

2027-2028 CMA Hebrews Peter Reference Materials

Hebrews 1

God's Final Word: His Son

- ¶ Hebrews 1:1 - In the **past** God **spoke** to our **ancestors** through the **prophets** at **many times** and in **various ways**,
Hebrews 1:2 - but in **these** last **days** he has **spoken** to **us** by his Son, *whom he **appointed heir** of all things, and through whom also he **made** the universe.*
Hebrews 1:3 - The Son is the **radiance** of God's **glory** and the **exact representation** of his **being**, **sustaining** all things by his **powerful word**. **After** he **had provided purification** for sins, he **sat down** at the right hand of the **Majesty** in **heaven**.
Hebrews 1:4 - **So** he **became** as **much** superior to the **angels** as the **name** he has **inherited** is superior to **theirs**.

The Son Superior to Angels

- ¶ Hebrews 1:5 - For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; **today** I have **become** your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?
- ¶ Hebrews 1:6 - And again, **when** God **brings** his **firstborn** into the **world**, he says, "**Let** all God's angels **worship** him."
- ¶ Hebrews 1:7 - In **speaking** of the angels he says, "He **makes** his angels spirits, and his **servants flames** of fire."
- ¶ Hebrews 1:8 - But **about** the Son he says, "Your **throne**, **O** God, will last for ever and ever; a **scepter of justice** will be the **scepter** of your **kingdom**."
Hebrews 1:9 - You **have loved righteousness** and **hated wickedness**; therefore God, your God, has **set you above** your **companions** by **anointing** you **with the oil** of joy."
- ¶ Hebrews 1:10 - He also says, "In the **beginning**, **Lord**, you **laid** the **foundations** of the **earth**, and the **heavens** are the **work** of your **hands**."
Hebrews 1:11 - They will **perish**, but you **remain**; they will all **wear out** like a garment.
Hebrews 1:12 - You will **roll them up** like a **robe**; like a garment they will be **changed**. But you remain the **same**, and your **years** will **never end**."
- ¶ Hebrews 1:13 - To which of the angels did God ever say, "**Sit** at my right hand **until** I **make** your **enemies** a **footstool** for your **feet**"?
- ¶ Hebrews 1:14 - Are **not** all angels **ministering** spirits **sent** to **serve those who will inherit salvation**?

Hebrews 2

Warning to Pay Attention

- ¶ Hebrews 2:1 - We **must pay** the **most careful attention**, **therefore**, to what we have heard, so that we do not **drift away**.
Hebrews 2:2 - For since the **message spoken** through angels was **binding**, and every **violation** and **disobedience** **received its just punishment**,
Hebrews 2:3 - **how shall** we **escape** if we **ignore** so **great** a salvation? This salvation, which was **first announced** by the **Lord**, was **confirmed** to **us** by those who heard him.
Hebrews 2:4 - God **also** testified to it by **signs**, **wonders** and **various miracles**, and by **gifts** of the Holy **Spirit** **distributed according** to his will.

Jesus Made Fully Human

- ¶ Hebrews 2:5 - It is not to **angels** that he has **subjected** the **world** to **come**, **about** which we are **speaking**.
Hebrews 2:6 - But **there** is a **place where someone** has testified: "What is **mankind** that you are **mindful** of them, a **son of man** that you **care** for him?"
Hebrews 2:7 - You made them a **little lower** than the **angels**; you **crowned** them with glory and honor
Hebrews 2:8 - and **put everything** under their **feet**." In **putting** everything under them, God **left nothing** that is not **subject** to them. **Yet at present** we do not see everything **subject** to them.
Hebrews 2:9 - But we **do** see Jesus, who was made **lower** than the **angels** for a little **while**, **now** crowned with glory and honor because he **suffered death**, so that by the **grace** of God he might **taste** death for **everyone**.
¶ Hebrews 2:10 - In **bringing many sons** and **daughters** to glory, it was **fitting** that God, for whom and through whom everything **exists**, **should** make the **pioneer** of their salvation **perfect** through what he suffered.

- Hebrews 2:11 - Both the **one who makes** people holy and those who are made holy are of the **same family**. So Jesus is not **ashamed to call** them brothers and sisters.
- Hebrews 2:12 - He says, "I will **declare** your **name** to my brothers and sisters; in the **assembly** I will **sing** your **praises**."
- ¶ Hebrews 2:13 - And again, "I will put my **trust** in him." And again he says, "**Here am I**, and the children God has **given me**."
- ¶ Hebrews 2:14 - Since the **children have flesh and blood**, he **too shared** in their **humanity** so that by his death he might **break** the power of him who **holds** the power of death--that is, the devil--
- Hebrews 2:15 - and **free** those who **all their lives were held in slavery** by their **fear** of death.
- Hebrews 2:16 - For **surely** it is not angels he **helps**, but **Abraham's descendants**.
- Hebrews 2:17 - For this **reason** he had to be made **like them, fully human** in every way, in **order** that he might **become a merciful and faithful high priest in service** to God, and that he might make **atonement** for the **sins** of the people.
- Hebrews 2:18 - Because he **himself** suffered **when** he was tempted, he is **able** to **help** those who are **being** tempted.

Hebrews 3

Jesus Greater Than Moses

- ¶ Hebrews 3:1 - **Therefore**, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the **heavenly calling**, **fix** your **thoughts** on Jesus, whom we **acknowledge** as our **apostle and high priest**.
- Hebrews 3:2 - He was faithful to the one who **appointed him**, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.
- Hebrews 3:3 - Jesus has **been found worthy** of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the **house itself**.
- Hebrews 3:4 - For **every house is built** by **someone**, but God is the builder of **everything**.
- Hebrews 3:5 - "Moses was faithful as a **servant** in all God's house," **bearing witness** to what would be **spoken** by God in the **future**.
- Hebrews 3:6 - **But Christ** is faithful as the **Son over** God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our **confidence** and the **hope** in which we **glory**.

Warning Against Unbelief

- ¶ Hebrews 3:7 - So, as the Holy **Spirit says**: "Today, if you hear his voice,
- Hebrews 3:8 - do not harden your hearts as you did in the **rebellion**, **during** the **time of testing** in the wilderness,
- Hebrews 3:9 - **where your ancestors tested and tried me, though** for forty years they **saw** what I did.
- Hebrews 3:10 - That is **why** I was angry with that **generation**; I said, 'Their hearts are **always going astray**, and they have **not known my ways**.'
- Hebrews 3:11 - So I **declared** on **oath** in my **anger**, 'They **shall** never enter my rest.' "
- ¶ Hebrews 3:12 - See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a **sinful, unbelieving heart** that **turns away** from the **living** God.
- Hebrews 3:13 - **But encourage** one **another daily**, as long as it is **called** "Today," so that none of you **may be hardened** by **sin's deceitfulness**.
- Hebrews 3:14 - We have **come** to share in **Christ**, if indeed we **hold our original conviction** firmly to the **very end**.
- Hebrews 3:15 - **As has just been said**: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."
- ¶ Hebrews 3:16 - Who were they who **heard** and **rebelled**? Were they not all those Moses **led out** of **Egypt**?
- Hebrews 3:17 - And **with whom** was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who **sinned, whose bodies perished** in the wilderness?
- Hebrews 3:18 - And to **whom** did God **swear** that they would never enter his rest if not to those who **disobeyed**?
- Hebrews 3:19 - So we see that they were not **able** to enter, **because** of their **unbelief**.

Hebrews 4

A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God

- ¶ Hebrews 4:1 - Therefore, since the **promise of entering** his rest still **stands**, let us be **careful** that **none** of you be **found** to have **fallen short** of it.
- Hebrews 4:2 - For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the **message they heard** was of no **value** to them, because they did not **share** the faith of those who **obeyed**.

- Hebrews 4:3 - **Now** we who have **believed** enter that rest, just as God has **said**, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his works have been **finished** since the creation of the world.
- Hebrews 4:4 - For **somewhere** he has spoken about the seventh day in **these words**: "On the seventh day God **rested** from all his works."
- Hebrews 4:5 - And again in the passage **above** he **says**, "They shall never enter my rest."
- ¶ Hebrews 4:6 - Therefore since it still remains for **some** to enter that rest, and since those who **formerly** had the good news proclaimed to them did not **go** in because of their disobedience,
- Hebrews 4:7 - God again **set** a **certain** day, **calling** it "Today." **This** he did **when** a long time later he **spoke through David**, as in the passage **already quoted**: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not **harden your hearts**."
- ¶ Hebrews 4:8 - For if **Joshua** had **given** them rest, God **would** not have spoken later about **another** day.
- Hebrews 4:9 - **There** remains, then, a **Sabbath-rest** for the **people** of God;
- Hebrews 4:10 - for **anyone** who **enters** God's rest also **rests** from their works, just as God did from his.
- Hebrews 4:11 - Let us, therefore, **make** every **effort** to enter that rest, so that no one **will perish by following their example** of disobedience.
- ¶ Hebrews 4:12 - For the **word** of God is **alive** and **active**. **Sharper than any double-edged sword**, it **penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow**; it **judges the thoughts and attitudes** of the heart.
- Hebrews 4:13 - **Nothing** in all creation is **hidden** from God's **sight**. **Everything** is **uncovered** and **laid bare before** the eyes of him to **whom** we **must give account**.

Jesus the Great High Priest

- ¶ Hebrews 4:14 - Therefore, since we have a **great high** priest who has **ascended into heaven**, **Jesus** the **Son** of God, let us **hold firmly** to the faith we **profess**.
- Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is **unable** to **empathize** with our **weaknesses**, but we have one who has **been tempted** in every **way**, just as we **are**--yet he did not **sin**.
- Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then **approach** God's **throne** of grace with **confidence**, so that we **may receive mercy** and **find grace** to **help** us in our time of **need**.

Hebrews 5

- ¶ Hebrews 5:1 - **Every** high priest is **selected** from **among** the people and is **appointed** to **represent** the people in **matters related** to God, to **offer gifts** and sacrifices for sins.
- Hebrews 5:2 - He is **able** to **deal gently** with those who are **ignorant** and are **going astray**, since he himself is **subject to weakness**.
- Hebrews 5:3 - This is **why** he **has** to offer sacrifices for his **own sins**, as **well** as for the sins of the people.
- Hebrews 5:4 - And no **one** **takes** this **honor** on himself, but he **receives** it **when called** by God, **just as Aaron** was.
- ¶ Hebrews 5:5 - In the **same way**, **Christ** did not **take** on himself the **glory** of **becoming** a high priest. But God **said** to him, "You are **my Son**; **today** I have **become your Father**."
- ¶ Hebrews 5:6 - And he **says** in **another place**, "You are a priest **forever**, in the order of Melchizedek."
- ¶ Hebrews 5:7 - **During** the **days** of Jesus' **life on earth**, he **offered up prayers** and **petitions** with **fervent cries** and **tears** to the one who **could save** him from **death**, and he was **heard** because of his **reverent submission**.
- Hebrews 5:8 - Son though he was, he **learned obedience** from **what** he **suffered**
- Hebrews 5:9 - and, **once made perfect**, he **became** the **source** of **eternal salvation** for all who **obey** him
- Hebrews 5:10 - and was **designated** by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Warning Against Falling Away

- ¶ Hebrews 5:11 - We have **much** to **say** about this, but it is **hard** to **make it clear** to you because you no **longer try** to understand.
- Hebrews 5:12 - In **fact**, though by this **time** you ought to be **teachers**, you need **someone** to **teach** you the **elementary truths** of God's word all over **again**. You need milk, not solid food!
- Hebrews 5:13 - **Anyone** who **lives** on milk, **being still an infant**, is not **acquainted** with the **teaching** about **righteousness**.
- Hebrews 5:14 - But solid food is for the **mature**, who by **constant use** have **trained themselves** to **distinguish good** from **evil**.

Hebrews 6

- ¶ Hebrews 6:1 - Therefore let us **move beyond** the **elementary teachings** about **Christ** and be **taken forward** to

- maturity*, not laying again the **foundation** of repentance **from acts** that **lead to death**, and of faith in God,
- Hebrews 6:2 - **instruction** about **cleansing rites**, the laying on of **hands**, the **resurrection** of the **dead**, and **eternal judgment**.
- Hebrews 6:3 - And God **permitting**, we will do so.
- ¶ Hebrews 6:4 - It is impossible for those who *have* **once** been **enlightened**, who have tasted the **heavenly gift**, who have **shared** in the **Holy Spirit**,
- Hebrews 6:5 - who have tasted the **goodness** of the **word** of God and the **powers** of the **coming age**
- Hebrews 6:6 - and who have **fallen away**, to be **brought back** to repentance. To **their loss** they are **crucifying** the **Son of God** all **over** again and **subjecting** him to **public disgrace**.
- Hebrews 6:7 - Land that **drinks** in the **rain often falling** on it and that produces a **crop useful** to those for **whom** it is **farmed** receives the **blessing** of God.
- Hebrews 6:8 - But land that produces **thorns** and **thistles** is **worthless** and is in **danger** of **being cursed**. In the end it will be **burned**.
- ¶ Hebrews 6:9 - **Even though** we **speak like this**, **dear friends**, we are **convinced** of **better things** in your **case**--the things that have to do with **salvation**.
- Hebrews 6:10 - God is **not unjust**; he will not **forget your work** and the **love** you have **shown him** as you have **helped** his people and **continue to help them**.
- Hebrews 6:11 - We want **each** of you to **show this same diligence** to the very **end**, so that what you **hope for** may be **fully realized**.
- Hebrews 6:12 - We do **not want** you to become **lazy**, but to **imitate** those who **through** faith and **patience inherit** what has been promised.

The Certainty of God's Promise

- ¶ Hebrews 6:13 - **When** God **made** his **promise** to Abraham, **since there** was **no one** greater for him to swear by, he **swore** by **himself**,
- Hebrews 6:14 - **saying**, "**I will surely bless** you and **give you many descendants**."
- Hebrews 6:15 - And so **after waiting patiently**, Abraham **received** what was promised.
- ¶ Hebrews 6:16 - People swear by **someone** greater **than themselves**, and the oath **confirms** what is **said** and **puts** an end to all **argument**.
- Hebrews 6:17 - **Because** God **wanted** to make the **unchanging nature** of his **purpose** very **clear** to the **heirs** of what was promised, he **confirmed** it with an oath.
- Hebrews 6:18 - God **did this** so that, by **two unchangeable** things in **which** it is impossible for God to **lie**, we who have **fled to take hold** of the **hope set before us** may be **greatly encouraged**.
- Hebrews 6:19 - We have this hope as an **anchor** for the **soul**, **firm** and **secure**. It **enters** the **inner sanctuary** behind the **curtain**,
- Hebrews 6:20 - **where** our **forerunner**, **Jesus**, has **entered** on our **behalf**. He has become a **high priest** forever, in the **order** of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7

Melchizedek the Priest

- ¶ Hebrews 7:1 - This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God **Most High**. He met Abraham **returning** from the **defeat** of the **kings** and blessed him,
- Hebrews 7:2 - and Abraham gave him a tenth of **everything**. First, the **name** Melchizedek means "king of **righteousness**"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of **peace**."
- Hebrews 7:3 - Without **father** or **mother**, without **genealogy**, without **beginning** of **days** or **end** of **life**, **resembling** the Son of God, he **remains** a priest forever.
- ¶ Hebrews 7:4 - **Just think how great** he was: Even the **patriarch** Abraham gave him a tenth of the **plunder**!
- Hebrews 7:5 - Now the law **requires** the **descendants** of Levi who become priests to **collect** a tenth from the people--that is, from their **fellow Israelites**--even **though they** also are descended from Abraham.
- Hebrews 7:6 - This **man**, **however**, **did not trace** his **descent** from Levi, **yet** he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who **had** the **promises**.
- Hebrews 7:7 - And without **doubt** the **lesser** is blessed by the **greater**.
- Hebrews 7:8 - In the **one case**, the tenth is collected by people who **die**; but in the **other case**, by him who is declared to be **living**.
- Hebrews 7:9 - **One might** even **say** that Levi, who **collects** the tenth, **paid** the tenth through Abraham,
- Hebrews 7:10 - because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the **body** of his **ancestor**.

Jesus Like Melchizedek

- ¶ Hebrews 7:11 - If **perfection could** have been **attained** through the **Levitical** priesthood--and **indeed** the law **given** to the people **established** that priesthood--**why** was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of **Aaron**?
- Hebrews 7:12 - For when the priesthood is changed, the law **must** be changed also.
- Hebrews 7:13 - He of **whom these things** are said **belonged** to a **different** tribe, and **no** one from that tribe has **ever served at the altar**.
- Hebrews 7:14 - For it is clear that our Lord descended from **Judah**, and in **regard** to that tribe **Moses** said nothing **about** priests.
- Hebrews 7:15 - And **what** we have said is even **more** clear if another priest **like** Melchizedek **appears**,
- Hebrews 7:16 - one who has become a priest not on the **basis** of a regulation as to his **ancestry** but on the **basis** of the **power** of an **indestructible** life.
- Hebrews 7:17 - For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."
- ¶ Hebrews 7:18 - The **former** regulation is set **aside** because it was **weak** and **useless**
- Hebrews 7:19 - (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better **hope** is **introduced**, by which we **draw near** to God.
- ¶ Hebrews 7:20 - And it was not without an oath! **Others** became priests without **any** oath,
- Hebrews 7:21 - but he became a priest **with** an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has **sworn** and will not **change** his **mind**: 'You are a priest forever.'"
- ¶ Hebrews 7:22 - Because of this oath, Jesus has become the **guarantor** of a better **covenant**.
- ¶ Hebrews 7:23 - Now there have been **many** of those priests, **since death prevented** them from **continuing in office**;
- Hebrews 7:24 - but because Jesus lives forever, he has a **permanent** priesthood.
- Hebrews 7:25 - **Therefore** he is **able** to **save completely** those who come to God through him, because he **always** lives to **intercede** for them.
- ¶ Hebrews 7:26 - **Such** a high priest **truly meets** our need--one who is **holy, blameless, pure, set apart** from **sinners, exalted above** the heavens.
- Hebrews 7:27 - **Unlike** the other high priests, he **does not need** to **offer sacrifices** day after day, first for his **own** sins, and then for the sins of the people. He **sacrificed** for their **sins once** for all when he **offered himself**.
- Hebrews 7:28 - For the law **appoints** as high priests **men** in all their **weakness**; but the oath, which **came** after the law, **appointed** the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 8

The High Priest of a New Covenant

- ¶ Hebrews 8:1 - **Now** the **main point** of what we are **saying** is this: We **do** have **such** a high priest, who **sat down** at the **right** hand of the **throne** of the **Majesty** in heaven,
- Hebrews 8:2 - and who **serves** in the sanctuary, the **true** tabernacle **set up** by the Lord, not by a **mere human being**.
- ¶ Hebrews 8:3 - **Every** high priest is **appointed** to offer **both** gifts and **sacrifices**, and **so** it was **necessary** for this one **also** to have **something** to offer.
- Hebrews 8:4 - If he **were** on **earth**, he would not be a priest, for there are **already priests** who offer the gifts **prescribed** by the law.
- Hebrews 8:5 - They **serve** at a sanctuary that is a **copy** and **shadow** of what is in heaven. This is **why Moses** was **warned** when he was **about** to **build** the tabernacle: "**See** to it that you make **everything according** to the **pattern shown** you on the **mountain**."
- Hebrews 8:6 - But in **fact** the **ministry Jesus has received** is as superior to **theirs** as the covenant of **which** he is **mediator** is superior to the **old** one, **since** the new covenant is **established** on **better promises**.
- ¶ Hebrews 8:7 - For if there **had** been **nothing wrong** with that first covenant, no **place** would have been **sought** for another.
- Hebrews 8:8 - But God **found fault** with the people and **said**: "The **days** are **coming**, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of **Israel** and with the people of **Judah**."
- Hebrews 8:9 - It will not be **like** the covenant I made with their **ancestors** when I **took** them by the hand to **lead** them **out** of **Egypt**, because they **did not remain faithful** to my covenant, and I **turned away** from them, declares the Lord.
- Hebrews 8:10 - This is the covenant I will **establish** with the people of **Israel** **after** that **time**, declares the Lord. I will **put** my **laws** in their **minds** and **write** them on their **hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people.
- Hebrews 8:11 - No **longer** will they **teach** their **neighbor, or say** to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will **all** know **me**, from the **least** of them to the **greatest**.
- Hebrews 8:12 - For I will **forgive** their **wickedness** and will **remember** their **sins no more**."

¶ Hebrews 8:13 - By **calling** this covenant "new," he has made the *first one* obsolete; and what is obsolete and **outdated** will **soon disappear**.

Hebrews 9

Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle

- ¶ Hebrews 9:1 - Now the first *covenant* had regulations for **worship** and **also** an **earthly** sanctuary.
- Hebrews 9:2 - A **tabernacle** was set **up**. In its first room were the **lampstand** and the **table** with its **consecrated bread**; this was called the Holy Place.
- Hebrews 9:3 - **Behind** the second **curtain** was a room called the Most Holy Place,
- Hebrews 9:4 - which had the **golden altar** of **incense** and the **gold-covered** ark of the covenant. This ark **contained** the **gold jar** of **manna**, **Aaron's staff** that had **budded**, and the **stone tablets** of the covenant.
- Hebrews 9:5 - **Above** the ark were the **cherubim** of the **Glory**, **overshadowing** the **atonement cover**. But we **cannot discuss** these things in **detail** now.
- ¶ Hebrews 9:6 - When everything had been **arranged like this**, the **priests** entered **regularly** into the **outer** room to **carry on their ministry**.
- Hebrews 9:7 - But only the high priest entered the **inner** room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in **ignorance**.
- Hebrews 9:8 - The Holy Spirit was **showing** by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not **yet been disclosed** as long as the first tabernacle was **still functioning**.
- Hebrews 9:9 - This is an **illustration** for the **present time**, **indicating** that the **gifts** and **sacrifices being** offered were not **able to clear the conscience** of the **worshiper**.
- Hebrews 9:10 - They are only a **matter of food** and **drink** and **various ceremonial washings--external** regulations **applying until** the time of the **new order**.

The Blood of Christ

- ¶ Hebrews 9:11 - But when Christ **came** as high priest of the **good** things that are *now* **already here**, he **went through** the **greater** and **more perfect** tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to **say**, is not a **part** of this creation.
- Hebrews 9:12 - He did not **enter by means** of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, **thus obtaining** eternal **redemption**.
- Hebrews 9:13 - The blood of goats and **bulls** and the **ashes** of a **heifer** sprinkled on those who are **ceremonially unclean sanctify** them so that they are **outwardly clean**.
- Hebrews 9:14 - **How much more, then**, will the blood of **Christ**, who through the *eternal Spirit* offered himself **unblemished** to God, **cleanse our consciences** from acts that **lead** to death, so that we **may serve** the living God!
- ¶ Hebrews 9:15 - For this **reason** **Christ** is the **mediator** of a new covenant, that those who are *called* may **receive** the **promised eternal inheritance**--now that he has *died* as a **ransom** to set them **free** from the sins committed **under** the first covenant.
- ¶ Hebrews 9:16 - In the **case** of a will, it is necessary to **prove** the death of the one who made it,
- Hebrews 9:17 - **because** a will is in **force** only when **somebody** has died; it never **takes effect while** the one who made it is *living*.
- Hebrews 9:18 - This is **why even** the first covenant was not **put into effect** without blood.
- Hebrews 9:19 - When **Moses** had **proclaimed** every **command** of the law to all the people, he **took** the blood of calves, **together with water**, **scarlet wool** and **branches** of **hyssop**, and sprinkled the **scroll** and all the people.
- Hebrews 9:20 - He **said**, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has **commanded you to keep**."
- Hebrews 9:21 - In the **same way**, he sprinkled with the blood **both** the tabernacle and everything **used** in its **ceremonies**.
- Hebrews 9:22 - In **fact**, the law **requires that nearly** everything be **cleansed** with blood, and without the **shedding of blood there is no forgiveness**.
- ¶ Hebrews 9:23 - It was **necessary, then**, for the **copies** of the heavenly things to be **purified** with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things **themselves** with **better sacrifices than** these.
- Hebrews 9:24 - For Christ did not **enter a sanctuary** made with human hands that was only a **copy** of the **true one**; he entered heaven **itself**, now to appear for us in **God's presence**.
- Hebrews 9:25 - **Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again** and again, the way the high priest **enters** the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is *not his own*.
- Hebrews 9:26 - **Otherwise Christ would have** had to **suffer many times since** the creation of the **world**. But he has **appeared** once for all **at the culmination** of the **ages** to **do away with sin** by the **sacrifice** of himself.

Hebrews 9:27 - **Just** as people are **destined to die** once, and **after** that to **face judgment**,
Hebrews 9:28 - so Christ was **sacrificed** once to **take** away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to **bear sin**, but to **bring salvation** to those who are **waiting** for him.

Hebrews 10

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

- ¶ Hebrews 10:1 - The law is only a **shadow** of the good things that are coming--not the **realities themselves**. For this **reason** it can never, by the same sacrifices **repeated endlessly** year after year, make perfect those who draw near to **worship**.
- Hebrews 10:2 - **Otherwise**, would they not have **stopped** being offered? For the **worshippers** would have been **cleansed** once for all, and would no longer have **felt** guilty for their sins.
- Hebrews 10:3 - But those sacrifices are an **annual reminder** of sins.
- Hebrews 10:4 - It is **impossible** for the blood of **bulls and goats** to take away sins.
- ¶ Hebrews 10:5 - Therefore, when Christ **came** into the **world**, he said: "Sacrifice and **offering** you did not desire, but a body you **prepared** for me;
- Hebrews 10:6 - with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.
- Hebrews 10:7 - Then I said, 'Here I am--it is **written** about me in the **scroll**-- I have come to do your will, my God.'"
- ¶ Hebrews 10:8 - First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, **nor** were you pleased with them"--**though** they were offered in **accordance** with the law.
- Hebrews 10:9 - Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He **sets aside** the first to **establish** the **second**.
- Hebrews 10:10 - And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ **once** for all.
- ¶ Hebrews 10:11 - Day after day **every** priest **stands** and **performs** his **religious duties**; again and again he **offers** the same sacrifices, **which** can never take away sins.
- Hebrews 10:12 - But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he **sat down** at the **right hand** of God,
- Hebrews 10:13 - and since that time he **waits** for his enemies to be made his **footstool**.
- Hebrews 10:14 - For by one sacrifice he has made perfect **forever** those who are being made holy.
- ¶ Hebrews 10:15 - The Holy Spirit **also testifies** to us about this. First he says:
- ¶ Hebrews 10:16 - "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will **put** my laws in their hearts, and I will **write** them on their minds."
- ¶ Hebrews 10:17 - Then he **adds**: "Their sins and **lawless acts** I will remember no more."
- ¶ Hebrews 10:18 - And **where these** have been **forgiven**, sacrifice for sin is no longer **necessary**.

A Call to Persevere in Faith

- ¶ Hebrews 10:19 - Therefore, **brothers** and **sisters**, since we have confidence to **enter** the **Most Holy Place** by the blood of Jesus,
- Hebrews 10:20 - by a **new and living way opened** for us through the **curtain**, that is, his body,
- Hebrews 10:21 - and since we have a **great priest over** the **house** of God,
- Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near to God with a **sincere heart** and with the full **assurance** that faith **brings**, having our hearts **sprinkled** to **cleanse** us from a guilty **conscience** and having our **bodies washed** with **pure water**.
- Hebrews 10:23 - Let us **hold unswervingly** to the **hope** we **profess**, for he who promised is **faithful**.
- Hebrews 10:24 - And let us **consider** how we **may spur** one another on **toward love** and good deeds,
- Hebrews 10:25 - not **giving up meeting together**, as **some** are in the **habit** of **doing**, but **encouraging** one another--and all the more as you **see** the Day **approaching**.
- ¶ Hebrews 10:26 - If we **deliberately keep** on **sinning** after we have received the **knowledge** of the **truth**, no sacrifice for sins is **left**,
- Hebrews 10:27 - but only a **fearful expectation** of **judgment** and of **raging fire** that will **consume** the enemies of God.
- Hebrews 10:28 - **Anyone** who **rejected** the law of **Moses** died without mercy on the **testimony** of **two or three witnesses**.
- Hebrews 10:29 - How **much** more **severely** do you **think someone deserves** to be **punished** who has **trampled** the **Son of God underfoot**, who has treated as an **unholy** thing the blood of the covenant that **sanctified** them, and who has **insulted** the Spirit of **grace**?
- Hebrews 10:30 - For we **know him** who said, "It is **mine** to **avenge**; I will **repay**," and again, "The Lord will **judge** his people."
- Hebrews 10:31 - It is a **dreadful** thing to **fall** into the **hands** of the living God.

- ¶ Hebrews 10:32 - Remember *those earlier days* after you had received the **light**, when you **endured** in a great **conflict** full of **suffering**.
- Hebrews 10:33 - **Sometimes** you were **publicly exposed** to **insult** and **persecution**; at **other times** you **stood** side by side with those who were so treated.
- Hebrews 10:34 - You **suffered along** with those in **prison** and **joyfully accepted** the **confiscation** of your **property**, **because** you **knew** that you **yourselves** had **better** and **lasting possessions**.
- Hebrews 10:35 - So do not **throw** away your confidence; it will be **richly rewarded**.
- ¶ Hebrews 10:36 - You **need** to **persevere** so that when you have **done** the will of God, you will **receive what** he has promised.
- Hebrews 10:37 - For, "*In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.*"
- ¶ Hebrews 10:38 - And, "*But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.*"
- ¶ Hebrews 10:39 - But we do not **belong** to those who **shrink** back and are **destroyed**, but to those who have faith and are **saved**.

Hebrews 11

Faith in Action

- ¶ Hebrews 11:1 - **Now** faith is **confidence** in what we **hope** for and **assurance** about what we do not **see**.
- Hebrews 11:2 - This is what the **ancients** were commended for.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:3 - By faith we **understand** that the **universe** was **formed at God's command**, so that what is seen was not made **out** of what was **visible**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel **brought** God a better **offering** than **Cain** did. By faith he was commended as **righteous**, when God spoke **well** of his **offerings**. And by faith Abel still **speaks**, even though he is dead.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:5 - By faith **Enoch** was taken from this life, so that he did not **experience** death: "He could not be **found**, because God had taken him **away**." For **before** he was taken, he was commended as one who **pleased** God.
- Hebrews 11:6 - And **without** faith it is **impossible** to **please** God, because **anyone** who **comes** to him **must believe** that he **exists** and that he **rewards** those who **earnestly seek** him.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:7 - By faith **Noah**, when **warned** about things not yet seen, in **holy fear** built an **ark** to **save his family**. By his faith he **condemned** the world and became **heir** of the **righteousness** that is in **keeping** with faith.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham, when called to **go** to a **place** he would **later** receive as his **inheritance**, **obeyed** and went, even though he did not **know where** he was **going**.
- Hebrews 11:9 - By faith he made his **home** in the promised land **like a stranger** in a foreign country; he **lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were **heirs** with him of the **same** promise.
- Hebrews 11:10 - For he was looking **forward** to the city with **foundations**, whose **architect** and **builder** is God.
- Hebrews 11:11 - And by faith even **Sarah**, who was **past childbearing age**, was **enabled** to **bear children** because she **considered** him **faithful** who had made the promise.
- Hebrews 11:12 - And so from this one **man**, and he as **good** as dead, **came descendants** as **numerous** as the **stars** in the **sky** and as **countless** as the **sand** on the **seashore**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:13 - All these people were still living by faith when they **died**. They did not receive the things promised; they only **saw** them and welcomed them from a **distance**, **admitting** that they were **foreigners** and **strangers** on earth.
- Hebrews 11:14 - People who say **such** things **show** that they **are** looking for a country of their **own**.
- Hebrews 11:15 - If they had been **thinking** of the country they had left, they would have had **opportunity** to **return**.
- Hebrews 11:16 - **Instead**, they were **longing** for a better country--a **heavenly** one. **Therefore** God is not **ashamed** to be called their God, for he **has prepared** a city for them.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:17 - By faith Abraham, when God **tested** him, **offered** Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had **embraced** the **promises** was about to sacrifice his one and only son,
- Hebrews 11:18 - even though God had **said** to him, "*It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.*"
- Hebrews 11:19 - Abraham **reasoned** that God could even **raise** the dead, and so in a **manner** of **speaking** he did receive Isaac back from death.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:20 - By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and **Esau** in regard to their **future**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:21 - By faith Jacob, when he was **dying**, blessed **each** of **Joseph's sons**, and **worshiped** as he **leaned** on the **top** of his **staff**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:22 - By faith **Joseph**, when his **end** was **near**, spoke about the **exodus** of the **Israelites** from Egypt and **gave instructions** concerning the **burial** of his **bones**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:23 - By faith **Moses' parents** **hid** him for **three months** after he was **born**, because they saw he was **no ordinary child**, and they were not **afraid** of the king's **edict**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:24 - By faith **Moses**, when he had **grown up**, **refused** to be **known** as the son of **Pharaoh's daughter**.

- Hebrews 11:25 - He **chose** to be mistreated **along** with the people of God **rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin**.
- Hebrews 11:26 - He **regarded disgrace** for the **sake of Christ** as of **greater value** than the **treasures** of Egypt, because he was **looking ahead** to his **reward**.
- Hebrews 11:27 - By faith he left Egypt, not **fearing the king's anger**; he **persevered** because he saw him who is **invisible**.
- Hebrews 11:28 - By faith he **kept the Passover** and the **application of blood**, so that the **destroyer** of the firstborn would not **touch** the firstborn of Israel.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:29 - By faith the **people passed through the Red Sea** as on **dry land**; **but** when the **Egyptians tried** to do so, they were **drowned**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:30 - By faith the **walls of Jericho fell**, after the **army had marched around them for seven days**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:31 - By faith the **prostitute Rahab**, because she welcomed the **spies**, was not killed with those who were **disobedient**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:32 - And what **more shall I say?** I do not have **time to tell** about **Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah**, about **David and Samuel** and the **prophets**,
- Hebrews 11:33 - who through faith **conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained** what was promised; who **shut the mouths of lions**,
- Hebrews 11:34 - **quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge** of the sword; whose **weakness was turned to strength**; and who became **powerful in battle** and **routed foreign armies**.
- Hebrews 11:35 - **Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released** so that they **might gain** an even better **resurrection**.
- Hebrews 11:36 - **Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment**.
- Hebrews 11:37 - They were **put to death by stoning**; they were **sawed in two**; they were killed by the sword. They went about in **sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted** and mistreated--
- Hebrews 11:38 - the world was not **worthy** of them. They **wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground**.
- ¶ Hebrews 11:39 - These were all commended for their faith, yet **none** of them received what had been promised,
- Hebrews 11:40 - **since God had planned something better** for us so that only **together** with us would they be made perfect.

Hebrews 12

- ¶ Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are **surrounded** by such a **great cloud of witnesses**, let us **throw off everything that hinders** and the sin that so **easily entangles**. And let us **run with perseverance the race marked out** for us,
- Hebrews 12:2 - **fixing our eyes** on Jesus, the **pioneer and perfecter of faith**. For the **joy set before him** he endured the **cross, scorning its shame, and sat down** at the **right hand of the throne** of God.
- Hebrews 12:3 - **Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners**, so that you will not **grow weary** and lose heart.

God Disciplines His Children

- ¶ Hebrews 12:4 - In your **struggle against sin**, you have not **yet resisted** to the **point of shedding your blood**.
- Hebrews 12:5 - And have you **completely forgotten** this word of **encouragement** that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "**My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.**"
- ¶ Hebrews 12:7 - **Endure hardship** as discipline; God is **treating** you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by **their father**?
- Hebrews 12:8 - If you are not **disciplined--and everyone undergoes discipline--then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters** at all.
- Hebrews 12:9 - **Moreover, we have all had human fathers** who disciplined us and we **respected** them for it. How much more **should we submit** to the Father of spirits and live!
- Hebrews 12:10 - They disciplined us for a **little while** as they **thought best**; but God disciplines us for our **good, in order** that we may **share** in his holiness.
- Hebrews 12:11 - No discipline **seems pleasant** at the time, but **painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have **been trained** by it.
- ¶ Hebrews 12:12 - Therefore, **strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees**.
- Hebrews 12:13 - "Make **level paths** for your **feet**," so that the **lame** may not be **disabled, but rather healed**.

Warning and Encouragement

- ¶ Hebrews 12:14 - Make **every effort** to live *in peace with everyone* and to be **holy**; **without holiness** no one will see the Lord.
- Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no *one* **falls short** of the **grace** of God and that no **bitter root grows up to cause trouble** and **defile many**.
- Hebrews 12:16 - See that no *one* is **sexually immoral**, or is **godless like Esau**, who for a **single meal sold his inheritance rights** as the **oldest** son.
- Hebrews 12:17 - **Afterward**, as you **know**, when he **wanted to inherit** this blessing, he was **rejected**. Even though he **sought** the blessing with **tears**, he could not **change** what he had **done**.

The Mountain of Fear and the Mountain of Joy

- ¶ Hebrews 12:18 - You have not come to a *mountain* that can be **touched** and that is **burning** with fire; to **darkness**, **gloom** and **storm**;
- Hebrews 12:19 - to a **trumpet blast** or to such a voice **speaking** words that those who **heard it begged** that no **further** word be **spoken** to them,
- Hebrews 12:20 - because *they could not bear* what was **commanded**: "If even **an animal touches** the mountain, it **must be stoned to death**."
- Hebrews 12:21 - The **sight** was so **terrifying** that **Moses said**, "I am **trembling** with **fear**."
- ¶ Hebrews 12:22 - But you have come to **Mount Zion**, to the **city** of the **living** God, the **heavenly Jerusalem**. You have come to **thousands upon thousands of angels** in **joyful assembly**,
- Hebrews 12:23 - to the **church** of the **firstborn**, whose **names** are **written** in heaven. You have come to God, the **Judge of all**, to the **spirits** of the **righteous made perfect**,
- Hebrews 12:24 - to Jesus the **mediator** of a **new covenant**, and to the **sprinkled blood** that speaks a **better word than** the blood of **Abel**.
- ¶ Hebrews 12:25 - See to it that you do **not refuse** him who *speaks*. If they **did not escape** when they **refused** him who **warned** them on earth, how much **less** will we, if we **turn away** from him who **warns** us from heaven?
- Hebrews 12:26 - At that time his voice **shook** the earth, but **now he has promised**, "Once more I will **shake** not only the earth but **also** the **heavens**."
- Hebrews 12:27 - The words "once more" **indicate** the **removing** of what can be shaken--that is, **created things**--so that what cannot be shaken may **remain**.
- ¶ Hebrews 12:28 - Therefore, since we are **receiving** a **kingdom** that cannot be shaken, let us be **thankful**, and so **worship** God **acceptably** with **reverence** and **awe**,
- Hebrews 12:29 - for our "God is a **consuming fire**."

Hebrews 13

Concluding Exhortations

- ¶ Hebrews 13:1 - Keep **on loving one another** as **brothers** and sisters.
- Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to **show hospitality to strangers**, for by so doing **some people have shown** hospitality to **angels without knowing it**.
- Hebrews 13:3 - **Continue** to remember those in *prison* as if you were **together** with **them** in prison, and those who are **mistreated** as if you **yourselves** were **suffering**.
- ¶ Hebrews 13:4 - **Marriage should be honored** by all, and the **marriage bed kept pure**, for God will **judge the adulterer** and all the **sexually immoral**.
- Hebrews 13:5 - **Keep your lives free** from the **love of money** and be **content** with what you have, because God has **said**, "Never will I **leave** you; never will I **forsake** you."
- ¶ Hebrews 13:6 - So we **say** with confidence, "The Lord is my **helper**; I will not be **afraid**. What **can mere mortals** do to me?"
- ¶ Hebrews 13:7 - Remember your **leaders**, who **spoke** the word of God to you. **Consider the outcome** of their way of **life** and **imitate** their **faith**.
- Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday and today and forever**.
- ¶ Hebrews 13:9 - Do not be **carried away** by all **kinds** of **strange teachings**. It is good for our **hearts** to be **strengthened** by **grace**, not by **eating ceremonial foods**, which is of no benefit to those who do so.
- Hebrews 13:10 - We have an **altar** from which those who **minister** at the **tabernacle** have no **right to eat**.
- ¶ Hebrews 13:11 - The **high priest carries** the blood of **animals into** the **Most Holy Place** as a **sin offering**, but the **bodies** are **burned** outside the camp.
- Hebrews 13:12 - And so **Jesus also suffered** outside the **city gate** to **make** the people holy **through his own** blood.
- Hebrews 13:13 - Let us, **then, go** to him outside the **camp**, **bearing the disgrace** he **bore**.
- Hebrews 13:14 - For **here** we do not have an **enduring city**, but we are **looking** for the **city** that is to come.

- ¶ **Hebrews 13:15** - Through *Jesus*, **therefore**, let us **continually offer** to God a **sacrifice of praise**--the **fruit of lips** that **openly profess his name**.
- Hebrews 13:16** - And do not forget to do good and to **share with others**, for with **such sacrifices** God is **pleased**.
- ¶ **Hebrews 13:17** - Have confidence in your leaders and **submit** to their **authority**, because **they** keep **watch over** you as those who **must give an account**. Do **this** so that their work will be a **joy**, not a **burden**, for that **would** be of no benefit to you.
- ¶ **Hebrews 13:18** - Pray for us. We are **sure** that we have a **clear conscience** and **desire** to **live honorably** in every way.
- Hebrews 13:19** - I **particularly** urge you to pray so that I may be **restored** to you soon.

Benediction and Final Greetings

- ¶ **Hebrews 13:20** - **Now** may the God of **peace**, who through the blood of the **eternal covenant brought back** from the **dead** our Lord *Jesus*, that **great Shepherd of the sheep**,
- Hebrews 13:21** - **equip** you with **everything** good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is **pleasing** to him, through *Jesus* Christ, to **whom** be **glory** for ever and ever. **Amen**.
- ¶ **Hebrews 13:22** - Brothers and sisters, I urge you to **bear** with my word of **exhortation**, for in **fact** I have **written** to you **quite briefly**.
- ¶ **Hebrews 13:23** - I **want** you to **know** that our **brother Timothy** has **been released**. If he **arrives** soon, I will come with him to **see** you.
- ¶ **Hebrews 13:24** - **Greet** all your leaders and all the **Lord's** people. Those from **Italy** **send** you their **greetings**.
- ¶ **Hebrews 13:25** - Grace be with you all.

1 Peter 1

- ¶ **1 Peter 1:1** - *Peter*, an **apostle** of *Jesus* Christ, To God's **elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia**,
- 1 Peter 1:2** - who have **been chosen according** to the **foreknowledge** of God the *Father*, through the **sanctifying** work of the *Spirit*, to be obedient to *Jesus* Christ and **sprinkled** with his **blood**: Grace and **peace** be **yours** in abundance.

Praise to God for a Living Hope

- ¶ **1 Peter 1:3** - Praise be to the God and *Father* of our Lord *Jesus* Christ! In his **great mercy** he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of *Jesus* Christ from the dead,
- 1 Peter 1:4** - and into an inheritance that **can never perish, spoil or fade**. This inheritance is **kept** in heaven for you,
- 1 Peter 1:5** - who through **faith** are **shielded** by God's **power until** the coming of the **salvation** that is **ready** to be revealed in the **last time**.
- 1 Peter 1:6** - In **all this** you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a **little while** you may have had to **suffer grief** in all kinds of **trials**.
- 1 Peter 1:7** - These have come so that the **proven genuineness** of your faith--of **greater worth than gold**, which **perishes** even though **refined** by **fire**--may result in **praise, glory** and **honor** when *Jesus* Christ is revealed.
- 1 Peter 1:8** - Though you have **not seen** him, you **love** him; and even though you do not **see** him now, you believe in him and are **filled** with an **inexpressible** and **glorious joy**,
- 1 Peter 1:9** - for you are **receiving the end** result of your faith, the **salvation** of your **souls**.
- ¶ **1 Peter 1:10** - **Concerning** this **salvation**, the **prophets**, who spoke of the **grace** that was to come to you, **searched intently** and with the **greatest care**,
- 1 Peter 1:11** - **trying to find** out the **time and circumstances** to which the *Spirit* of Christ in them was **pointing** when he **predicted** the **sufferings** of the **Messiah** and the **glories** that **would follow**.
- 1 Peter 1:12** - It was **revealed** to them that they were **not serving themselves** but you, when they spoke of the things that **have now been told** you by **those** who have preached the **gospel** to you by the Holy *Spirit* **sent** from heaven. Even **angels long to look** into these things.

Be Holy

- ¶ **1 Peter 1:13** - **Therefore**, with **minds** that are **alert** and **fully sober**, **set** your hope on the grace to be **brought** to you when *Jesus* Christ is **revealed at** his coming.
- 1 Peter 1:14** - As obedient **children**, do not **conform** to the **evil desires** you had when you **lived** in **ignorance**.
- 1 Peter 1:15** - But **just** as he who **called** you is **holy**, so be **holy** in all you do;
- 1 Peter 1:16** - for it is **written**: "**Be holy, because I am holy**."

- ¶ 1 Peter 1:17 - Since you **call** on a Father who **judges** each **person's** work **impartially**, **live** out your time as **foreigners here** in reverent fear.
- 1 Peter 1:18 - For you **know** that it was not with perishable things **such** as **silver** or gold that you were **redeemed** from the **empty way** of **life handed down** to you from your **ancestors**,
- 1 Peter 1:19 - but with the **precious** blood of Christ, a **lamb without blemish** or **defect**.
- 1 Peter 1:20 - He was chosen **before** the **creation** of the **world**, but was revealed in these **last times** for your **sake**.
- 1 Peter 1:21 - Through him you believe in God, who **raised** him from the dead and **glorified** him, and so your faith and hope are in God.
- ¶ 1 Peter 1:22 - Now that you have **purified yourselves** by **obeying** the **truth** so that you have **sincere** love for each **other**, **love one another deeply**, from the **heart**.
- 1 Peter 1:23 - For you have been **born again**, not of perishable **seed**, but of **imperishable**, through the living and **enduring** word of God.
- 1 Peter 1:24 - For, "All **people** are like **grass**, and all **their** glory is like the **flowers** of the **field**; the **grass withers** and the **flowers fall**,
- 1 Peter 1:25 - but the word of the Lord **endures forever**." And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 Peter 2

- ¶ 1 Peter 2:1 - **Therefore, rid** yourselves of all **malice** and all deceit, **hypocrisy**, **envy**, and **slander** of every **kind**.
- 1 Peter 2:2 - Like **newborn babies**, **crave pure** spiritual **milk**, so that by it you may **grow up** in your **salvation**,
- 1 Peter 2:3 - now that you have **tasted** that the **Lord** is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

- ¶ 1 Peter 2:4 - As you **come** to him, the **living Stone**--rejected by **humans** but chosen by God and **precious** to him--
- 1 Peter 2:5 - you **also**, like **living stones**, are **being built** into a **spiritual house** to be a **holy priesthood**, **offering** spiritual **sacrifices acceptable** to God through **Jesus Christ**.
- 1 Peter 2:6 - For in **Scripture** it **says**: "See, I **lay** a stone in **Zion**, a chosen and precious **cornerstone**, and the **one** who **trusts** in him will **never** be **put to shame**."
- ¶ 1 Peter 2:7 - Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the **builders** rejected **has become** the **cornerstone**,"
- ¶ 1 Peter 2:8 - and, "A stone that **causes** people to **stumble** and a **rock** that **makes them fall**." They stumble because they **disobey** the **message**--which is also **what** they were **destined** for.
- ¶ 1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal** priesthood, a **holy nation**, God's **special possession**, that you may **declare** the **praises** of him who called you **out** of **darkness** into his **wonderful light**.
- 1 Peter 2:10 - Once you were not a **people**, but now you are the people of God; once you **had not** received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

- ¶ 1 Peter 2:11 - **Dear friends**, I urge you, as **foreigners** and **exiles**, to **abstain from sinful desires**, which **wage war against** your **soul**.
- 1 Peter 2:12 - Live **such good lives among** the **pagans** that, **though** they **accuse** you of doing wrong, they may see your good **deeds** and **glorify** God on the **day** he **visits us**.
- ¶ 1 Peter 2:13 - Submit yourselves for the **Lord's sake** to every **human** authority: **whether** to the emperor, as the **supreme** authority,
- 1 Peter 2:14 - **or to governors**, who are **sent** by him to **punish** those who do wrong and to **commend** those who do **right**.
- 1 Peter 2:15 - For it is God's **will** that by doing good you should **silence** the **ignorant talk** of **foolish** people.
- 1 Peter 2:16 - Live as **free** people, but do not **use** your **freedom** as a **cover-up** for **evil**; live as God's slaves.
- 1 Peter 2:17 - **Show proper respect to everyone**, **love** the family of **believers**, fear God, **honor** the emperor.
- ¶ 1 Peter 2:18 - Slaves, in **reverent** fear of God submit yourselves to your **masters**, not **only** to those who are good and **considerate**, but also to those who are **harsh**.
- 1 Peter 2:19 - For it is commendable if **someone bears up under** the **pain** of **unjust suffering** because they are **conscious** of God.
- 1 Peter 2:20 - But **how** is it to your **credit** if you **receive** a **beating** for doing wrong and endure it? But if you **suffer** for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable **before** God.
- 1 Peter 2:21 - To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, **leaving** you **an example**, that you should **follow** in his **steps**.
- ¶ 1 Peter 2:22 - "He **committed no sin**, and no deceit **was found** in his **mouth**."

- ¶ 1 Peter 2:23 - When they **hurled their insults at him**, he **did not retaliate**; when he suffered, he **made no threats**. **Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**
- 1 Peter 2:24 - "He himself **bore our sins**" in his **body** on the **cross**, so that **we might die to sins and live for righteousness**; "by his **wounds** you have **been healed**."
- 1 Peter 2:25 - For "you were like **sheep going astray**," but now you have **returned** to the **Shepherd and Overseer** of your **souls**.

1 Peter 3

- ¶ 1 Peter 3:1 - Wives, in the same way **submit yourselves** to your own husbands so that, if **any** of them do not **believe** the **word**, they may be **won over without words** by the behavior of their wives,
- 1 Peter 3:2 - when they see the **purity and reverence** of your **lives**.
- 1 Peter 3:3 - Your beauty should not **come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes**.
- 1 Peter 3:4 - **Rather**, it should be that of your **inner self**, the **unfading** beauty of a **gentle and quiet** spirit, **which** is of **great worth** in God's sight.
- 1 Peter 3:5 - For this is the way the **holy women** of the **past** who put their hope in God **used to adorn** themselves. They **submitted** themselves to their own husbands,
- 1 Peter 3:6 - **like Sarah**, who **obeyed Abraham** and called him her lord. You are her **daughters** if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.
- ¶ 1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way be **considerate** as you **live** with your wives, and **treat** them with respect as the **weaker partner** and as **heirs** with you of the **gracious gift** of life, so that **nothing** will **hinder** your **prayers**.

Suffering for Doing Good

- ¶ 1 Peter 3:8 - **Finally**, all of you, be **like-minded**, be **sympathetic**, love **one another**, be **compassionate** and **humble**.
- 1 Peter 3:9 - Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the **contrary**, repay evil with blessing, **because** to this you were called so that you may **inherit** a blessing.
- 1 Peter 3:10 - For, "**Whoever would** love life and see good days must **keep** their **tongue** from evil and their **lips** from **deceitful speech**."
- 1 Peter 3:11 - They must **turn** from evil and do good; they must **seek peace** and **pursue** it.
- 1 Peter 3:12 - For the **eyes** of the Lord are on the **righteous** and **his ears** are **attentive** to their **prayer**, but the **face** of the Lord is against those who do evil."
- ¶ 1 Peter 3:13 - Who is **going to harm** you if you are **eager** to do good?
- 1 Peter 3:14 - But **even** if you should suffer for what is right, you are **blessed**. "Do not fear their **threats**; do not be **frightened**."
- 1 Peter 3:15 - But in your **hearts revere** Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared** to give **an answer** to **everyone** who **asks** you to give the **reason** for the hope that you **have**. But do this with **gentleness** and respect,
- 1 Peter 3:16 - **keeping** a clear conscience, so that those who **speak maliciously** against your good behavior in Christ may be **ashamed** of their **slander**.
- 1 Peter 3:17 - For it is **better**, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good **than** for doing evil.
- 1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also **suffered once** for **sins**, the **righteous** for the **unrighteous**, to **bring** you to God. He was put to **death** in the body but made alive in the Spirit.
- 1 Peter 3:19 - **After** being made alive, he **went** and made **proclamation** to the **imprisoned spirits**--
- 1 Peter 3:20 - to those who were **disobedient long ago** when God **waited patiently** in the days of **Noah** while the **ark** was being **built**. In it **only a few people, eight** in all, were **saved through** water,
- 1 Peter 3:21 - and this water **symbolizes baptism** that **now** saves you also--not the **removal** of **dirt** from the body but the **pledge** of a clear conscience **toward** God. It saves you by the **resurrection** of **Jesus Christ**,
- 1 Peter 3:22 - who **has gone into heaven** and is **at God's right hand**--with **angels, authorities** and **powers** in **submission** to him.

1 Peter 4

Living for God

- ¶ 1 Peter 4:1 - Therefore, **since** Christ **suffered** in his body, **arm yourselves also** with the **same attitude**, because **whoever suffers** in the body is **done with sin**.
- 1 Peter 4:2 - As a **result**, they do not live the **rest** of their **earthly lives** for **evil human desires**, but **rather** for the will of God.

- 1 Peter 4:3 - For you *have* **spent enough** time in the **past doing** what **pagans choose** to do--living in **debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing** and **detestable idolatry**.
- 1 Peter 4:4 - They *are surprised* that you do **not join them** in their **reckless, wild** living, and they **heap abuse** on you.
- 1 Peter 4:5 - But they *will have* to **give account** to him who is **ready to judge** the living and the dead.
- 1 Peter 4:6 - For **this** is the **reason** the **gospel was preached** even to those who are **now dead**, so that they **might be judged** according to human **standards** in regard to the body, *but live according* to God in regard to the spirit.
- ¶ 1 Peter 4:7 - The **end** of all things is **near**. Therefore be **alert** and of **sober mind** so that you may **pray**.
- 1 Peter 4:8 - **Above all**, love each other **deeply**, because love **covers over** a **multitude** of sins.
- 1 Peter 4:9 - **Offer hospitality** to one **another without grumbling**.
- 1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you *should use whatever gift* you have **received** to **serve others**, as faithful **stewards** of God's **grace in its various forms**.
- 1 Peter 4:11 - If *anyone speaks*, they should do so as one who *speaks the very words* of God. If *anyone serves*, they should do so with the **strength** God **provides**, so that in all things God may be **praised through Jesus Christ**. To him be the glory and the **power** for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Suffering for Being a Christian

- ¶ 1 Peter 4:12 - **Dear friends**, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** that **has come** on you to **test** you, as **though something strange were happening** to you.
- 1 Peter 4:13 - **But rejoice inasmuch** as you **participate** in the **sufferings** of Christ, so that you may be **overjoyed when his glory** is revealed.
- 1 Peter 4:14 - If you are **insulted** because of the **name of Christ**, you are **blessed**, for the Spirit of glory and of God **rests** on you.
- 1 Peter 4:15 - If you *suffer*, it should not be as a **murderer** or **thief** or **any other kind of criminal**, or even as a **meddler**.
- 1 Peter 4:16 - **However**, if you *suffer* as a **Christian**, do not be **ashamed**, but **praise** God that you **bear** that name.
- 1 Peter 4:17 - For it is time for **judgment** to **begin** with God's **household**; and if it **begins** with **us**, what will the **outcome** be for those who do **not obey** the gospel of God?
- 1 Peter 4:18 - And, "If it is **hard** for the **righteous** to be **saved**, what will **become** of the **ungodly** and the **sinner**?"
- ¶ 1 Peter 4:19 - So **then**, those who *suffer according* to God's will should **commit themselves** to their faithful **Creator** and **continue** to do **good**.

1 Peter 5

To the Elders and the Flock

- ¶ 1 Peter 5:1 - To the **elders among** you, I **appeal** as a **fellow elder** and a **witness** of **Christ's sufferings** who **also will share** in the **glory** to be revealed:
- 1 Peter 5:2 - Be **shepherds** of God's flock that is under your **care, watching** over them--not because you **must**, but because you are **willing**, as God **wants** you to be; not **pursuing dishonest gain**, but **eager to serve**;
- 1 Peter 5:3 - not **lording** it over **those entrusted** to you, but **being examples** to the flock.
- 1 Peter 5:4 - And **when the Chief Shepherd appears**, you will **receive the crown** of glory that will **never fade away**.
- ¶ 1 Peter 5:5 - In the same **way**, you who are **younger, submit** yourselves to your **elders**. All of you, **clothe** yourselves with **humility toward one another**, because, "God **opposes the proud** but **shows favor** to the humble."
- ¶ 1 Peter 5:6 - **Humble yourselves, therefore**, under God's **mighty hand**, that he **may lift you up** in **due time**.
- 1 Peter 5:7 - **Cast** all your **anxiety on** him because he **cares** for you.
- ¶ 1 Peter 5:8 - Be **alert** and of **sober mind**. Your **enemy** the **devil prowls around like a roaring lion** looking for **someone to devour**.
- 1 Peter 5:9 - **Resist** him, **standing firm** in the **faith**, because you **know** that the **family of believers throughout the world is undergoing** the same **kind** of sufferings.
- ¶ 1 Peter 5:10 - And the God of **all grace**, who **called** you to **his eternal glory** in Christ, **after** you have **suffered** a little **while**, will **himself restore** you and **make you strong, firm and steadfast**.
- 1 Peter 5:11 - To him be the **power** for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Final Greetings

- ¶ 1 Peter 5:12 - With the **help** of **Silas, whom I regard** as a **faithful brother**, I have **written** to you **briefly, encouraging** you and **testifying** that **this** is the **true** grace of God. **Stand fast** in it.
- ¶ 1 Peter 5:13 - **She** who is in **Babylon, chosen together** with you, **sends** you **her greetings**, and **so does my son Mark**.

1 Peter 5:14 - **Greet** one another with a kiss of love. **Peace** to all of you who are in Christ.

2 Peter 1

¶ 2 Peter 1:1 - **Simon Peter**, a **servant** and **apostle** of Jesus Christ, To **those** who through the **righteousness** of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

¶ 2 Peter 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** be yours in **abundance** through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Confirming One's Calling and Election

¶ 2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has given us **everything** we need for a **godly life** through our knowledge of him who **called** us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:4 - Through these he has given us his very **great** and precious **promises**, so that through them you **may participate** in the divine nature, **having escaped** the **corruption** in the **world caused** by evil desires.

¶ 2 Peter 1:5 - For this very **reason**, make every effort to **add** to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

2 Peter 1:6 - and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to **self-control**, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

2 Peter 1:7 - and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to **mutual affection**, love.

2 Peter 1:8 - For if you **possess** these **qualities** in **increasing measure**, they will **keep** you from **being ineffective** and **unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 - But **whoever does** not have them is **nearsighted** and **blind**, **forgetting** that they have **been cleansed** from **their past sins**.

¶ 2 Peter 1:10 - **Therefore**, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to **confirm** your **calling** and **election**. For if you do these things, you will never **stumble**,

2 Peter 1:11 - and you will receive a **rich welcome** into the **eternal kingdom** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Prophecy of Scripture

¶ 2 Peter 1:12 - So I will **always remind** you of these things, **even** though you know them and **are firmly established** in the **truth** you **now** have.

2 Peter 1:13 - I **think** it is **right** to **refresh** your **memory** as long as I live in the **tent** of this **body**,

2 Peter 1:14 - **because** I know that I will **soon put it aside**, as our Lord Jesus Christ has **made clear** to me.

2 Peter 1:15 - And I will make every effort to **see that after my departure** you will always be **able** to **remember** these things.

¶ 2 Peter 1:16 - For we **did not follow cleverly devised stories** when we **told** you about the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were **eyewitnesses** of his **majesty**.

2 Peter 1:17 - He received **honor** and glory from God the **Father** when the voice came to him from the **Majestic** Glory, **saying**, "This is my **Son**, whom I love; with him I am well **pleased**."

2 Peter 1:18 - We **ourselves heard** this voice that came from **heaven** when we were with him on the **sacred mountain**.

¶ 2 Peter 1:19 - We **also** have the **prophetic message** as **something completely reliable**, and you will do well to **pay attention** to it, as to a **light shining** in a **dark place**, until the **day dawns** and the **morning star rises** in your hearts.

2 Peter 1:20 - **Above all**, you **must understand** that **no** prophecy of **Scripture** came about by the **prophet's own interpretation** of things.

2 Peter 1:21 - For prophecy never **had its origin** in the human will, but **prophets**, though human, **spoke** from God as they were **carried along** by the **Holy Spirit**.

2 Peter 2

False Teachers and Their Destruction

¶ 2 Peter 2:1 - But there were **also false prophets** among the people, just **as** there will be false teachers among you. They will **secretly introduce destructive heresies**, even **denying** the **sovereign** Lord who **bought** them--bringing **swift** destruction on themselves.

2 Peter 2:2 - **Many** will follow their depraved conduct and will **bring** the way of **truth into disrepute**.

2 Peter 2:3 - In their greed these teachers will **exploit** you with **fabricated stories**. Their **condemnation** has long been **hanging over** them, and their destruction has not been **sleeping**.

¶ 2 Peter 2:4 - For if **God** did not spare angels when they **sinned**, but **sent** them to **hell**, **putting** them in **chains** of darkness to be **held** for judgment;

- 2 Peter 2:5 - if he did not spare the **ancient** world when he **brought** the **flood** on its ungodly people, but **protected Noah**, a **preacher** of righteousness, and **seven others**;
- 2 Peter 2:6 - if he **condemned** the **cities** of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** by **burning** them to **ashes**, and **made** them an **example** of what is **going to happen** to the ungodly;
- 2 Peter 2:7 - and if he **rescued Lot**, a righteous man, who was **distressed** by the depraved conduct of the lawless
- 2 Peter 2:8 - (for that righteous man, **living** among them day after day, was **tormented** in his righteous **soul** by the lawless **deeds** he **saw** and **heard**)--
- 2 Peter 2:9 - if this is **so**, then the Lord **knows how** to **rescue** the **godly** from **trials** and to **hold** the **unrighteous** for **punishment** on the day of judgment.
- 2 Peter 2:10 - This is **especially** true of those who follow the **corrupt desire** of the flesh and **despise** authority. **Bold** and **arrogant**, they are not **afraid** to heap abuse on **celestial** beings;
- 2 Peter 2:11 - **yet** even angels, **although** they are **stronger** and **more powerful**, do not heap abuse on **such** beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.
- 2 Peter 2:12 - But these people **blaspheme** in **matters** they do not **understand**. They are like **unreasoning** animals, **creatures** of **instinct**, **born only** to be **caught** and **destroyed**, and like animals they **too** will **perish**.
- ¶ 2 Peter 2:13 - They will be **paid back** with harm for the harm they have **done**. Their **idea** of **pleasure** is to **carouse** in **broad daylight**. They are **blots** and **blemishes**, **reveling** in their **pleasures** while they **feast** with you.
- 2 Peter 2:14 - With **eyes full** of **adultery**, they **never stop sinning**; they **seduce** the **unstable**; they are **experts** in **greed**--an **accursed brood!**
- 2 Peter 2:15 - They have **left** the **straight** way and **wandered** off to follow the way of **Balaam son of Bezer**, who **loved** the **wages** of **wickedness**.
- 2 Peter 2:16 - But he was **rebuked** for his **wrongdoing** by a **donkey**--an **animal** without **speech**--who **spoke** with a **human voice** and **restrained** the **prophet's madness**.
- ¶ 2 Peter 2:17 - These people are **springs** without **water** and **mists driven** by a **storm**. **Blackest** darkness is **reserved** for them.
- 2 Peter 2:18 - For they **mouth empty**, **boastful words** and, by **appealing** to the **lustful desires** of the flesh, they **entice** people who are just **escaping** from those who **live in error**.
- 2 Peter 2:19 - They **promise** them **freedom**, while they themselves are slaves of **depravity**--for "people are slaves to **whatever** has **mastered** them."
- 2 Peter 2:20 - If they have **escaped** the **corruption** of the world by **knowing our** Lord and **Savior Jesus Christ** and are **again entangled** in it and are **overcome**, they are **worse off** at the **end** than they were at the **beginning**.
- 2 Peter 2:21 - It **would** have been **better** for them not to have **known** the way of righteousness, than to have **known** it and then to **turn** their **backs** on the **sacred command** that was **passed** on to them.
- 2 Peter 2:22 - Of them the **proverbs** are true: "A **dog** returns to its **vomit**," and, "A **sow** that is **washed** returns to her **wallowing** in the **mud**."

2 Peter 3

The Day of the Lord

- ¶ 2 Peter 3:1 - Dear friends, this is now **my second letter** to you. I have **written** both of them as **reminders** to **stimulate** you to **wholesome thinking**.
- 2 Peter 3:2 - I **want** you to **recall** the **words spoken** in the **past** by the holy **prophets** and the **command given** by our Lord and Savior **through** your **apostles**.
- ¶ 2 Peter 3:3 - **Above** all, you **must** understand that in the **last days** **scoffers** will come, **scoffing** and **following** their own **evil desires**.
- 2 Peter 3:4 - They will **say**, "Where is this 'coming' he **promised**? **Ever** since our **ancestors died**, everything **goes on** as it **has** since the **beginning of creation**."
- 2 Peter 3:5 - But they **deliberately** forget that **long ago** by **God's** word the heavens **came into being** and the earth was **formed out** of water and by water.
- 2 Peter 3:6 - By these **waters** also the **world** of that **time** was **deluged** and destroyed.
- 2 Peter 3:7 - By the same word the **present** heavens and earth are **reserved** for fire, being **kept** for the day of **judgment** and destruction of the **ungodly**.
- ¶ 2 Peter 3:8 - But do not **forget** this **one thing**, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a **thousand years**, and a **thousand years** are like a day.
- 2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is **not slow** in keeping his promise, as some understand **slowness**. **Instead** he is **patient** with you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but **everyone** to come to **repentance**.
- ¶ 2 Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come like a **thief**. The heavens will **disappear** with a **roar**; the elements will be **destroyed** by fire, and the earth and everything **done** in it will be **laid bare**.

- ¶ **2 Peter 3:11** - *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind** of people ought you to be? You ought to **live** holy and **godly lives***
- 2 Peter 3:12** - *as you **look** forward to the day of God and **speed its** coming. That day will **bring about** the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will **melt** in the **heat**.*
- 2 Peter 3:13** - *But in keeping with his promise **we** are looking forward to a new **heaven** and a new earth, where **righteousness dwells**.*
- ¶ **2 Peter 3:14** - *So **then**, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, **make every effort** to be **found spotless, blameless** and **at peace** with him.*
- 2 Peter 3:15** - ***Bear in mind** that our **Lord's patience means salvation**, just as our dear brother **Paul** also **wrote** you with the **wisdom** that God **gave** him.*
- 2 Peter 3:16** - *He **writes** the same way in all his letters, **speaking** in them of these **matters**. His letters **contain** some **things** that are **hard** to understand, **which ignorant** and **unstable** people **distort**, as they do the **other Scriptures**, to their own destruction.*
- ¶ **2 Peter 3:17** - ***Therefore**, dear friends, since you have **been forewarned**, be on your **guard** so that you **may** not be **carried away** by the **error** of the **lawless** and **fall from** your **secure position**.*
- 2 Peter 3:18** - *But **grow** in the **grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ**. To him be **glory** both now and **forever! Amen**.*