

In our previous passage we saw that the patriarchs lived in tents, a sign that this world was not their home, but that they were *looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God* (Hebrews 11:10). The author will return to that theme in the latter half of today's passage, but first he exemplifies the faith of Sarah.

<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* (Hebrews 11:11). At first, this was puzzling to me, for Sarah laughed when she overheard the Lord telling her husband, Abram, that she would bear a child (Genesis 18:12). She had long before given up any hope of conceiving and had her servant bear a child by Abram (Genesis 16:2).

Paul tells us in Romans of their physical condition at the time. Regarding Abraham he wrote, <sup>19</sup> *He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.* Romans 4:19 Neither of them were physically capable of reproducing, but that doesn't matter to God. He is the Creator. But for us who are weak in faith, and so used to the laws of nature being unbending, it is a challenge to believe that God will intervene and bend His own natural laws.

Here is the account from Genesis 18 of Sarah hearing that she would have a child in her old age. <sup>11</sup> *Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.* <sup>12</sup> *So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"* <sup>13</sup> *The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"* <sup>14</sup> *Is anything too hard (the Hebrew is most frequently translated "wonderful.") for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.* <sup>15</sup> *But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."* Genesis 18:11-15

Does it sound to you like Sarah had faith? Our Hebrews passage today tells us she had faith. Even though she doubted at first, she apparently went on to believe and through her believing faith received strength to conceive. The LORD told her that it would be about that time next year that she would give birth. That tells us it took her about three months to go from laughing at the possibility of a 90-year-old woman conceiving, to believing that nothing is too wonderful for God.

How did she make into Faith's Hall of Fame after the way she behaved? She went along with Abram's lie pretending she wasn't his wife, twice (Genesis 12:13; 20:2)? She encouraged Abram to conceive a child through her servant girl. Later she made Abraham send that servant and her son off into the desert where they could have, and almost did, die (Genesis 21:10). Yet, here she is in the Hall of Fame because she believed and conceived a child at the age of 90.

I find this so encouraging for several reasons. We've all sinned and doubted God like Sarah did. Since God remembers the faith with which we endure and by which we hope

**Commented [PW1]: Genesis 18:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

**Commented [PW2]: Genesis 16:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

**Commented [PW3]: Genesis 12:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

**Commented [PW4]: Genesis 20:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

**Commented [PW5]: Genesis 21:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac."

in the promises and forgets our past sins, there is hope for us all. Amen? Praise God? Regardless of how bad your past is, God is willing to forget it because of our faith in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Acts 3:19; Hebrews 13:12). If we, too, will endure in faith, that is to continue in faith, trusting in Jesus, our faith being manifested in our daily lives, we too will be counted among these we are reading about.

Sarah's testimony also tells me that though I doubt what I hear from the LORD at first, even laugh at the possibility, He can help me come to have faith in the impossible. The most wonderful example of this is His promise to make us like Jesus (1 John 3:2), to finish the work He began in us (Philippians 1:6). As a young believer it looked like it would never happen. After decades have gone by, I can look back on the changes He has made in my life, and it is easier to have faith, for I can see that He has already done some of what looked impossible. My faith in His promises is growing. While it only took Sarah three months, it has taken me decades, but God is faithful. His promises are sure. Even when we are faithless, He is faithful (2 Timothy 2:13). I've watched many of you grow in faith. Some would say that people can't change, but God declares that nothing is too wonderful for Him!

Why did God wait so late in the life of Abraham and Sarah to fulfill His promise of a son? Go back to verse six (Hebrews 11:6). Faith pleases God. It doesn't take faith to believe twenty-year-olds can conceive. It takes a lot of faith to believe a hundred-year-old man and a ninety-year-old woman can. It tells us the power of believing in God. It shows us nothing is impossible for God. It gives us hope for our own spiritual lives.

*<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.* Hebrews 11:12 God fulfilled his original promise to Abraham, the promise that Abraham believed, and by that belief he was considered righteous. In one sense it was fulfilled physically (Deuteronomy 10:22). The children of Israel were described as being that numerous. But let us not forget that Paul tells us this refers to spiritual descendants (Romans 4:11-12). Though Isaac and Israel's physical descendants were so numerous they could hardly be counted, the spiritual descendants are even more numerous. Abraham and Sarah had faith to believe God which started a lineage of faith that is still increasing today (Revelation 7:9). The world would be blessed by one of their descendants, Jesus. The Jewish people believed this promised One who would bless the world was coming.

Recent scholars have tried to downplay the Messianic hope of the ancient Jewish people, but the record proves they actually were expecting this One to come. The way they arranged their Scriptures, the commentaries they wrote, and the prayers they prayed pointed to faith in One who was coming. This countless number of people of faith includes you and me if we die in faith as the people in this chapter did. Every individual will die in faith or without faith in God. We will die trusting Jesus for our salvation, or trusting ourselves or some other false hope.

**Commented [PW6]: Acts 3:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

**Commented [PW7]: Hebrews 13:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

**Commented [PW8]: 1 John 3:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

**Commented [PW9]: Philippians 1:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**Commented [PW10]: 2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

**Commented [PW11]: Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**Commented [PW12]: Deuteronomy 10:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

**Commented [PW13]: Deuteronomy 10:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

**Commented [PW14]: Revelation 7:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

<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 11:13 The physical birth of Isaac was not the only fulfillment of the promise. There was still the land to possess. There was still the innumerable multitude of people who would also come to faith. But most of all there was still the One who was coming through whom the world would be blessed. Everyone in this chapter died without seeing Him, except through eyes of faith.

In a similar way, we will die without seeing the work in us completed, but we know it will be. We have seen the One these people of faith longed to see, Christ Jesus, through whom the world has been blessed. We have been blessed through Him, and yet we still must die in faith not having fully received all the promises. **We are promised that we will know Him fully even as we are fully known (1 Corinthians 13:12).**

The next verse tells of one promise we will not see until we are on the other side. Oh, we have seen it and greet it, or should I say "them," from afar (Revelation 21:2). I say, "them" for the city is built of living stones. The beauty of creation and the joys of life are constantly hinting at it, almost giving us glimpses as through a blurry pain of glass. Some have even seen it while their bodies lay waiting to be resuscitated, and others have seen it in a vision. It's our home, our eternal home, where we will truly belong.

<sup>14</sup> *For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.* Hebrews 11:14 Do you feel at home here? Or is there a longing you know will never be met by anything this world has to offer? It's a longing for Eden, to walk with God. That is where we are truly at home. That is where there is pure joy, where we will be drenched in joy. "Joy is the touch of God's finger. The object of our longing is not the touch but the Toucher. That is true of all good things – they are all God's touch. Whatever we desire, we are really desiring God."<sup>1</sup> He is our homeland. We wait for that touch like the woman with the issue of blood, or the leper who hadn't had human contact for years (Matthew 9:22; 8:2-3). Just as that rush of power made their bodies whole, so that touch from Jesus we long for will flood through our very soul making us whole, completely able to love Him unhindered by sin and selfishness. Isn't that what He means by wiping every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4)?

"Heaven is not a thing or even a place; it is a Person... Heaven is where God is – God defines heaven, not heaven, God – and God is present in every place."<sup>2</sup> "Heaven means not just a pleasant place but our place, not just a good, but a good place for us. We fit there; we are fully human there. We don't turn into angels (that's why there has to be the resurrection of the body; we don't change species). Your soul has a curious shape because it is...a key to unlock one of the doors in the house with many mansions... Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it-made for it stitch by stitch as a glove is made for a hand."<sup>3</sup>

No wonder we sometimes feel so out of place. That sense of dissonance, of alienation, is a blessing, for it spurs us to seek what it is that is missing in our lives. We know we were made for more (1 Peter 2:9-11). We are like frogs who knew we were once

**Commented [PW15]: 1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

**Commented [PW16]: Revelation 21:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Commented [PW17]: Kreeft, Peter, *Heaven*, p 156**

**Commented [PW18]: Matthew 9:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

**Commented [PW19]: Matthew 8:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean."  
<sup>3</sup> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

**Commented [PW20]: Revelation 21:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

**Commented [PW21]: Ibid p.175**

**Commented [PW22]: Ibid p. 67 quoting C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, pp. 147-148**

**Commented [PW23]: 1 Peter 2:9-11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

princes and princesses, waiting for the kiss that will transform us, and the frog kisser is God.

*<sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.* Hebrews 11:15 What a warning this verse was to the Hebrew readers of this letter. They had left the comfort of their Jewish culture and found salvation in the Messiah, Jesus. But now they were considering returning to Judaism to avoid the threats on their lives and loss of possessions. If the patriarchs had wanted to return to Haran, or even all the way back to comfortable Ur, they certainly could have. What a loss that would have been, to turn back from the call of God and miss out on the revelations God gave them, the promises they received, the Promised Land, and most of all the promise of blessing the world through the One who was to come (Romans 9:4-5). They would have abandoned that hope. We can abandon our hope and return to the world and its comforts. How shortsighted that would be! How ungrateful for all God has done for us! How unbelieving in spite of the many demonstrations of His faithfulness and love.

Lot's wife is that great illustration of looking back (Luke 17:32). The luxuries of Sodom and comforts it offered in this life were literally going up in smoke, but her heart was still there. Where is your heart set (Colossians 3:1)? Is it on the One whose blessings in this life are but a shadow of what He has in store for the people of faith? Or is it on those minor blessings as if they were somehow enough to fill the vacuum in your soul? Are you at home here or is your heart longing for the uninterrupted presence of God?

*<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 11:16 How this must have stung the hearts of those who first read this letter and were weighing whether or not to return to Judaism (Luke 9:62). It should do the same with us if we are considering a compromise rather than to go on in faith wherever God will lead us. It's a question of desire. Have you let God give you a desire that is so great that it cannot be satisfied with the mere delights of this world? **Have you become so spiritually hungry that you cannot be satisfied unless you feast on the abundance of His house, and receive drink from the river of His pleasures (Psalm 36:8)?**

If you will not be satisfied with anything short of God, He is not ashamed to be called your God. Of course that means that your sins are covered by the blood of the Lamb, as Sarah's were, as every one of these in Faith's Hall of Fame (Romans 5:9). And for us all, God has something in store for us that will satisfy the longing He has given us, the longing for Himself.

In Bunyan's book, Pilgrim's Progress, Christian and Pliable had begun their journey when Pliable asked about the place to which they were headed. *Pli.* Come, neighbor Christian, since there are none but us two here, tell me now farther, what the things are, and how to be enjoyed, whither we are going. *Chr.* I can better conceive of them with my mind, than speak of them with my tongue: but yet, since you are desirous to know, I will read of them in my book. *Pli.* And do you think that the words of your book

**Commented [PW24]: Romans 9:4-5 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

<sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

**Commented [PW25]: Luke 17:32 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> Remember Lot's wife.

**Commented [PW26]: Colossians 3:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

**Commented [PW27]: Luke 9:62 (ESV)**

<sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**Commented [PW28]: Psalm 36:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

**Commented [PW29]: Romans 5:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

are certainly true? *Chr.* Yes, verily; for it was made by Him that cannot lie (Titus 1:2). *Pli.* Well said; what things are they? *Chr.* There is an endless kingdom to be inhabited, and everlasting life to be given us, that we may inhabit that kingdom forever (Isaiah 65:17; John 10:27-29). *Pli.* Well said; and what else? *Chr.* There are crowns of glory to be given us; and garments that will make us shine like the sun in the firmament of heaven (2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:5; Matthew 13:43). *Pli.* This is very pleasant; and what else? *Chr.* There shall be no more crying, nor sorrow; for he that is owner of the place will wipe all tears from our eyes (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 7:16, 17; 21:4). *Pli.* And what company shall we have there? *Chr.* There we shall be with seraphims and cherubims (Isaiah 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Revelation 5:11); creatures that will dazzle your eyes to look on them. There also you shall meet with thousands and ten thousands that have gone before us to that place; none of them are hurtful, but loving and holy; every one walking in the sight of God, and standing in his presence with acceptance forever. In a word, there we shall see the elders with their golden crowns (Revelation 4:4); there we shall see the holy virgins with their golden harps (Revelation 14:1-5); there we shall see men, that by the world were cut in pieces, burnt in flames, eaten of beasts, drowned in the seas, for the love they bare to the Lord of the place (John 12:25); all well, and clothed with immortality as with a garment (2 Corinthians 5:2). *Pli.* The hearing of this is enough to ravish one's heart. But are these things to be enjoyed? How shall we get to be sharers thereof? *Chr.* The Lord, the governor of the country, hath recorded that in this book (Isaiah 55:1, 2; John 6:37; 7:37; Revelation 21:6; 22:17); the substance of which is, if we be truly willing to have it, he will bestow it upon us freely. *Pli.* Well, my good companion, glad am I to hear of these things: come on, let us mend our pace.<sup>4</sup>

Pliable had vision, but he didn't endure. Vision isn't enough. We must have faith that endures. Real faith will cling to the promises of God, faith which is the assurance of what we hope for, and conviction of what we can't see (Hebrews 11:1).<sup>17</sup> *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* Romans 10:17 Are you walking with Him and hearing His voice so that your faith will grow? May the Lord help us to have a longing so great that this world will never satisfy us or seem like our home. Never forget, nothing is too wonderful for God!

#### Questions

- 1 Why was Sarah an unlikely candidate for Faith's Hall of Fame?
- 2 What can we learn from her being included?
- 3 Which promises did they not see fulfilled?
- 4 Which will we not see in this life?
- 5 Where is your homeland? Why?
- 6 Review the quotes on page 3.
- 7 Why is the sense of alienation a blessing?
- 8 Can we go back to where we came from?
- 9 What is your heart's true longing?
- 10 What were Christian's descriptions of heaven?

#### Commented [PW30]: Titus 1:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

#### Commented [PW31]: Isaiah 65:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

#### Commented [PW32]: John 10:27-29 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ... [1]

#### Commented [PW33]: 2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of ... [2]

#### Commented [PW34]: Revelation 22:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light ... [3]

#### Commented [PW35]: Matthew 13:43 (ESV)

<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the ... [4]

#### Commented [PW36]: Isaiah 25:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD ... [5]

#### Commented [PW37]: Revelation 7:16-17 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; th ... [6]

#### Commented [PW38]: Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and dea ... [7]

#### Commented [PW39]: Isaiah 6:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wing ... [8]

#### Commented [PW40]: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)

... [9]

#### Commented [PW41]: Revelation 5:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne ... [10]

#### Commented [PW42]: Revelation 4:4 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, a ... [11]

#### Commented [PW43]: Revelation 14:1-5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the ... [12]

#### Commented [PW44]: John 12:25 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever ha ... [13]

#### Commented [PW45]: 2 Corinthians 5:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our ... [14]

#### Commented [PW46]: Isaiah 55:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; at ... [15]

#### Commented [PW47]: John 6:37 (ESV)

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, a ... [16]

#### Commented [PW48]: John 7:37 (ESV)

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus sto ... [17]

#### Commented [PW49]: Revelation 21:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha ... [18]

#### Commented [PW50]: Revelation 22:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the d ... [19]

#### Commented [PW51]: Bunyan, John, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, The First Stage

#### Commented [PW52]: Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the ... [20]

Page 5: [1] Commented [PW32] Paul 9/30/2016 11:21:00 AM

**John 10:27-29 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Page 5: [2] Commented [PW33] Paul 9/30/2016 11:22:00 AM

**2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Page 5: [3] Commented [PW34] Paul 9/30/2016 11:22:00 AM

**Revelation 22:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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**Matthew 13:43 (ESV)**

<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Page 5: [5] Commented [PW36] Paul 9/30/2016 11:23:00 AM

**Isaiah 25:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Page 5: [6] Commented [PW37] Paul 9/30/2016 11:24:00 AM

**Revelation 7:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Page 5: [7] Commented [PW38] Paul 9/30/2016 11:25:00 AM

**Revelation 21:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Page 5: [8] Commented [PW39] Paul 9/30/2016 11:26:00 AM

### **Isaiah 6:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Page 5: [9] Commented [PW40] Paul 9/30/2016 11:26:00 AM

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Page 5: [10] Commented [PW41] Paul 9/30/2016 11:27:00 AM

### **Revelation 5:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

Page 5: [11] Commented [PW42] Paul 9/30/2016 11:27:00 AM

### **Revelation 4:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

Page 5: [12] Commented [PW43] Paul 9/30/2016 11:28:00 AM

### **Revelation 14:1-5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

<sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,

<sup>3</sup> and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

<sup>4</sup> It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb,

<sup>5</sup> and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Page 5: [13] Commented [PW44] Paul 9/30/2016 11:28:00 AM

### **John 12:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

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### **2 Corinthians 5:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,

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**Isaiah 55:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

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**John 6:37 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

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**John 7:37 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

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**Revelation 21:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

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**Revelation 22:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

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**Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.