

HEBREWS — PART 7
FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS!
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17.1.26

Probably the main teaching of the Book of Hebrews is that **JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN**. Although His crucifixion and death was super-important ... He still had much to do to bring “many sons to glory”.

In the Levitical sacrifices ... an animal’s death was just that — a dead animal. It only becomes an offering to God when its blood is taken to the altar (a Holy Place). Jesus had to take His blood to the altar in Heaven ... and it was then accepted by The Father. Hebrews describes this in detail.

And since that time ... Jesus intercedes for us **daily** in Heaven. We should come boldly — confidently — to the Throne of Grace — in Heaven — to receive help in time of need.

Hebrews 11:39-40

39 And **all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,**

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

The Heroes of Faith are witnesses to us — we have their testimonies. (Not watching us from Heaven — as some teach!)

HEBREWS CHAPTER 12 — A BETTER MOUNTAIN

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore **we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, (their testimonies are a WITNESS TO US!) let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily**

ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**,

2 **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, **and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**.

LET US RUN — AND KEEP ON RUNNING!

It requires endurance — spiritual stamina. **DON'T DRAW BACK!**

LOOKING TO JESUS (not so much to the Heroes of Hebrews Chapter 11). **JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE — OUR PIONEER ...** who has gone on ahead of us.

Hebrews 12:2 (NASB)

2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**

HEBREWS IS A PRIESTHOOD BOOK. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST ... OUR INTERCESSOR. He is in Heaven to finish — or perfect — Faith (NO “OUR” in Greek). **Jesus leads in the way of faith.**

Hebrews 12:3-4

3 **For consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, **lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls**.

4 **You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.**

Jesus experienced much hardship as our Pioneer. We may have some enduring to do ... too!

Hebrews 12:5-11

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“**My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD**,

Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; (*Prov 3:11-12*)

6 For **whom the LORD loves He chastens**,

And scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 **If you endure chastening**, God deals with you as with sons; for **what son is there whom a father does not chasten?**

8 But if **you are without chastening**, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days **chastened** us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now **no chastening seems to be joyful for the present**, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The word “chastening” appears often in this passage. **Some people take the word “chasten” to always imply PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT** — perhaps God might strike you down with disease ... or burn your house down ... or you lose your job?

The Greek word is “PAIDEIA”. The basic meaning is TO RAISE OR INSTRUCT A CHILD. Most modern translations translate with: “to discipline”.

Hebrews 12:7-8 (NASB)

7 **It is for discipline that you endure**; God deals with you as with sons; **for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?**

8 But **if you are without discipline**, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Note also the passage is teaching the relationship between a caring father and a son — an intimate relationship. A father doesn't discipline a child by “breaking his legs” to teach him a lesson!

We can see “PAIDEIA” used elsewhere in the Bible.

Ephesians 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:

3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, **but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.** *(That is your duty!)*

“Training” is PAIDEIA (“nurture” in the KJV).

It includes the whole process of a father doing his best to raise a well-balanced child. Much teaching ... patience ... example ... correction — not typically physical punishment.

COMPARE:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that **from childhood** you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,** *(PAIDEIA)*

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

GOD PRIMARILY DISCIPLINES US WITH HIS WORD — SCRIPTURE. A TWO-EDGED SWORD.

It can hurt! It can feel like punishment. When we go through problems ... it can drive us to God’s Word — where we might find rebuke and correction.

God’s Word should provide ample discipline for us? No need for God to burn our house down — or put a dread disease on us!

Hebrews 12:12-13

12 **Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,**

13 **and make straight paths for your feet,** so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

We may need to encourage ourselves. Jesus has gone before us — we can do it ... too. **We just need to endure!**

Hebrews 12:14-17

14 **Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

15 **looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;**

16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, *(he was too late!!)* he was rejected, **for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.**

Hebrews 12:17 — “NO PLACE FOR REPENTANCE” — GREEK: METANOIA — CHANGE OF MIND. It wasn't possible to change Isaac's mind about the blessing he'd just given to Jacob. It was done! It was final! It couldn't be reversed!

WEYMOUTH: “He found no opportunity for undoing what he had done”.

We ought to be careful not to lose our eternal inheritance by drifting away ... or drawing back.

We shouldn't “sell” our birthright to enjoy the “pleasures of sin for a season”.

It seems to be referring back to verse 15: Don't be bitter personally. And watch out for bitter people ... who might affect us by their attitude.

Watch out for negative troublemakers! These are a danger and can cause many to be “defiled” — verse 15.

Deuteronomy 29:14-18

14 “I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone,

15 but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today

16 (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by,

17 and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold);

18 **so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood;**

A root-bearing bitterness. They spread it to others! It can be catching!

Hebrews 12:18-24

18 For **you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire**, and to blackness and darkness and tempest,

19 and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.

20 (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.”)

21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”)

22 **But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 **to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.**

TWO MOUNTAINS — TWO COVENANTS

**We have a BETTER MOUNTAIN — A BETTER COVENANT ...
A BETTER PRIESTHOOD ... BETTER BLOOD ... A BETTER
CITY ... A BETTER RELATIONSHIP —WITH GOD AND EACH
OTHER.**

**Mount Sinai is old. It has been replaced by Mount Zion. The
latter is much better!**

MAJOR WARNING #7 IF YOU TURN AWAY.

Hebrews 12:25-29

25 **See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.** For if they did
not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall
we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,
26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying,
“**Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.**”
27 Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that
are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which
cannot be shaken may remain.

28 **Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which
cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may
serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**
29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:25 (NASB)

25 **See to it**

SEE TO IT! PAY ATTENTION!

**The world as we know it (Heaven and Earth) will be shaken.
But just once more.**

**Jesus our High Priest is coming! Bringing a permanent
eternal kingdom — for us too dwell in.**

**Bearing in mind our great future — in the Heavenly Jerusalem —
Mount Zion — let us make sure to serve God faithfully and
reverently.**

**For those who ignore God's warnings — and turn away —
God will be revealed as a consuming fire!**