

Hebrews 6:19-20

TODAY I WANT TO START OFF DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT ...

- ▶▶▶ I want us to temporarily step back from our particular study of the letter to the Hebrews, and I want us review and examine some of the very BIGGEST IDEAS of the Bible.
 - ↳ I believe it's when we best understand GOD's Big Picture -- the End Result -- that we are able to most appreciate the particular message that is given to the Hebrews.

Basic Bible Overview --

A) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

- ↳ GOD "walked" with them and conversed with them in the Garden.
 - ▷ Perfect harmony!
 - ▷ The first two chapters of the Bible are devoted to this state of perfection.

B) Genesis 3:6 – SIN'S ENTRANCE: "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

- ▷ Adam and Eve's relationship with GOD was now marred, broken.
 - ▷ Adam and Eve died spiritually in that moment; they separated themselves from the eternal life of GOD.
 - ▷ One day they would die physically and be physically removed from everything good created by GOD.
- ▷ In that moment, all of humankind was forever plunged into sin.
 - ▷ I didn't "become" a sinner ; I was "born" a sinner -- it's my nature from birth.

C) Genesis 3:15 – GOD'S PROMISE: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise [crush, fall upon] your head, and you shall bruise His heel"

- ▷ GOD promises that one day the woman's "seed" (offspring) will crush the head of the serpent.
- ▷ In other words, GOD promises that one day He will overcome and reverse all the effects of sin and death.
 - ▷ The ONE by whom GOD will accomplish His purposes of redemption, restoration, salvation -- is His MESSIAH ... Jesus of Nazareth.

D) WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE ...

- ▷ Creation (including man) will once again be in a perfect, harmonious relationship with God.
 - ↳ **Revelation 21:1-3**, *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."*
 - ▷ The best part about this city is that GOD dwells with His people.

- In times past, GOD made His presence known through various used images & symbols.
 - Pillar of fire/smoke.
 - Temple artifacts and services (altars, tables, etc.)
- But now GOD “dwells” with people,
 - Just like John 1:14 says: “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”
 - Note the teaching is not so much that we will dwell with GOD, but that God will dwell with us.
- **Verses 4-7**, “*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*” ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” ⁶ And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”
 - “It is done!” [accomplished ; brought into being]
 - Compare: In the Genesis Creation God declared, “It is good.”
 - “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End”
 - God is the origin of all life, and . . . God is the end (goal) of all existence.
 - Each of us was created to know and to worship GOD -- to the extent that we try to substitute God with any less, we not only frustrate ourselves but we set ourselves in rebellion against God.

E) The EVERLASTING GOSPEL - the announcement, declaration that ...

1. GOD will judge, overcome every trace of sin; overcome the world's kingdoms.
 2. GOD will establish His own kingdom
 - the kingdom of His SON-Messiah
 - a kingdom of righteousness and peace
- **Revelation 11:15**, *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*
 - "kingdom" = singular in the Greek
 - All the kingdoms of the world are lumped together as ONE -- *all are under the sway of Satan.*
 - A great many Americans believe Communism is evil, or Islamic governments are evil -- but America's republic democracy is also corrupted by sin.
 - **Revelation 14:6-7**, *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth-- to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- ⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*
 - **Jesus, now resurrected and exalted, waits for His full reward from the Father.**
 - a. Not the commencement of His reign, but the consummation of His reign.
 - b. Jesus waits the real subjugation of every nation, and every person to HIM.
 - c. This rule will not be hidden from the world, it will be experienced by the world.
 - **Hebrews 1:13** ~ *But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?*
 - **Hebrews 2:5** ~ *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

- **Hebrews 10:12-13** ~ *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.*

F) GOD has procured salvation (entrance into His kingdom) for sinners in the Person and work of His Messiah, Jesus.

- The BENEFIT of what GOD will do is strictly limited to those who exercise faith --
 - ✎ faith in Him,
 - ✎ faith His Word,
 - ✎ faith His Power.
- Faith will require "patience" -- GOD will accomplish His purposes in His own way, timing.

G) IN THE MEANTIME ... a struggle between what now is, and what one day will be -

- Two kingdoms -- two cities
 - ▶ Man's City & The City of God // Cain & Abel
 - ▶ City of Destruction & Celestial City - (Pilgrim's Progress)
- Cities are symbols of man's pride, power, and technology -- they give the appearance of permanence.
 - ▶ GOD tells HIS people NOT to spend their lives building a city, but to live as pilgrims (sojourners).
 - **CAIN** - (Genesis 4:12, 16-17) ~ *"When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." . . . ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. ¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son-Enoch.*
 - **BABYLON** - (Genesis 11)
 - **ABRAHAM** - (Hebrews 11:8-10) ~ *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God*
 - **Hebrews 11:13-16** ~ *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God for He has prepared a city for them*
 - **Hebrews 13:13-14** ~ *Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come*
- ▶ APPLIED: Where do you belong?
 - ▶ In which are you the most comfortable?
 - ▶ (If you're building your own "city" -- you are not building the kingdom of God.)

Apply these truths to the first century Hebrews --

- ▶▶▶ The author of Hebrews is concerned that many of his fellow-Hebrews have become discouraged -- why is life so difficult?
 - If Jesus is Messiah, if He is the mediator of the New Covenant; and if they have placed their faith in Him, then -- where is the "blessing from God"?
 - ▶ Why hasn't Messiah Jesus returned to establish the powers of the age to come ?
 - ▶ Maybe they have misinterpreted the signs, the Scriptures, the evidence...
 - ▶ Maybe they were wrong... <?>

▶▶▶ DON'T DESPAIR !!

- ↳ You have not made a wrong turn, a bad decision.
- ↳ Your commitment to Jesus as Messiah will not go unrewarded.
- ↳ Your faith is not in vain.
 - ▶ 1 Peter 2:6 -- *Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."*

A) GOD will absolutely keep the Promise He made to Abraham and to his heirs.

B) The PROMISE of GOD in Hebrews ...

- ↳ **4:1** -- *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.*
 - ↳ **6:9-15** -- *But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

 - Contrast with 11:13 that says Abraham died "*not having received the promises*".
 - Abraham obtained the commencement of God's promise, not the consummation of His promise.*
 - ↳ **10:32-39** -- *But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

 - ³⁷ "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry.
 - ³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."*
- ³⁹ *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

C) Christians (believers) are called upon to patiently endure; to wait; to persevere.

- Abraham, being a perfect example of one who had to wait.
- But their waiting is not without reason, a basis, a foundation ...
 - ↳ **6:17-20** – *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

D) What is "the hope set before us" that serves as a present refuge during a time of trouble, difficulty ?

- The HOPE (confidence, assurance) is Messiah Jesus !
- ➔ GOD's purposes -- and our consolation, refuge, hope, anchor -- are/is all wrapped up in JESUS!
 - Salvation, blessing -- a believer's hope is completely wrapped up in Jesus and His work.
 - If He fails or comes up short,
 - If His work is incomplete, unfinished
 - If He is disqualified
- ➔ THEN God's purpose fails! The LORD God has determined to accomplish His purposes through His Messiah.
 - Messiah is King!
 - Messiah is High Priest!