

HEBREWS PART 7

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6.8.16

Hebrews 12:12-13 (NKJV)

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. (*Encourage those who are flagging a bit*)

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Pursue peace with all people, (particularly with the brethren) 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;

*Probable reference to danger to believers of such individuals in their midst ... who "cause trouble" ... and "many become defiled" ... verse 15. A "Root of Bitterness" ... we don't want to be bitter personally ... but ... primarily the meaning is referring to someone who can affect others around them ... with their attitudes and teachings ... "Troublemakers" ... compare:

Deuteronomy 29:14-18 (NKJV)

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; *(people in the congregations turning to other ways of life ... other gods)*

So. Watch out! Be diligent!

Hebrews 12:16-17

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 rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.**

"No place for repentance" ... Greek: "METANOIA" ... Change of mind ... there was no way for Esau to change Isaac's mind. Time had passed ... it was done ... it was finished.

WEYMOUTH "... **He found no opportunity for undoing what he had done"**

The decision was made final: it can't be reversed for those who give up on their eternal birthright. Those who go back to a way of temporary comfort. Do you give up? We'd better not. We have an eternal birthright. Don't draw back (to perdition ... destruction). We can leave it too late.

Hebrews 12:18-24 (NKJV)

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.

Remember much of the book of Hebrews is about BETTER. Now we've got a better mountain.

Two mountains ... two covenants.

The first mountain ... The Old Covenant: Fear ... Trepidation ...

Physical priests

The second mountain ... A Better Mountain ... Better Covenant ...

Better Fellowship ... Better Relationship ... Better Blood ... Better City ... Better Future.

To the Hebrew Audience ... don't go back! Don't be tempted to return to the old covenant. Could that be a problem today? It certainly could. Look at the Hebrew Roots movement for example. Quite a number of these people go too far ... making their way back to Mount Sinai in Arabia. They are overly attracted to the Old Covenant and the Torah of old. They have Jewish Dances ... They wave Lulavs at the Feast of Tabernacles ... Men with tassels (tzit tzit) on their

garments. Speakers with Jewish Prayer Shawls ... they are attracted back to the Old Covenant! No! This can lead you back to Mount Sinai in Arabia ... that is history.

Hebrews 12:25-29 (NKJV) ... MAJOR WARNING #7

25 **See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.** (*God has now spoken to us through His Son ... from Jesus the Great High Priest of the order of Melchizedek*) 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, (*NASB... "See to it!" ... "Be careful!" ... "Make sure!" Don't refuse invitation ... It was very costly to God*)

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. (*"removal" includes the Old Covenant ... the former priesthood ... the sanctuary etc ... the former mountain has been removed ... has gone*)

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. (The time of judgment is coming on all.)*

We are receiving a better kingdom ... The Kingdom of God ... established forever ... unlike the Kingdom of Israel ... or Jewish Nation. Therefore ... we should live right! The Father and Son have done all of the hard work ... we need to respond ... to co-operate.
See:

***2 Peter 3:8-14 (NKJV)**

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 **looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?**

13 **Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13 ... BETTER PRAISE

Hebrews 13:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Let **brotherly love** continue. (*Philadelphia ... Friendship and Affection*)

2 **Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.** (*Be hospitable ... probably within The Church ... the community of believers.*)

3 Remember the prisoners (*because of their beliefs ... of the Gospel*) as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

4 **Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**

(NET) "Marriage must be honoured among all and the marriage bed kept undefiled,"

(20th Century NT) " ... Be pure"

How does modern society today compare? Many don't get married. Where's marriage? Society says 2 men can marry or 2 women can marry. No. That is not how God set it up. Marriage goes back to Genesis Chapter 2 ... "A Divine Institution" ... from God ... not mankind. Looking around today ... marriage is not honourable at all. God will judge. God is not ignoring fornication or adultery. Cp:

Ephesians 5:25-28 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:30-32 (NKJV)

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

(Genesis 22)

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (A husband and wife is a picture of Jesus and His bride ... The Church ... the Firstfruits)

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)

5 ***Let your conduct be without covetousness**; be content with such things as you have. For **He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."** (*I WILL NOT, I WILL NOT, I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN. I WILL NOT, I WILL NOT LET YOU GO*)

*(NET) **"Your conduct must be free from the love of money."**

*(HCSB) **"Your life should be free from the love of money."**

It's the love of money that's the root of all evil ...

1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil

We shouldn't be driven by acquisitions.

Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV)

6 **So we may boldly say:**

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear.

What can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13:7 (NKJV)

7 **Remember those who rule over you, (do the ministers rule over us?)** who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Cp: Verse 17 ... **"Obey those who rule over you."**

These are very popular verses with Church of God leaders ... who think this is a wonderful idea ... for me ... to rule over you.

They make statements like ... "We need to learn God's Government. We need to learn to be ruled." In many cases ... ministers end up running people's lives. Almost as petty dictators.

Recollect the "18 Restored Truths" ... The Government of God appears as NUMBER 1 ... which means the ministers rule over you. Is that the case? Let's see what Jesus had to say. Cp:

Matthew 20:20-21 (NKJV)

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

Matthew 20:24-28 (NKJV)

24 And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

25 But **Jesus** called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

26 Yet it shall not be so among you; (EVER!!) but **whoever** desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Don't lord it over people! You serve ... and it's genuine service!

The English word "Rule" is translated from several Greek words. They don't all mean "rule" in the sense we often use today. Part of the problem is King James and his translation!! ... KJV ... A RULER ... KING JAMES ... so ... the translation is "slightly spun".

Here in Hebrews 13:7 compare with the NET translation and the majority of other translations.

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke God's message to you; reflect on the outcome of their lives and imitate their faith.
("Leaders" ... "Those who went before you" ... Foundational teachers [who had died] + Hebrews 11 heroes? Sometimes you can only tell the fruit after they have died)

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
(Always faithful. Always there to help us. He worked with the heroes of Hebrews Chapter 11 ... The "Leaders" who've gone before ... for the Hebrews then ... And ... Us today! "Leaders" come and go!)

Hebrews 13:9 (NKJV)

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Equally. Where human leaders are concerned ... WATCH OUT FOR strange doctrines! Jesus is the same.

Hebrews 13:9-14 (NKJV)

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart (*mind*) be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. *(A reference to the Old Covenant ... many of the old sacrifices could be participated in. But they didn't really do a lot)*

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. *(He was taken physically outside the gates ... to Golgotha)*

13 **Therefore let us go forth to Him**, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

Those who choose the Old Covenant ... Priesthood ... Levites ... Animal sacrifices ... who serve the temple ... have no access to Jesus and His sacrifice. We have a better altar ... The Cross. A Better Sacrifice!

Verse 13 ... "Go forth". This may bring reproach and criticism ... it did for many Jews ... who left their culture and went and identified with Jesus of Nazareth ... it can for us if we want to stand up and identify with Jesus. Much of society today believes Christians are naïve ... foolish.

For Us ... go outside "world" ... we have a better city (whose architect and builder is God!)

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

15 **Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**

Not blood sacrifices ... as under the Old Covenant ... but gratitude ... appreciation ... thanksgiving ... praise. Cp: Psalm 22:3 "God inhabits the praises of His people". Also:

Ephesians 5:18-21 (NKJV)

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit,**

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

GIVING THANKS ALWAYS.

Hebrews 13:16 (NKJV)

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

This is a favourite verse ... especially of dictators and despots. Some embellish it further ... See (CEV) "Obey your leaders and do what they say!"

Obey ... Greek ... Peitho = to persuade ... to be persuaded ... by those who lead you ... who go before you ... who show you the way.

You and I ... we should be prepared to listen ... to respect the views ... respond positively ... to those who are leading the way. Not always resisting ... arguing ... being "difficult" every single time that we are asked to do something. The idea is that we should be persuadable.
See:

Acts 13:42-43 (NKJV)

42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, **persuaded them** (*Peitho*) to continue in the grace of God. (*Paul is leading and they are being persuaded. He's not telling them that they have got to obey him*)

Acts 28:21-24 (NKJV)

21 Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you.

22 But **we desire to hear from you what you think**; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

23 So when they had appointed him a day, **many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading** (*Peitho*) them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

24 And some were **persuaded** (*Peitho*) by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.

So. Verse 17 "Be persuaded by those who show you the way" (if it makes sense)

Jay P Green's Literal ... "Yield to those taking the lead of you" (Don't always be hostile ... always the first to oppose ... if the Word stacks up and makes sense)

Shepherds and sheep ... easy to persuade. Not goats!!

There are plenty of warnings about watching out for deceptive ministers ... wolves.

We should recognise that in a congregation ... that there is a place for some decisions to be made by leaders ... the time/place for Services ... where to go for The Feast ... who might be better for certain tasks (car park, picnic site) ... Housekeeping matters. Maybe the leader might want to have an Outreach ... Internet ... Tent Meeting. Therefore ... be supportive ... not a blocker. Not an endless complainer. It does not mean ... to obey the Gestapo of The Church.

Hebrews 13:18-19 (NKJV)

18 Pray for us; for we are **confident** (*Peitho*) that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honourably.

19 But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NKJV)

20 Now may **the God of peace** (*a term only used by the Apostle Paul ... here and 6 other times*) who brought up **our Lord Jesus** from the dead, **that great Shepherd of the sheep**, (*Cp: John 10:11 (NKJV) "I am the good shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep". This whole letter has been about Jesus is that Great High Priest*) through the blood of **the everlasting covenant**, (*Why would you look back to the Old Covenant ... when we have a covenant that is much better than Mount Sinai with its animals blood ... Human Priests ... temporary blessings. Jesus' blood opens up the way to eternal life ... Being in The Family of God ... forever ... Father and brothers*)

21 **make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.** (*Jesus Christ ... As our High Priest ... through whom we have access to The Father ... Who ever lives to make intercession for us ... so that we can be confident.*)

Hebrews 13:22-25 (NKJV)

22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

24 **Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints.** Those from Italy greet you. (*NASB "Greet all of your leaders"*)

25 Grace be with you all. Amen.

Without the Book of Hebrews we wouldn't know about Jesus being our High priest. We wouldn't now about His present day ministry helping us into the Family of God for evermore.