



# HEBREWS

JESUS IS BETTER





## Christian Smith on modernity's vision of hope:

To make everything new, to leave behind the past, to be unbound by any tradition, to enjoy maximum choice, to be free from any constraint, to be able to buy whatever one can afford, to live however one desires—that is the guiding vision of modernity's spiritual project. It is spiritual (not merely ideological or cultural) because it names what is sacrosanct, an ultimate concern, a vision for what is most worthy in a sense that transcends any individual life.



# Hebrews 11:8-22

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.



# Hebrews 11:8-22

<sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. <sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.



# Hebrews 11:8-22

<sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.



# Hebrews 11:8-22

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup> of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>19</sup> He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

<sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.



# Hebrews 11:8-22

<sup>21</sup> By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup> By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.



# Outline

1. **Trust in the covenant promises**
2. **Look for the better city**
3. **Hope in the resurrection**



# **1. Trust in the covenant promises**

*Hebrews 11:8-13*



# Hebrews 11:8-9

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# Hebrews 11:11-13

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# 1. Trust in the covenant promises

## Application

- **Walking by faith means trusting in God's promises in the daily struggles and stresses of finances, relationships, and suffering — while we wait for the final redemption.**





## **2. Look for the better city**

*Hebrews 11:10, 13-16*



# Hebrews 11:10

For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.



# Hebrews 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.<sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.<sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.<sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.





**If I find in myself a desire  
which no experience in this  
world can satisfy, the most  
probable explanation is that I  
was made for another world.**

**—C. S. Lewis**



## 2. Look for the better city

### Application

- This “pilgrim perspective” frees us from the idolatry of worldly success, reorients our priorities, and reminds us of our true citizenship.



# 3. Hope in the resurrection

*Hebrews 11:17-22*



# 3. Hope in the resurrection

## Application

- This hope frees us from the fear of death



# 3. Hope in the resurrection

## Application

- This hope frees us from the fear of death
- This hope gives us comfort in grief



# THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

*"One finally gets the musical whole  
of Dostoevsky's original."*  
—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

## FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN BY RICHARD PEVEAR AND LARISSA VOLOKHONSKY

I have a childlike conviction that the sufferings will be healed and smoothed over, that the whole offensive comedy of human contradictions will disappear like a pitiful mirage . . . and that ultimately, at the world's finale, in the moment of eternal harmony, there will occur and be revealed something so precious that it will suffice for all hearts, to allay all indignation, to redeem all human villainy, all bloodshed; it will suffice not only to make forgiveness possible, but also to justify everything that has happened with men.



# 3. Hope in the resurrection

## Application

- This hope frees us from the fear of death
- This hope gives us comfort in grief
- This hope calls us to live boldly, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain



# Summary

1. **Trust in the covenant promises**
2. **Look for the better city**
3. **Hope in the resurrection**