13
Joyful for the present	Our difficulties make us grow, James 1:2-4

¹²Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; ¹⁶lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Strengthen hands, knees, feet
 Pursue peace
 Holiness
 Fall short of grace of God
 Root of bitterness

Brace yourselves and get straight
 Romans 12:18, 1 Peter 3:11
 Romans 6:22, Matthew 5:8
 Galatians 5:4, 1 Peter 1:13, Ephesians 2:7
 Allusion to Deuteronomy 29:18 which speaks of the influence of someone who turns against the Lord while in the Lord's family.
 Esau made a terrible mistake in choosing the physical over the spiritual, Genesis 25:29-34. This is a danger to many people today.

Esau...morsel

¹⁸For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰(For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." ²¹And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Mount Sinai	Mount Zion
Note Exodus 19-20 For Background	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Law of Moses</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burned with fire, Exodus 19:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blackness, darkness, tempest, Exodus 19:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trumpet and words Exodus 19:16, 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Terrifying sight, Exodus 20:19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>New Covenant Of Christ</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The heavenly Jerusalem, Rev 14:1, Gal. 4:26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Innumerable company of angels</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General assembly and church registered in heaven</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Luke 10:20, Philippians 4:2-3, Revelation 21:27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To the God and Judge of all, John 5:22, 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spirits of just men made perfect</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus the Mediator of the new Covenant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blood better than that sacrificed by Abel</p>

²⁵See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, ²⁶whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ²⁷Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹For our God is a consuming fire.

Spoke on earth
 Kingdom that cannot be shaken
 God is a consuming fire

Referring to Sinai, Jesus' law has greater rewards and greater condemnation if not followed
 The church, Daniel 2:44, Matthew 16:18
 The same Bible which teaches God is love (1 John 4:8), reminds us that God will judge. We must be balanced, Romans 11:22

Chapter Thirteen: Practice of Faith

In the closing of the letter, the author of the book covers a few quick commands concerning the social activities of Christians, the need for them to obey their leaders and asks for the prayers of the recipients as he prays for them as well.

Hebrews

There's Something Better

1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. 3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

Let brotherly love continue

The first six verses of the chapter is on social relations
What will love make us do, Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 4:32-33, 1 John 3:17, Hebrews 10:24, Matthew 7:1, Romans 14:1, James 4:11, 1 Peter 3:9
John Calvin said, "We cannot be Christians without being brethren."
If you don't need brethren, you soon will not need Christ.

Entertain strangers

Hotels in the 1st century were dirty, immoral and expensive
On entertaining angels, Genesis 18:8, Genesis 19:1-3

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Marriage

Two extremes in marriage:
Aesthetics: despised marriage for it defiles man
Libertines: Allow fornication and adultery, 1 Cor. 6
Sexual matters and money go together in the Bible because they refer to selfishness and lack of self control, Eph. 5:3, Col. 3:5.

Covetousness

My helper

Deuteronomy 31:6-8, Colossians 3:5, Psalm 118:6

7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. 9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. 10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well

pleased. ¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Remember those who rule

Old Chart: Roadblocks on way to hell:
Include God, Jesus, spirit, Word, Family of God

Carried about by strange doctrines

Not everything is relative, some things are wrong

Sacrifices/Jesus outside camp

Leviticus 16:27, John 19:20

Bear his reproach

Be willing to suffer for Christ, there is an honor in being persecuted by some people

We seek the one to come

Don't get comfortable here, we are going to heaven

Fruit of lips

We do not sacrifice animals, but our hearts and words, Romans 12:1

Obey those who rule over you

Certainly sounds like elders, they oversee the church, 1 Peter 5:1-4

¹⁸ Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. ¹⁹ But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ²² And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. ²³ Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. ²⁴ Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. ²⁵ Grace be with you all. Amen.

Pray for us

Even the spiritual giant who wrote this letter saw they need to ask for prayers

Complete (perfect) in every good work

Word perfect refers to doctor setting a bone, the fixing of a fishing net so that it is useful again.

From Italy

In the Greek text this is written in it looks like he is writing to people in Italy

Practical lessons from this chapter

1. Respect your leaders
2. Avoid false doctrine
3. Love the brethren
4. Show hospitality
5. Do good deeds
6. Live your life knowing you will die
7. Give thanks to God