

HOLD FAST THE HOPE

Sunday Morning: October 28, 2001

Text: Hebrews 10:19-23 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20. By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21. And *having* an **high priest** (9 chapters, 2 – 10) over the house of God;

22. Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23. Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)"

We have been studying about our high priest after the order of Melchisedec. As I was musing upon what to bring this morning, I thought to myself that we have been on this subject a long time. I said to myself I sure hope the people are not getting board with this subject. I reminded myself that there are nine chapter in the Hebrews alone that deals with the high priestly order of Melchisedec. That value of that high priestly order is so important that God concentrated nine chapters out of the book of Hebrews to emphasize the significance of that priestly order.

Without the priestly order of Melchisedec, faith would be meaningless. Under the Mosaic law and the priestly order of Aaron faith was not a factor. Faith was shut up and not revealed until after the law. Galatians 3:23 "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, **shut** up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed." On the other hand we will be studying the eleventh chapter of Hebrews which talk about those who were living by faith. How can that be? Romans 4:9 ". . . we say that **faith** was **reckoned** to Abraham for righteousness." Not only to Abraham but also those in Hebrews eleven.

The high priestly order of Melchisedec means that if we are just and living by faith, our faith is not vain. 1 Corinthians 15:17 "And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins." It would be impossible to please God because Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*:. . ." Thank the Lord for 1 Corinthians 15:20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept."

What does the office of Melchisedec bring to an obedient child of God? Hope! What is that hope? It is the hope of glory. It is the hope of an heavenly inheritance. Under the Aaronic priesthood God promised the nation of Israel an earthly inheritance and all the Gentiles that were saved under the law of Moses were given an earthly inheritance among the tribe in which they dwelt. This earthly inheritance is not just between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. This is the land from the Nile River all the way to the Euphrates River.

In contrast to the earthly inheritance, God has promised an heavenly inheritance. This promise of an heavenly inheritance has been made under the priestly order of Melchisedec. The promise of an heavenly inheritance has been made to the brethren as found in verse 19. Brethren are those who are seeking to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

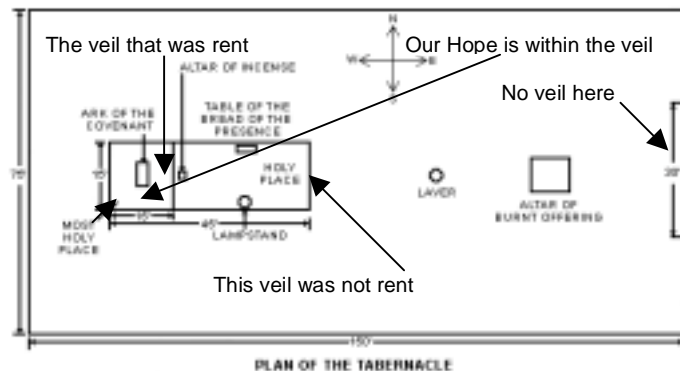
Brethren are those who are seeking to do the will of the Father. Seeking to do the will of the Father is seeking to do what Jesus Christ did while he was here on the earth. Brethren are those who want more than a fire escape from Hell. There are plenty of people that have

received Jesus Christ as their saviour so they will not spend eternity in the lake of fire, and that is all they want. 1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." What God has prepared for those who love him is worth more than what ever we may have to suffer or endure in this life time. To receive this heavenly blessing takes more than salvation.

BRETHREN

Hebrews 10:19 "Having therefore, **brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood**

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The Melchisedecian priest hood has made it possible for the brethren to enter into the holy of holies. I have included a diagram of the Tabernacle so that we can see where the holy of holies is located with respect to the holy place and the veils that hid the holy of holies and the holy place.

The tabernacle was a place where the children of Israel met with God. The glory of God was in the Holy of Holies. This place of holiness was in a tent that was enclosed by a wall that surrounded the tent, laver, and altar for sacrifice. Where the altar for animal sacrifice is located there is not a veil. That part of the tabernacle was open for those who were allowed in the camp to come and present their sacrifices and offerings.

We are focusing on the tent where the holy place and the holy of holies is located. These two rooms were enclosed so that it would be impossible for those outside could see in to these areas. There was a veil on the outside of the tent that led into the Holy place. Inside the Holy place is another veil that hid the Holy of Holies. The sons of Aaron could go into the Holy place to light the candle and burn incense as well as place the showbread on the table in that room. It was the rending of the veil between the holy place and the Holy of Holies that made it possible for the priest to see and enter into the Holy of Holies. Normally, only the high priest could enter into the Holy of Holies and that was just one time a year on the Day of Atonement. Exodus 26 is where these two veils are mention

TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES

Two curtains or veils in the tent in the tabernacle. The outer veil to the holy place. (Exodus 26:36, 37) The enter veil to the holy of holies. (Exodus 26:31-35)

TWO VEILS

Hebrews 9:3 "And after the second **veil**, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;" The first veil protected the place were the priest did the service of God. Hebrews 9:6 "Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service *of God*." The second veil protected the Holy of Holies.

NOT WITHOUT BLOOD

Hebrews 9:7 "But into the **second** *went* the high priest alone **once every year**, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people:"

The high priest went into the Holy of Holies once very year with blood to sprinkle on the Mercy Seat. Jesus Christ when he became the high priest enter into the Holy of Holies in the heavenly tabernacle with his own blood. Hebrews 9:12 ". . . by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal** [age-lasting] **redemption** *for us*."

THE SECOND VEIL

Mark 15:38 "And the **veil** of the **temple** was **rent** in twain from the top to the bottom."

It was the veil into the Holy of Holies that *was rent in twain from the top to the bottom*. The veil in the temple was four inches thick. That veil could not be torn by the strength of two horses pulling it in opposite directions. This rending of the veil would be in the eyes of the priest who saw this knew that this was an act of God. God open the way for the priest now to see into the Holy of Holies and not just the high priest. What they saw when that veil was rent was that the Shechinah glory had been removed. Only the Ark was in there because the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel.

LIVING WAY THROUGH THE VEIL

Hebrews 10:20 "By a new and **living way**, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is to say, **his flesh**;"

The flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ open for us an entrance into the Holy of Holies in the heavenly tabernacle. John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."

A LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-4 "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto **a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, 4. **To** [for] an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,"

The high priestly order of Melchisedec keeps our hope living. What is the mystery of the hope of those who are going on to perfection? It is found in the following passages. Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, **the hope of [the] glory**:" James and John wanted that glory, Mark 10:37 "They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, **in thy glory**." What did that glory pertain to? Matthew 20:21 ". . . Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, **in thy kingdom**." The hope of glory is a hope of position in the coming kingdom of our Lord. To enter into that hope is to endure the cup that is given to us to drink as Jesus endured the cup given to him as found in Mark 14:36 "And he said, Abba, Father, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

This passage in 1 Peter 1 helps to understand that the living hope is also related to our inheritance. 1 Samuel 2:8 "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them **inherit the throne of glory** [honor]:" This inheritance is in heaven. This is an heavenly inheritance and not an earthly inheritance. This inheritance is for those who live by faith. 1 Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." What is the significance of faith? If we make shipwreck of the faith we will lose our heavenly inheritance. We do not lose

our salvation. We lose the better heavenly inheritance.

HOPE, THE ANCHOR

Hebrews 6:19-20 "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which **entereth into that within the veil**; 20. **Whither the forerunner is** for us **entered, even Jesus**, made an **high priest** for ever after the order of **Melchisedec**."

The hope of glory anchor's the soul or the life of one who desires to go on to perfection. That anchor chain is tied to our high priest Jesus Christ. Without access to the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies and our high priest, our hope is in vain. Associated with hope is faith and faith is vain if Christ is not our high priest after the order of Melchisedec. An anchor provides stability to the ship or boat to which the anchor chain is attached. It helps us to resist every wind of doctrine that the prince of the power of the air can throw at us. Even adversity, as in a storm, will not cause us to move because of the hope that anchors our soul.

When I think of an anchor I think of a ship. When I think of a ship, I am reminded that we can make shipwreck of our faith. The anchor chain keeps us from making shipwreck.

WITHIN THE VEIL

Where is the anchor chain attached? Within the veil. What veil? The second veil where the mercy seat and the ark of the covenant is found. This veil that was rent was the veil protecting the Holy of Holies.

The veil that protected the Holy place was not rent. The Holy Place is still veiled. Who is allowed into the Holy Place? Only the priest were allowed into the Holy Place. Who saw into the Holy of Holies when the veil was rent? The priest that enter into the Holy Place. The vast majority of people who were at the tabernacle and in this case the temple did not see into the Holy of Holies. The priest who were in the Holy Place were clean because they washed in the brazen laver. If they did not wash in the brazen laver, they would be killed when they tried to enter into the Holy Place. Exodus 30:20 "When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not;" The people that were in the court of the temple did not see into the Holy of Holies, just the priest.

AN HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 10:21 "And *having* an **high priest** over the **house of God**;" (Hebrews 3:6)

Hebrews 3:6 "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Jesus Christ is our high priest over the house of God and if we hold fast to the hope firm unto the end we will be apart of that house.

OF GOOD THINGS TO COME

Hebrews 9:11 "But Christ being come an **high priest** of **good things to come**, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;"

Christ, our high priest, is a mediator with the Father concerning good things that are coming. The good things that are coming pertain to our heavenly inheritance. This is not dealing with salvation. The good things that are coming are for the called unto His kingdom and glory.

INHERITANCE

Hebrews 9:15 "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [transgressors] *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive **the promise** of eternal [age] **inheritance**."

The word *transgressions* is a reference to the transgressors or individuals that were under the Old Testament. He is the mediator or testator of his new will not only to the Jews under the Old

Testament, but also unto the Gentiles which are included under the New Testament. The Jews and Gentiles are those who have been saved and called unto an heavenly inheritance. The word *eternal*, which would be better translated as everlasting, is a reference to millennial kingdom when Christ will reign for 1,000 years.

When we receive Jesus Christ as personal saviour we become part of the family. It is not until we are judged that we will receive our inheritance. When we refer to inheritance we are not referring to salvation but rewards based upon service.

FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH

Hebrews 10:22 "Let **us** draw near with a true heart in **full assurance of faith**, having our hearts **sprinkled** from an **evil conscience**, and our **bodies washed** with pure water."

Drawing near to our high priest is to take advantage of his office. When we draw near we can do that with full assurance of faith that he made the way for us into the Holy of Holies. When we draw near it is on the basis of faith and not feeling. There are times when we do have an experience with him, but most of the time we do not. I just think of how much fellowship did Moses have with the Lord when he was in the desert with those sheep? I do not know of a single incident that Moses had with the Lord until the forty years were completed. That is a long time without conscience fellowship with the Lord. Abraham also had similar experiences with the Lord where he had extended periods without conscience fellowship with the Lord. When I go to God in prayer I do not expect to see a flash of light or a great rush of joy. I just know where he is and I know that he is faithful, so I can approach Him with full assurance of faith. I know that if he hears my prayers that I have the petition that I desire of him. 1 John 5:14-15 "And this is the **confidence** that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to **his will**, he **heareth us**: 15. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, **we know that we have** the petitions that we desired of him."

I believe it is His shed blood that sprinkles our hearts from an evil conscience. You do not want to come to him dirty. Our brazen laver is 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." If you were unclean you had to stay outside the camp.

WITHOUT THE CAMP

Hebrews 13:12-13 "Wherefore **Jesus** also, that he **might sanctify** the people with his own **blood**, suffered without the gate. 13. Let us go forth therefore **unto him without the camp**, bearing his reproach."

Jesus suffered outside the camp so that he could bring the unclean in with Him into the camp clean. I was outside the camp that the washing of water was applied to those who were unclean. The washing of water was associated with the ashes of the red heifer.

You know where the lepers lived. Outside of the camp of the children of Israel. They could not come to the Tabernacle nor to the Temple. The reason being, that they would defile the Temple or Tabernacle.

FAITH IS NOT VAIN

1 Corinthians 15:13-14 "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14. And **if Christ be not risen**, then *is* our preaching vain, and **your faith is also vain**."

This verse assures us that our faith is not vain because Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead to the right hand of the Father.

RED HEIFER

Numbers 19:3 "And ye shall give her (the red heifer) unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth **without the camp**, and *one* shall **slay** her before his face:"

The red heifer provided cleaning. The red heifer is a type of Christ who suffered without the camp. Notice that Eleazar did not turn his face when the heifer was slain. This red heifer was to be without blemish and ceremonially clean. I know that the nation of Israel is having trouble getting a red heifer that does not have any blemishes. They want a heifer that Gentile hands have not touched. They are breeding red heifers in Texas to be sold red with no white anywhere. To keep them clean and untouched by Gentile hands they are sending pregnant heifers to Israel so they will deliver their calves in that land.

BODIES WASHED IN WATER

Numbers 19:7 "Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall **bathe his flesh in water**, and afterward he shall **come into the camp**, and the priest shall be unclean until the even."

As the priest washed his clothes and bathed his flesh so that he could go back into the camp, we need to cleanse ourselves from all Hebrews 9:13-14 "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" The priest went back to the tabernacle or temple to enter into the Holy Place for service to the Lord.

WATER OF PURIFICATION

Numbers 19:9 "And a man *that is* clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay *them* up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a **water of separation: it is a purification for sin.**"

This verse further emphasizes that importance of being clean to enter back into the camp and fellowship with the Lord. The water of separation speaks of coming out from among them that would cause us to be defiled. 2 Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,"

CUT OFF

Numbers 19:13 "Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and **that soul shall be cut off** from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness *is* yet upon him."

If some one in Israel refused the red heifer and the water of separation, that person would be cut off from Israel. What that meant was that they would not have an inheritance in the land. If you, as a priest, refuse to be clean and try to go into the Holy of Holies you will perish or be cut off or be killed. To be cut off, again, is to lose one's inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey. If we are cut off because of unconfessed sin, we will lose our heavenly inheritance.

BLOOD AND WATER

John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **blood and water.**"

I believe it was the piercing of His side that opened the veil into the Holy of Holies and it was the blood and water, which are mentioned in Hebrews, that was given for cleansing and separation.

THEM THAT WITHOUT

Colossians 4:3-5 "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the **mystery of Christ**, for which I am also in bonds: 4. That I may

make it manifest, as I ought to speak. 5. Walk in wisdom toward **them that are without**, redeeming the time."

This passage in Colossians speaks of those who are without. I believe these are those that are part of the body of Christ that have not been given eyes to see and ears to hear the mystery of Christ referred to in verse 3. Reference is made to them that are without in Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto **them that are without**, all *these* things are done in parables:" The called and chosen, who are the elect, are those who can see and hear the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens and Christ. Those that are without can not and I associate them with those that can not enter the Holy Place. The reason they can not enter into the Holy Place is because they are not priest. I will deal with this point just a little later.

WASH WITH WATER

Exodus 30:18-20 "Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, . . ., and thou shalt put water therein. 19. For Aaron and his sons shall **wash** their **hands** and their **feet** thereat: 20. When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they **die not**; . . ."

The Sons of Aaron were the ones who went into the tabernacle of the congregation and they entered into the tabernacle through the outer veil. They had to cleanse that which had become defiled which was their hands and their feet. It was the sons of Aaron that had access to the enter rooms of the tabernacle.

AN HOLY PRIESTHOOD

1 Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."
Who saw the veil being rent? It was the sons of Aaron the priests that had access to the Holy Place, so they were the ones who witnessed that event. The other tribes of Israel could not enter into the Holy Place so they would not be able to witness what happened to the veil before the Holy of Holies.

Today there is a priesthood that are living stones built up into a spiritual house. We are part of that house if we hold fast the confidence of the hope firm unto the end. Are all the body part of the priesthood? Peter is not writing to the body of Christ but to the elect. The elect are those who are called out of the body of Christ. We see that he is writing to them in 1 Peter 1:2.

THE ELECT

1 Peter 1:2 "**Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **through sanctification** of the Spirit, unto obedience and **sprinkling** of the **blood** of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

This verse affirms that Peter is writing to the Elect or the chosen. He is writing to the elect that have the spirit of commitment and dedication to set themselves apart for the Lord. They are the ones who have been obedient and have sprinkled themselves with the blood for cleansing so that they can enter into the Holy Place and into the Holy of Holies.

The elect are the brethren of Hebrews 10:19 who can enter the Holy of Holies and not those who are without.

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

1 Peter 2:9-10 "But ye *are* a **chosen** generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10. Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of

God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

It is the chosen, the elect that are a royal priesthood, a holy nation. A nation that would produce the fruits required to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Matthew 21:43 "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." The phrase *a peculiar people* is rendered in the NASB as *A people for God's own possession*. It was the Gentiles that were sitting in darkness according to Luke 1:79 "To give light to **them** (who are Gentiles) that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Elect Gentile who were known from the foundation of the world have now become the people of God, the chosen ones. To have obtained mercy as the nation of Israel had, they were offered the kingdom of the heavens. Gentiles that have been chosen are the ones now that are obtaining mercy. When Isaac blessed Esau and Jacob in Hebrews 11:20 "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come." as you can see, it was concerning things to come. Christ is our high priest concerning good things to come. Jacob was elect, Esau was not. Romans 9:13-15 "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14. What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." God is not unrighteous to chose some Gentile's in the body of Christ to be part of the kingdom of priest.

KINGS AND PRIESTS

Revelation 1:5-6 "And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed** [loosed] **us from our sins** in his own **blood**, 6. And hath made us **kings** and **priests** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

It is the priesthood that have been loosed from their sins in the blood of Jesus Christ. It is the priesthood that will one day be placed in positions of royalty as kings. What will the priest do as kings? That is explained in Revelation 20:6.

PRIEST OF GOD

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but **they shall be priests of God** and of Christ, and shall **reign with him** a thousand years."

The kings and priest who are part of the royal priesthood will take part in the best resurrection. The second death, the lake of fire, will have no power to destroy their works of gold, silver and precious stones. They shall be priests of God and of Christ and reign for 1000 years.

HOLD FAST

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the **profession** [confession] of *our faith* [hope] **without wavering**; (for he *is faithful* that promised;)"

Have you embraced the hope of glory which a hope for position in the kingdom of the heavens, don't change and be moved away from that hope. Colossians 1:22-23 "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23. If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard,. . . ;"

The word *faith* should be translated *hope*. The word *profession* should be translated confession. We are to hold fast and embrace this hope without wavering. We should not waver because he has not wavered in his promise, he has been faithful and still is. How can we keep from

wavering? We keep from wavering by talking about our hope. It is through the confession of our hope that we are able to keep from falling away. May the Lord help us to talk about the kingdom of the heavens and endeavor to seek first His coming kingdom.