

Hebrews: a Bible Study

Lesson Eight

Liberty Towers Church
Men's Bible Study
Just Larry

Better	The message of God, as found in the Bible is two things: REVELATION AND RECONCILIATION	Our Path
1. Better source of God's message 1:1-3		Prophets
2. Better vehicle of God's message 1:4-2:18		Angels
3. Better leadership toward God's message 3:1-3:7		Moses
4. Better internal understanding of God's message 3:8-4:13		Rest
5. Better provider of God's message 4:14-5:10		Priests
6. Better understanding of God's message 5:11-6:12		Teaching
7. Better promise of God's message 6:12-6:20		Promise
8. Better intermediary of God's message 6:20-7:28		Melchizedek
9. Better contract of God's message 8:1-9:28		Covenant
10. Better provision of God's message 10:1-18		Sacrifice
11. Better method of God's message 11:1-40		Faith
12. Better encouragement of God's Message 12:1-13:22		Admonitions

The book of Hebrews is not a change of Revelation and reconciliation. But a better way to understand it

Our focus for tonight Hebrews 6:13-20	Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The message is still the same • The message still fills two needs of man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is God and what does He expect of me? (REVELATION) • A path to God and how to become what he expects of me. (RECONCILIATION) • Tonight it is a message about expectation and hope. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">EXPECTATION IS NOT THE SAME THING AS HOPE</p>	

Remember: the message in Hebrews was to a specific group

Ethnic Jews: With all the history and ritual and relationships which make them a special people, a chosen people

They were Christians: Part of a local church, fellowship, prayers and messages.

The Jewish Christians to whom this letter was addressed, were tempted to abandon their Christian faith and return to Judaism under the threat of persecution.

Some of them had lost their property and had suffered public reproach on account of their faith (10:32-34).

Story of the neighbor that had just made it home from fishing trip.

The neighbor had backed the boat into the side yard and was putting a tarp over his Tool of Fish destruction.

Hey Joe how was fishing today?

Better.....

How's that?

Last week I went up to the lake for the day. For seven hours I trolled every inch of the lake changing from lures to bait and back to lures.

I threw everything I had in my box. I changed depth, speed, even tried sitting still in a cove. I caught nothing.....

But that was last week how was it better this week?

It did the same things and did it in only five hours

I believe there is a great difference between hope and expectations

Exercise in your worksheet

Idea
1

- Last page of the study guide. Read each sentence and decide for your self the most appropriate word choice.
- From your responses what would you think is the difference between Hope and Expectation.

Christian hope is not a passion for the possible but more a passion for the promise

Help:

Hope never disappoints

Expectations almost always disappoints

Hebrew Christians 40-64 AD

Idea
2

- Pentecost thousands of converts to the new Messianic promise
- A sect of Judaism - with apocalyptic eschatology
- Peter took a back seat to James brother of Jesus
- Most Christians were ethnic Jews
 - Jesus as Lord and the resurrected Messiah (Christ)
 - Jesus was returning soon to set up God's Kingdom
 - Very evangelical always encouraging Jews to join
 - It was OK to accept gentiles if they conformed to the Noachide Laws
 - Daily at the temple

The book of Hebrews was pointed to all Hebrew Christians

- Pentecost thousands of converts to the new Messianic promise
- A sect of Judaism – with apocalyptic eschatology
 - We believe in Jesus and he is coming back to set up an earthly kingdom
- Peter took a back seat to James brother of Jesus
 - James a devout Jew wanted to keep the Christians inside of the tent of Judaism.
 - James was there to make sure any gentile converts keep the law.
- Most Christians were ethnic Jews who believed
 - Jesus as Lord and the resurrected Messiah (Christ)
 - Jesus was returning soon to set up God's Kingdom
 - Very evangelical always encouraging Jews to join
 - It was OK to accept gentiles if they conformed to the Noachide Laws
 - Daily at the temple

Jewish Christians at the time of this writing

Idea
3

- Jewish Wars 66 AD. Against Rome's oppression.
 - Slaughter of 6,000 Jews
 - Grass roots reprisals by the Zealots
 - Roman government leaves Jerusalem
 - Roman legions return and are ambushed 6,000 Romans killed
- The Empire strikes back 67 AD Vespasian and Titus
 - The brutal conquest of nation city by city
 - Alliance between the Sadducees and the Zealots
- Two paths in face of Roman oppression
 - Side with the Zealots (wiped out in after the siege of Jerusalem)
 - Flee to the area East of the Jordan (Pella) Late spring of 68 AD
 - Titus lay siege to Jerusalem for 7 months

Two paths

Those aligned to the Zealots and the Sadducees
They occupied the temple mount as the Romans were marching
Were wiped out with the Jews by Titus

It is in this point of History the writer of Hebrews writes this circular letter to the Jewish Church.
All of Paul's epistles were pointed at the gentiles
This one to the Church with its feet in the Old
Time of discouragement
Where is the promise of the return of Jesus?
Where is the promised messiah?
Where is the promised restoration of the Kingdom of David
Where is the great Kingdom of God where the Romans are vanquished, and Jerusalem becomes the
center of the world
For that matter what happened to the promise given to Abraham.

Abraham Promise and Oath 6:13-17

Idea
4

- Illustration not the message
- Promise to make the family of Abraham countless and would bless the world.
- The promise was backed up by an oath by His own name
- Facing the impossibility, Abraham waited
- Abraham received what was promised
- Why bring this up?
 - God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, and he confirmed it with an oath.
 - God did this so that, by two unchangeable things (promise and oath) God can not lie.

The Preacher sites an illustration. 6:13-17

This section is not about Abraham it is about a promise and an oath that brings HOPE

For when God made a promise to Abraham,

It is a proof text of a promise.

And he proves it by this argument, that when God promised a countless offspring to Abraham, it seemed a thing incredible;

Sarah had been through life barren; both had reached a sterile old age, when they were nearer the grave than to a conjugal bed; there was no vigor to beget children, when Sarah's womb, which had been barren through the prime of life, was now become dead.

Who could believe that a nation would proceed from them, equaling the stars in number, and like the sand of the sea?

It was, indeed, **contrary to all reason.**

Yet Abraham looked for this and feared no disappointment, because he relied on the Word of God.

Facing a human impossibility V15 He waited

he waited because of the PROMISE

Genesis 22:16-18


The results were a far off, does not show in practicality

BUT GODS PROMISES ARE SURE

Hope and expectations

Idea # 5

"There is hope, even when your brain tells you there isn't."
JOHN GREEN



- Hope is the oxygen of our souls
- Expectations are defined by the result
 - Result is more important than the process
 - Results are defined by rules, norms, wants, personality
- Godly Hope lets God define the result
 - The result is up to God
 - "I am content in whatever state I am" Paul
 - Hope is never a disappointment
- Without a Godly Hope all we have is expectations and disappointment.

I study the bible all the time. It is one of the joys of my life.

But Study is not enough

Truth is not enough

This truth must lead to something.

This scripture we look at tonight is saying the thing that truth leads to is HOPE

Hope is like the oxygen of our souls

Expectation for your family TO BE FIXED BY GOD

IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN A GODLY HOPE WHICH SAYS

BY YOUR PROMISE, BY YOUR OATH I WILL DO MY PART AND

WHATEVER THE RESULT IT IS SUFFICIENT

HOPE IS POSITIVE

EXPECTATIONS ALWAYS DISAPPOINT US. We are setting the

boundaries, criteria for success or failure

Hope will never disappoint

Expecting the Romans to be vanquished and the Nation of Israel to be restored is QUITE different than hoping that God will do what is

Best for the gospel story.

Hoping your relationship with your family

"Expectations to me are wanting God to do something that I want to happen.

at, but hope to me is having faith in what God can do and trusting that His ways are going to be better than mine."

Hebrews 6:19-20	Key Verse
<p>So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, (A promise of God and an oath of God) we who have taken refuge (These two things) would have strong encouragement (for us) to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us.</p>	

Two things.....

A promise of God backed by an Oath of God sworn by Himself

unchangeable because God is unchangeable

God can't lie about it

When he makes a promise, He has bound Himself to keep it.

Notice HERE..... "WE WHO HAVE TAKE REFUGE" Inclusionary. Lots of commentaries expound at length this "take refuge" is all about the acceptance of Jesus

It may well can be understood this way in order to find an metaphor of all Christians.

BUT I DO NOT

When the text is plain, no use finding something else.

Refuge is the exit out of Jerusalem and surrounding areas and taking safety in the

Transjordan area. Parea.

The reason for the illustration of ABRAHAM and his promise and oath is to ENCOURAGE

ENCOURAGE To..... Take hold of the HOPE we have now.

a hope which is the ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

A hope this is sure

A hope that is steadfast

A hope which allows us to enter the holy of holies

A hope that is guaranteed by heaven (within the veil)

The things this hope provides are

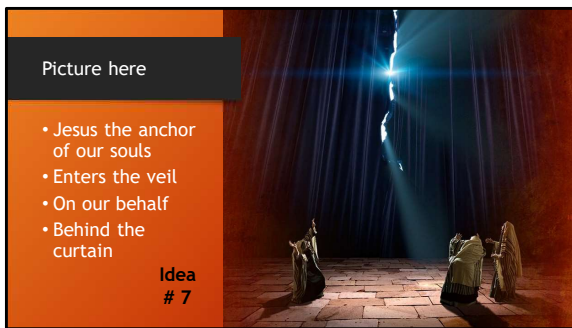
strong encouragement,

creates an anchor of the soul

It proclaims the security

Provides access within the veil

It is an example for us to follow



Mixed metaphor.

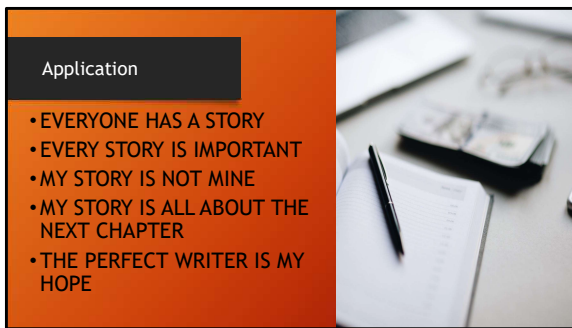
Anchor that enters the inner sanctuary.

Picture of Jesus inside the holy of holies with an anchor rope around his waist attached to each Christian.

He has been there and returned

He sees nothing that would slow him down.

It torn apart to allow our entrance.



We in this room are charged with keeping, professing, sharing this hope to the world.

It is more than an optimistic pie in the sky, ignorant, blinded to the circumstances, idiocy blinded by reality. Life is tough out there. It is a world that is desperate for a genuine hope. And it is a hope with certainty.

These Hebrew Christians were facing hardship and persecution because of their faith and tempted to give it all up. What they needed was a biblical hope. Not just a positive outlook. Not just a cheerful disposition. What these endangered Christians needed was a steady attitude of joy based on the promises of God.

Sometimes we just feel hopeless. We become emotionally bankrupt.

This church has stated for years. Everyone has a story. And that story is important.

But I want to tell you that I don't have a story.

My story is Christ's story.

We are in a life that is thrust upon us. Whether we like it or not.

- I did not ask to be pushed out of the safety of my mothers womb.
- I did not ask to have an unemotional distracted Mother.
- I did not ask for a father that had more concern for others needs than mine
- I did not ask to be in a home where God's name was a cuss word.

Life was thrust upon me. I did not expect to be a father at the age of 18. My goal in life was not carrying quarters of beef on my shoulder loading trucks most of the night. I wanted to make a difference. I wanted my story to mean something.

The question is what is my next chapter of my story?

My story is about both good and bad decisions. But they did not change me. If you could describe my story it would be unemotional hopelessness.

No expectations for tomorrow. Every day the same. I did not dwell on the things that were wrong or less than perfect; what good with that do, it would not change my story just by thinking about it.

SO WHAT IS MY NEXT CHAPTER

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT CHAPTER

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THE WORDS TO BE WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK OF LIFE, YOUR STORY.

Every story is not fair. There are no trophy for just being in the game

Life is not fair. Sometimes bad things happen to good people and even good thing happen to bad people.

Things happen. Unexpected things

- Told you have cancer
- Layed off despite doing the best work of your life
- Kids have revolted
- The dog pooped on the carpet

- The car doesn't run
- Money is running out before the month does
- Addictions have stolen your joy and respect for yourself.

I want to tell you now. Just like the Hebrew Christians. We are living in unexpected times

But we have a hope

We have an anchor

We have a stabilizing force that stands firm

We have a hope that has gone through the veil. Has moved from one side to the other.

Jesus has been there, Jesus has been here. Jesus went back. He has felt the hopelessness.

HOPE is giving up the why.

Hope is resignation of the now

Hope is the expectation of the REST OF THE STORY

HOPE is the next chapter

There are things in our lives that we don't want:

- I don't want my kids to forsake God
- I don't choose to have daily constant and sometimes debilitating Pain
- I don't choose to have a hard drive fail and corrupt hundreds of pictures
- I don't choose to have someone hack my web site and loose hundreds of files.
- I didn't want my Dad to die of a disease that robbed him of his dignity
- We don't choose to have the trials tribulations of life to come upon us like a crashing waterfall dragging our dreams and expectations of good things with them.

The story of Hebrews tonight and from me: I have a hope, an anchor, an encouragement, a great encouragement before the battle of my next chapter.

BECAUSE MY STORY, MY NEXT CHAPTER IS GOD'S NEXT CHAPTER.

AND GOD IS WRITING IT. I CAN TRUST A STORY WRITER LIKE THAT

I CAN HAVE A PERFECT HOPE IN THE WRITER WHICH NEVER LIES, NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE, NEVER USES THE WRONG WORDS, NEVER MISSPELLS.

HOPE IS THE PERFECTED EXPECTATIONS OF PERFECTION IN GOD.