

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 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 (Abraham) waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

To “wait” is to “look for or to wait for.” It means to wait with expectancy concerning a future event.

**We should be excited for the Lord’s return for the church**

- since that will be our eternal dwelling place.

**Before looking briefly into heaven, let’s take a look at Cain.**

**After killing his brother Abel,**

- Cain was cursed from the earth
- thus effectively removing him
- from his place and way of life.

**His felt the punishment was greater than he could bear.**

**When Satan was evicted from heaven, he became bitter and upset,**

- not only toward God,
- but toward mankind
- and toward Heaven itself.

So what does he do, he lies about heaven.

**He doesn’t try to convince people that heaven does not exist,**

- but he tries to get people
- to think heaven is boring.

**Is the eternal heaven an actual place?**

Rev 21:10

10 And he carried me (John) away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

John saw in his vision the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

**Will there be enough room for everyone?**

John 14:2-3

2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

**Paul said to set your mind on things above:**

Colossians 3:1-4

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Rev 22:3-4

3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants (**believers**) shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

- we will see God and
- we will have direct access to Him.

**Seeing someone's face implies intimacy and fellowship.**

In the book of Exodus and in John 1 we're told that no one can see God and live.

We know according to 1 John 3 and Matt 5 that we will see God as He is.

**David said:**

Psalm 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

**What will heaven be like?**

2 Cor 5:1

1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Paul isn't saying "if" as if he were uncertain or doubting, but, "when this happens."

He speaks of our body as a tent. A tent is a temporary dwelling place, it's fragile.

When our tent is destroyed, we will have a building from God. A building is sturdy, and it's made to last.

This is in reference to our resurrected glorified body that will be given from God.

**In heaven** we will be in the presence

- of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

**In the books of Leviticus and Ezekiel,**

### 3

- we're told that God will live among His people
- and He will be their God, and they shall be His people.

#### Paul said he desired to remain on the earth

- so that he could continue his labor for Christ,
- but he knew it was far better to be with Christ.

#### There will be no more pain,

- no sorrow, no crying or death in heaven

#### Will we rest in heaven? Our current physical bodies require rest.

#### God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day after finishing His work of creation.

- Moses spoke of the 7<sup>th</sup> day being the Sabbath.
- The book of Leviticus mentions the land resting on the 7<sup>th</sup> year.

#### Rev 14:13

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

It seems from scripture that rest will be built into our lives.

Will we travel thru time?

#### Will we be able to go back and see how the Lord worked in our lives

- or even see past events as they happened.

In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel was studying the prophecy of Jeremiah 25 and 29 that the Babylonian exile would last 70 years.

#### Daniel realized that the time was near,

- so he responded with repentant prayer
- not only for himself, but for the nation of Israel.

In verse 23 Daniel indicates that God responded when the prayer went out.

#### Dan 9:23

23 The moment you began praying, a command was given (this likely refers to a divine decree issued by God). And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.

So it seems God was responsive even before Daniel finished praying.

#### Isa 65:24

24 “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

**Since God is not limited by time,**

- He may be able to show us events
- as if they just happened.

**The New City of Jerusalem:**

Rev 21:18-21

18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

The visual is of Purity, Value, Glory and Divine Craftmanship whose maker is God.

There will not be a single flaw in the new city.

**The city will have all of the advantages we associate with earthly cities**

- but none of the disadvantages.

**It will be filled with natural wonders and magnificent architecture.**

Rev 21:23

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

**Will the New Earth have new and unique natural wonders?**

**Well, starting with us, our new bodies will be much better than our current body.**

- And since God’s creativity never ends,
- it would stand to reason
- that He will create new wonders.

**Are we eagerly waiting on the Lord’s return.**

**So don’t get side-tracked.**

- Don’t allow the detours of life
- to take you down the wrong direction.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Heb 11:11-12

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude – innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

**Sarah was barren throughout her natural childbearing years**

- and now she is beyond the age of childbearing.

**When Sarah heard she would give birth to a young boy,**

- she laughed within herself.
- She may have thought this was a joke

Abraham already had another son thru Hagar.

**It was thru Hagar that Ishmael was born.**

**By Genesis 16 it had been many years since God first promised Abraham descendants. Yet, Sarah was still without child.**

Genesis 16:2

2 So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

God’s delay led Sarah to act rather than continue waiting.

**Don’t you hate when you make an impulsive decision and it costs you.**

**We should know as we read thru this chapter of Hebrews regarding these people of faith,**

- they each had faults.
- They each made mistakes in their life.

**None of them were perfect as we’d think of perfection.**

**God’s promise wouldn’t be fulfilled thru Ishamel, it was thru Isaac.**

- And God re-affirmed His covenant
- and assured Abraham that the child of promise
- would come thru Sarah, Gen 17.

Gen 21:1-3

1 And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him – whom Sarah bore to him – Isaac.

God always fulfills His promise.

Heb 11:11

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

**When God takes you thru something,**

- He's going to equip you with whatever
- is needed to go thru that something.

God is always faithful in His promises.

Sarah initially responded with skepticism,

- but in Hebrews we're told
- that she received strength by faith.

Heb 11:12

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude – innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

**Paul gives us a commentary in the book of Romans on Abraham's faith**

- at the birth of Isaac.

Rom 4:17-22

17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." (he hoped in something which seemed hopeless) 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

**In Verse 18, he hoped in something which seemed hopeless.**

**When you think something is impossible,**

- with God, nothing is impossible!

verse 19 - Abraham did not look at the impossibilities.

He didn't look at God's promises thru his bodily limitations,

- but he trusted God in His promises.

Our problem comes when we begin to think

- that we have to make something happen
- which is unattainable for us.

The real issue is not trusting that God in His unlimited resources

- is more than capable of meeting our needs.

Abraham gave glory to God

- before seeing the promise fulfilled.

Notice in verse 21, Abraham was fully convinced

- that God was able to do what He said He'd do.

Not only did God promise Abraham a child in Isaac,

- but He promised that his descendants
- would be as innumerable as the sand
- which is by the seashore.

Righteousness is not achieved apart from God

- but is received from God through faith.

Heb 11:13

13 These all died in faith (probably in reference to those we've been reading about in this chapter), 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.

- Their faith in God didn't fade,
- not even at death.

The ultimate test of a person's faith is when they're lying on their death bed.

That's when their faith becomes evident.

Notice these people spoken of saw the promises from afar.

- Have you ever prayed for someone's salvation,
- someone you know, and your desire is to see them saved.

We may not always see those come to Christ whom we have prayed for.

- Don't ever think your prayers are wasted
- because they're not.

**Notice in verse 13 that not only did those spoken of**

- receive the promises, but they embraced them.
- That means that they welcomed them
- and held on to them.

**The word “embrace” as used in Hebrews 11 literally means** “to express greetings upon meeting someone.”

**So when you all meet someone here at church and you welcome them,**

- you embrace them with a hug.

**Not only did they embrace the promises, but they were assured of them.**

- They were fully convinced that God
- would keep His promises,

**When David spoke to Saul about facing Goliath, David said:**

1 Sam 17:37

37 The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the LORD be with you!”

Later, David said to Goliath:

1 Sam 17:46

46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!

**In a way, David embraced the idea of facing Goliath.**

- But this is a different embracing than in Hebrews.

David’s embracing was a faith-driven willingness rooted in confidence in God.

Heb 11:14

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

Heb 11:15-16

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.

Jesus is preparing a city for every believer, and we’re not too far from being there.

**Again, David said in the Psalms:**

Psalms 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

**After Job lost everything he had,**

- his family, his health, his security,

**Job said:**

Job 19:25-27

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Job was confident that something better was at the end of the tunnel.

**He knew and believed** that the Redeemer lives.