

INTRODUCTION

1. Our affinity to "our people." Hb 11 - the people of faith.
 - i. Faith defined - v1 & v13-14 -> v16 Different people - all *by faith*.
2. Epilogue - v39-40, Summary description & call us to take our place.

1st: A People Approved and Given Promises - v39

1. *All these* = those in v4-32 & v 33-38 = *so great a cloud of witnesses* [12:1]
 - i. Elijah that he was the only one in his day - but 7,000 had not bowed to Baal [1Kg 19:18] - cited in Rom 11:3. The Lord keeps His remnant.
2. *gained approval thru their faith* - inclusio v2 - a life pleasing to God.
 - i. Not = justifi'd by works, but *faith working thru love* [Gal 5:6]
 - ii. passive voice = approved by God - v4 *G testifying*; v5 *obtained witness* = *pleasing to God* - God witnesses - Lk 12:8-9.
 - iii. Principle of Final Judgment - fruit of faith - Mat 25:21,23; 1C 3:12-14
3. What has not yet been given to faith: *did not receive what was promised*.
 - i. The "already": Noah [v7]; Ab & Sarah [v11-12]; Joshua & Rahab [v30-31]; deliverances [v33-35]; preservation [v35-38]. 2Pt 1:2-3.
 - ii. The "not-yet" - Hb 11:13-16 *desire better* - will be given in fullness
 - iii. *All these* died, welcoming the promises from a distance
 - iv. What we have in NCov is better than OT types. We have Jesus, HS. We await fulfillment & are nearer to Jesus' return than anyone ever.

2nd: A People Given Provisions and Made Perfect - v40

1. Why have the OT believers not yet come to that better country? *b/c God had provided something better for us*
 - i. *provided* [fnt: foreseen] = plan & prepare in advance & sustained thru redemptive history.
 - ii. Lord has determined to bless you!

2. The Lord who is the God the these people of faith is our God & He, in Christ, is given us what is *better*.
 - i. *all these* includes us - people like us. A 14:15 *same nature as you* - passions, feelings - creatures, frail & vulnerable; sinners [1T 1:16].
 - a. *all these* are sinners - we extol God's grace [Jms 5:10-11]
3. *so that apart from us they wld not be made perfect* - they wait for us; we all wait for Jesus. A unity that death cannot sever - *lie down w/ your fathers* [1Chr 17:11; Dt 31:16; 2Sam 7:12]; Ab's bosom [Lk 16]; Rev 6:9-10. 1 Thes 4:14-18.
4. *made perfect* - complete God's plan = the *better* - Sabbath Rest of chpt 4
 - i. We already have perfect atonement - Hb 7:11,17-19; 9:11-12; 10:14
 - ii. How? because Jesus is *perfect*. 2:10; 5:8-10 - 12:1-2
5. All is *in Christ* & is being perfected, unfolding according to plan - Phil 1:6

Applic #1: Be Encouraged to Be Numbered Among *All These*

1. Family at table - Mat 8:11 - family resemblance: *like Him* [1Jn 3:2b]
2. *All these* - so different is so many ways but all one in Christ, all introduced to each other as in Hb 11 - *by faith*.

Applic #2: Be Determined to Persevere by Grace To Eschatological Perfection

1. What a wondrous day - when Jesus returns! [2Thes 1:10].
2. How can we speak of such thgs? *By faith* - Bible-informed faith - greater than we can conceive [1C 2:9]. The possession of all the promises!
3. Persevere in union w/ Jesus: united to His death to suffer & united to His resurrection to conquer & overcome.
4. Hbs is all about exhorting us to persevere - run race & cross finish line & enter *perfection!* [Phil 3:12]. Jesus has laid hold of you by His love & grace - now, press on & lay hold of Him. How? *By faith - the righteous man will live by faith* - Amen.