

SUBJECT: The Cloud 7
Witnesses

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Heb. 11:1-12:1

THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

The sore trials of this little Jewish Hebrew congregation
the consecration of their property, afflictions, reproaches, ... 10:32-34
But incomparably the greatest trial, Lenten. Their Y communication ...
The identity of national feeling among the Jews at the time has never been
paralleled in any age or in any country (G.A.O). Then Y: yes. I have
the nation, traditions, history, moral institutions. When separated
from the solemnities of the ancient worship - priestly, altar, sacrifices,
festivals - seemed to them the loss of all things. Separated from the Temple,
no longer able to claim any part in Israel, or Abraham, Isaac,
David, the prophets.

The purpose of the author is to encourage them in their steadfastness to Christ,
in the promise of the divine Word. For this cause he summarizes the
most glorious names in Jewish history. Their use was common
characteristic, whether they were warriors, prophets, judges, kings -
their is visible faith in the divine Word. By faith was their apprehension
NOT by worldly occupations, attending festivals, not by the pomp or
splendor with which they celebrated external rites, ceremonies, but by
steadfast faith in God.

He had quoted them 10:23, 35, 36 - the promise. Now he shows
them that a realization of the reality of their success, a confident
perseverance, their hopes, under the heart they to have nothing, to
endure the richening awareness of disappointment and delay. He has
seen the life of a saint from the beginning. From the first what he
wishes for, knows, was their reliance upon his divine Word.

He begins at the very opening of the sacred book. First article
of religion rests upon faith. Gen 1:1; Heb 11:3
He turns the page. Abel a shepherd; Cain a tiller of the ground.
Both a sacrifice - with in demonstration accepted, Abel (Lutherans
sacrifices include wheat, barley as well as of flesh, blood). But
one by faith.

He turns the page. The genealogical table: Adam died,
Seth died, Enosh died, Cainan died... Then an interruption. "Enosh..."
Nothing said about building a temple, construction of priests, laying
of sacrifices. Return to his faith.

Inconceivable, that the living passage could have been read to as
 check in Babylon without tears of wounds, penitence & delight,
 I can imagine me now after another rising in the church with
 new courage, new hope, gained from such separate sections.
 (1) what I hope we find like Abd, our death to all generations yet
 (2) or that is every translated as like Enoch, the righteous, the dead.
 (3) alone in the world, like Noah, surrounded by a wicked generation.
 (4) But as he was threatened to destroy the world with a flood, so
 & that warned us... Mt 24... "I want to sound."
 (5) I like Abraham, have to know my own, unable to
 penetrate the future, not know whether God is truly us,
 I of my self, sure of my own as a better inheritance. Let us
 believe that he God will raise the dead body of our ancestor
 with in a noble, fully form; in the church more than in the
 world.

11:39, 40

139 Through our long, weary century after another the patriarchs
 and prophets waited for the promise. There was no real
 message for us. Their knowledge was limited. In their weary
 lay in an indefinite future.

140 It is implied the spirits of the just were longing for the
 fulfillment of the promise of God.

- Their attention fixed on the moment, divine from above which
 prepared for his coming.

- They passed with awe, wonder, unutterable admiration as the
 Lord, child had unity, joy, in the Father, unity & the one, united
 with angels, infinite hope for all redemption; they follow down
 with us, all, & all, together, together, together, when he comes to
 the throne.

- Somehow, their spiritual bliss not fully attained until
 the Lord came, died for human sin, raised from the dead,
 ascended to the right hand of the Father, Eph. 4:8 They were not
 to reach the consummation, their spiritual joy, but they
 entered paradise, until the promise fulfilled. The Father, after they
 visited of saints now in heaven would they be made perfect
 with the same.

[I of. & like the saints in heaven will be released - but
 the redemption]

As through the page (small) as details of the same story
become more numerous, he finds more striking, obvious proofs
of his great theme.

But for faith, the whole now presents, find a miserable end in
the nature of the plan. not by sacrifice, circumstances, but by faith
that we do children...

Then the page. The Hebrew now may have been but for the
faith of all else. Obtainer for his the divine power. Crisis of the
crisis occurred in his story, when all would have been but but
for his trust in God.

(1) when called to go out - leave land, and fathers - could do
distracted God, refused. - 11: 8

(2) For years wandered in land of promise, no progeny. & lost
place among tribes increasing in number, power. Could have
given up hope the land was to his. but his confidence in the
divine word remained. 11: 9

(3) Time came when he - land would no longer support a
child (2: 104, 105) 11: 11, 13

(4) when the child raised to himself, estates, Abraham called to
offer him up. Had he doubted, Abraham from the trial? But
by faith... 11: 17-19.

Throughout the history of Abraham, nothing is incident by showing
rites, ceremonial religion, the divine power was. Every act in
a life, unapproachable trust in the word, that, despite all adverse
appearances, remembered by parents sorrowing, reality - usually on
"thy, usen + & "thy, 11: 14"

So with Isaac. Jacob - Joseph: "his bones" in the same confidence
God would be faithful to his word. Died in faith not concerned
as the earth in his presence has not become thing, thy rest the
death upon a better world... & blessed."

The history of Isaac is a full illustration of the power of
faith in God, Abraham himself. He would have perished in infancy
but for the faith of his parents. 11: 23

Abel. . . Adam. . . Noah. . . 11: 31 ff. They had trusted in God
when cruel calamities had taken the spirit of their countrymen,
trust in God when his goodness had seemed to punish them, when
trifles and death were their only reward. Their first "blessed by"

Now the following are called upon to emulate the heroic
confidence of these ancestors. "Surrounded by a great world,
withness --"

: 40 A unity between the spirit & the flesh depends also
if, in the final remaining of earth. This says but
earthward. Their own ultimate perfection is not attained
until we have won our way to earth. They four
'a great cloud of witnesses' testify from heaven,
encouraging us from heaven.

As an intimate connection between the death, & his
resurrection, and resurrection as the way to the S. (perfect
judging inequality relation) so an intimate connection
between us who are on this side of things and the
perfects of the next is known.

It is not so simple. The interest in human eyes has
been the same. The brain has been established. A great
in effect, we are not one with you and the brain.
Myself, we are the way that we are. What is the
of faith in the eyes is a matter of knowledge to us.