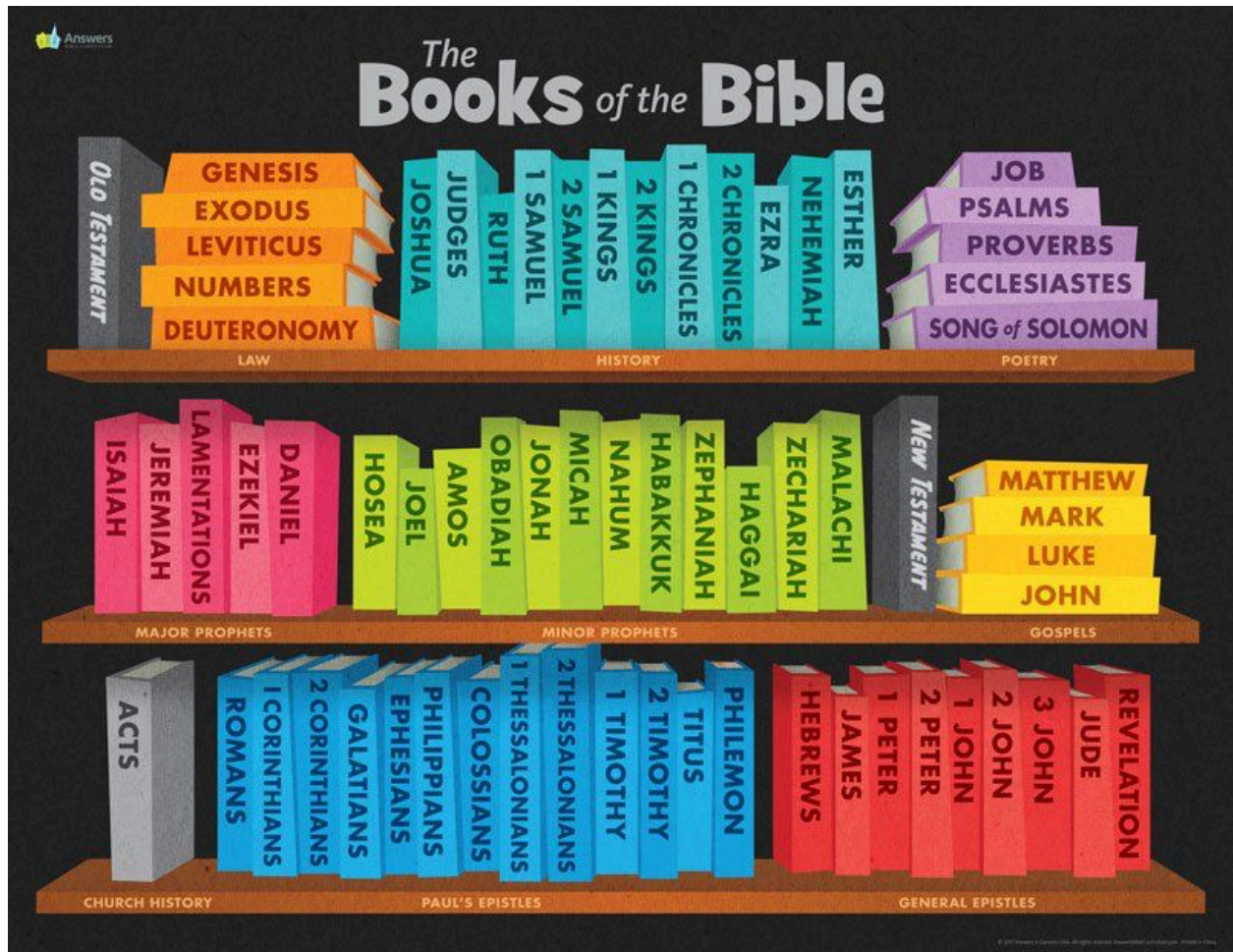


Outside the Camp

Go to Jesus--**look** and **live** for the city that is to come



CONTEXT

- God's family household values:
 - Brothers and sisters
 - Hospitality
 - Empathy
 - Marital and sexual purity
 - Contentment
 - Leadership and Jesus- the Leader of leaders
 - How to go to Jesus, personally.

⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be **strengthened by grace**, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so.

- Grace is a sense of favor, blessedness, credit, provision, thanksgiving!
- For the hearers of Hebrews, they were not to be carried away by all “all kinds of strange teachings,” but rather strengthened by grace-- the divine favor of Jesus. Ceremonial foods may be linked to dietary laws and the strange teachings may be associated with “syncretistic gnosis” (F.F. Bruce, 398) with Jewish Essene “affinities” (160-143 B.C.) (C.D. Ginsburg, *The Essenes, Baker’s Bible Encyclopedia*, p. 722).
- What does it mean to be strengthened by grace in the letter of Hebrews?
 - Someone who is strengthened by grace carries themselves with a confidence of God’s provision- “But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” *Hebrews 2:9*
 - Someone who is strengthened by grace is constantly thankful!-- Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” *Hebrews 12:28-29*
 - Praying for grace is appropriate. In the face of daunting deadlines, pray, “Lord, please give me your favor.”

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

- The word “altar” here is a literary metonymy, which means that it represents the whole Jewish sacrificial system. Hebrews is arguing that our Christian system is better than the Jewish system.
- Following a Jewish family’s sacrifice of a lamb, portions of your family offering would be available for your family and other families to enjoy together with Levitical priests-- a unique tribe with ancestry back to Moses in the 1300’s BC.
- Hebrews is conveying that a Levite priest who is not a Christian does not have access to what we have through our High Priest, Jesus. Their 1,300 years of Levitical service to YAHWEH did not give them access to this grace but through Jesus.

¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered **outside the city gate** to **make the people holy** through **his own blood**. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him **outside the camp**, **bearing the disgrace** he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for **the city** that is **to come**.



- The bodies of the bulls, goats, and lambs were to be burned outside of the camp or city of Jerusalem (Ex 29:14; Lev 4:12, 21; 9:11; 16:27). While the location was “a place ceremonially clean”, it was “the sin offering for the community” (Lev 4:12, 21). It was taken outside.



- Also outside the camp, was not just the place to dispose of the bodies of burned sacrifices, after the Hebrews rejected the LORD, Moses established a tent outside of the camp where the people would go to inquire of the Lord (Ex. 33:7). So the description of outside the camp symbolized disgrace and inquiry or devotion.



- The religious leaders of Jerusalem did not want to give Jesus the dignity of martyrdom within the City of Jerusalem. So like all animal cadavers, Jesus was nailed to a cross outside the city gates.
- FF Bruce observes that "Inside [their Jewish synagogue, City of Jerusalem, Levitical system heritage] they felt secure; they knew where they were amid its familiar installations; they were psychologically insulated from the world outside. But Jesus claimed the world outside for Himself. Other Jewish Christians, Hellenists like themselves, had taken the initiative in evangelizing the Gentile world. The future lay not with the 'camp' but with the Gentile mission; let them exchange the imagined security of their old associations for the new venture to which Jesus was leading His followers out. Time and again in history for the people of God a similar call has come when a new advance must be made into the unknown and unfamiliar. To occupy fresh territory under the leadership of Jesus" (Bruce, p. 404).

- Now they were without symbols like crosses, communion tables, and baptisms-- they had one another and Jesus.



- They we're being asked to go to Jesus outside of camp-- to **look** and **live** for the city that is to come. Remember Moses--

²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. **Hebrews 11:26 (NIV)**

- Then, Hebrews describes the priestly duties of believers. Do we need to go to the Catholic system? We have a High Priest, and we ourselves are priests.

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, **let us** continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of **lips that openly profess his name**. ¹⁶ And do not forget to **do good** and to **share with others**, for with such **sacrifices God is pleased**.

¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who **must give an account**. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

- While the Levitical sacrificial system is dead, we get to offer sacrifices of "praise, profession, [doing good], [sharing] with others (v. 16).

Psalm 50:13–15 (NIV)

¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ “**Sacrifice thank offerings to God,**

fulfill your vows to the Most High,

¹⁵ and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Psalm 50:22–23 (NIV)

²² “Consider this, you who forget God,
or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:

²³ Those who **sacrifice thank offerings** honor me,
and to the blameless I will show my salvation.”

¹⁸ **Pray for us.** We are sure that we have **a clear conscience** and desire to **live honorably** in every way. ¹⁹ I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

- “Have confidence in” and “submit to their authority” because “they keep watch over you” and “must give an account” (v. 17).
- Pray for [me] and all of our leaders-- for “a clear conscience” and “desire to live honorably” (v. 18).

Benediction and Final Greetings

²⁰ Now may the **God of peace**, who through the blood of the **eternal covenant** brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that **great Shepherd** of the sheep, ²¹ **equip you** with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is **pleasing to him**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- God is *shalom*.
- The eternal covenant is referencing Genesis 12:1-3 and Jeremiah 31:37

³⁷ This is what the Lord says:

“Only if the heavens above can be measured
and the foundations of the earth below be searched out
will I reject all the descendants of Israel
because of all they have done,”
declares the Lord. Jeremiah 31:37 (NIV)

- Jesus is the great Shepherd
- “Not my will, but yours....” and “work in us what is pleasing to him” (v. 21).

²² Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my **word of exhortation**, for in fact I have written to you **quite briefly**.

²³ I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

²⁵ Grace be with you all. **Hebrews 13:9–25 (NIV)**

- Huge congratulations, we have FINISHED. And we have finished a letter whose author has said,

¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. **Hebrews 5:13-14 (NIV)**

WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Rather than put Christian duty on a clergy, we are all called to serve the LORD as His priesthood. This was the original vision given at Mount Sinai--
 - ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my **treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**.⁷ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” Exodus 19:5–6; Isa 61:6; 66:21; See 1 Pe 2:5
- Our priestly work right now is...

¹⁰ **your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.** **Matthew 6:10 (NIV)**

-NT Wright

- FF Bruce explains, “They had been accustomed to think of the ‘camp’ and all that was inside was sacred, while everything outside was profane and unclean. Were they to leave its sacred precincts and venture on to unhallowed ground. Yes, because in Jesus the old values had been reversed; what was formerly unhallowed was now sacred, because Jesus was there” (p. 403).
- John Bell testimony

APPLICATION

1. Go to Jesus--**look** and **live** for the city that is to come

¹³ Let us, then, go to him **outside the camp, bearing the disgrace** he bore.

¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for **the city** that is **to come**.

HOW? Find your path to Jesus

He is experienced by grace.

Live for Jesus-- make decisions and spend your time and money in ways that demonstrate you are living for the city to come.

BLESS, Rooted, Challenge for the Year-

Go to Jesus--**look** and **live** for the city that is to come