

Dying In Faith; Hebrews Chapter 11 Verses 1-13

Heb 11:1 ¶ "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. 4 ¶ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. 5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable. 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."

What did these "die in faith" looking for, having seen them afar off?

- They all died looking for their translation as Enoch. Translated means **to transfer, transport, exchange, carry over, change, remove**. In other words, they are looking for the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ.
- They looked to become heirs of righteousness which is by faith.
- Abraham looked to receive an inheritance by leaving where he was and going to live in the land of promise. His heirs had the same promise. They all looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
- Through faith Sara conceived and brought forth a son in her old age, which was the fulfillment of a promise of God to one who was past childbearing age: and Abraham, though considered to be dead to childbearing, of whom was brought forth an innumerable host of people of God.

Heb 11:13 "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." As it was with all these, and many others, who died in faith as recorded in scripture.

Now, let's go forward to the New Testament Age. What promises do we look forward to receiving, by faith in God, which we have not received? These Old Testament Saints all looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, and the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, by faith. Do we not look forward to the fulfillment of the same promises? The answer is yes.

Understand, we have knowledge of the first coming of Christ in the New Testament, which these Old Testament saints did not have. However, we look for the same promises that they did. What do you mean? As stated earlier: Sara looked for the coming of the innumerable host, which would come from the son of promise she was gifted to have in her old age.

Now, we understand that some of the prophecies of the old Testament were of the first coming of Christ. These were fulfilled with the first coming of the Son of God in his prepared body, who through His death on the cross, brought forth an innumerable multitude of New Testament saints, in the redemption He wrought for us. A picture of the coming of the New Testament Church, brought forth by Jesus Christ, when the law was old in its use, and it was fulfilled in the death of Jesus Christ. The promised seed that brought forth an innumerable host of people of God, cleansed from sin by His shed blood, and receiving the promise of eternal life with Christ in the eternal heaven.

As Abraham and his progenitors looked for a city whose builder and maker is God: so, we too look for a city, whose builder and maker is God, the New Jerusalem. This city will appear at the second return of Jesus, which will fulfill the promises of both the Old and New Testaments. How? What will happen at the second coming of Christ? The dead in Christ shall be raised first (inclusive of the Old and New testament saints) and all of God's redeemed shall be changed from death to life immortal. Our bodies shall be changed to be like the resurrected body of Jesus, and we shall rise to meet him in the air. The New Jerusalem will appear, and come down from heaven to receive God's redeemed, and they, carried by Christ, shall go to the place that Jesus promised to prepare for us.

We are told in **Ro 8:23-25; 14** *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 ¶ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 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 travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, (the Old Testament saints) 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, by faith in the Word of God, and through knowledge that we have been born again by the grace of God, we look forward to the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, in faith and hope.

Now do you see that like the Old Testament saints; we look forward to the fulfillment of the same promises? We have knowledge of the salvation of God in our lives here, but we hope for the resurrection of our bodies in that eternal day, which is what we look forward to in faith, just as the Old Testament saints did, to which we can only say: Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus, for your eternal redemption of our sins. Then, in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, we look forward in faith of your second coming: when you will exchange our mortality for immortality: you will change our corruption to incorruption: you will give us glorified bodies like unto yours, and carry us to our eternal abode with you in eternity. Hallelujah! Amen!