

God's Better Provision

Heb 11:39 "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

To get the context of these verses you should read this whole chapter about faith, which gives us a description of Old Testament saints, who died with the hope of something better to come. Some died with the expectation being resurrected and living eternally in the land of promise. They all died with the expectation of the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

What promise have they not received? The promise of the resurrection from the dead. The promise they would live in an eternal kingdom that is ruled by the Messiah. We live with this same promise of resurrection and being in an eternal kingdom where Christ rules and reigns on the throne of God.

What is the better thing that God has provided for us? The better thing is the age, and the church, of salvation by grace. We have the New Testament scriptures, which contain the testimony that the Messiah has come, as proclaimed by the Old Testament scriptures, and has fulfilled the incarnate work required for us to have this blessing of salvation by grace. We have the promise of Christ that he will come again and receive us, all of God's saved people, which includes both the Old and New Testament saints, unto himself.

Many Old Testament saints died with the expectation that their bodies would be resurrected; believing they would live forever in the land of promise; believing the Messiah would rule the world and the earth would have peace. They did not understand that the Messiah would come; once to bring salvation; and again, to gather all of God's redeemed people into a new heaven and earth, with a New Jerusalem. This is why Joseph gave commandment to Israel concerning his bones. He told them when they left Egypt, to bring his bones with them and bury them in the land of promise.

Many of the Old Testament saints were looking for a heavenly kingdom. We see this in: **Heb 11:13-16; 13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."**

Because we have the New Testament scriptures: we understand that there will be a final resurrection of the bodies of all of God's people. We understand, there will be a New Heaven, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem. We understand this is the eternal abode of all of God's people, by which our hope, of the resurrection of the body, is aligned with the hope of the Old Testament saints.

"that they without us should not be made perfect." Perfect means *complete*. The resurrection, which the Old Testament saints looked for, is the same resurrection that we look for. The fulfillment, of the promise of God to the Old Testament saints, is the same fulfillment for which we look. We find testimony of this in: **Ro 8:20-25; 20 "For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we**

know that the whole creation groaneth and travaleth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." Therefore, we understand that perfection of the body will happen when the resurrection comes. At that time the body will be raised, or changed, and the soul, the body, and the spirit, will be reunited. This resurrection will give God's people, bodies without sin, incorruptible, immortal, and we will finally be made into the likeness of Christ, at which time we will be complete.

Wherefore, let us rejoice that God had a better provision planned for us, the Old and New Testament saints. This better provision was made possible by the finished work of Christ Jesus, which ushered in the age of salvation by grace and provided us the spiritual kingdom of Christ Jesus, which is the church of salvation by grace. Jesus's incarnation gave us the New Testament scriptures, which give us a better understanding of the Old Testament scriptures, through which we understand that there is a better provision for us, at the time of our perfection in Christ Jesus, in the eternal kingdom of God. Hallelujah! Amen!