

November 6–12. Hebrews 7–13: “An High Priest of Good Things to Come”

The Atonement of Christ

Because of the atonement Christ can make intercession on our behalf

Heb 7:24-26

[24] But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

[25] Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

[26] For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Why is Christ able to go before The Father and make intercession for us?

(who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens)

D&C 45:3-5

[3] Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before him--

[4] Saying: Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified;

[5] Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren [and sisters] that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life.

Jeffrey R. Holland

“He is the Only Begotten Son of the living God, who has exalted that son’s name over every other, and has given him principality, power, might, and dominion at his right hand in the heavenly place. We esteem this Messiah to be holy, harmless, undefiled—the bearer of unchangeable priesthood. He is the anchor to our souls and our high priest of promise. He is our God of good things to come. In time and in eternity.” (CR, Oct. 1994)

We are promised that we can be made completely clean thru the Atonement

Heb 10:16-17,22

[16] This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

[17] And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

[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.

What do you think Paul means when he says that God will remember our sins no

more?

(in full assurance of faith... our hearts... and our bodies washed with pure water)

Anthony D. Perkins

“Heavenly Father... knew His children would make mistakes as they learned from experience in mortality. But ‘God so loved the world’ that His plan of happiness provided a merciful Savior....

“You must trust the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The prophet Zenock prayed, ‘Thou art angry, O Lord, with this people, because they will not understand thy mercies which thou hast bestowed upon them because of thy Son’ (Alma 33:16). Our Father in Heaven is saddened when we limit the power of His Son’s atoning sacrifice. As you exercise faith in Jesus Christ, you can have your guilt ‘swept away.’ If guilt remains after sincere repentance, believe your priesthood leaders when they declare you to be worthy.” (CR Oct. 2006)

Paul makes it clear that the Lord will be there for us so we do not need to fear what man can do

Heb 13:5-6,20-21

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

[20] Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

[21] Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

With respect to God’s blessings, why to you think Paul states that we should “be content with such things as ye have”?

(I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee
Make you perfect in every good work to do his will)

Marion D. Hanks

“But much that happens to us in this life we cannot control; we only respond. Knowing what God has promised can provide the courage and faith we need. We are assured in the scriptures that we may know of a surety that the Lord does visit his people in their afflictions....

“Said he to the lonely and the hopeless and those who are afraid, ‘I will

never leave thee, nor forsake thee' (Heb 13:5).

“Thus the promise is that in times of sorrow and affliction, if we endure and remain faithful and put our trust in him and are courageous, the Lord will visit us in our afflictions, strengthen us to carry our burdens and support us in our trials. He'll be with us to the end of our days, lift us at the last day to greater opportunities for service, and exalt us at last with him and reunited loved ones, and he will consecrate our afflictions to our gain.” (CR, Oct. 1992)

Progressing Along the Path

Paul gives us the definition of faith

Heb 11:1-3,6

[1] Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

[2] For by it the elders obtained a good report.

[3] Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

[6] But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

JST Heb 11:1 Now faith is the *assurance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

What message should we learn from the fact that the blessing we hope for are directly tied to faith?

(he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him)

Angel Abrea

“How can we do otherwise than patiently endure the trials of life if we know God and understand that He is omnipotent?...

“Based on that knowledge, cemented in a strong testimony of the attributes of our Heavenly Father, the faithful Latter-day Saint—instead of despairing because a goal on his or her agenda was not realized, because his or her timetable does not bring a solution to the problems, or comfort does not come to calm the troubles of today—waits patiently for fulfillment of promises, according to the Lord's timetable, the Lord who 'knoweth all the times which are appointed unto man' (Alma 40:10). The faithful Latter-day Saint waits patiently because, certainly, faith, 'the assurance of things hoped for' is exercised with the conviction that the promises will be fulfilled 'in his own time, and in his own way, and according to his own will' (D&C 88:68). (CR, April 1992)

What do we learn about the relationship between faith and Gods ability to create?

(Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed)

Joseph Smith

"By this we understand that the principle of power which existed in the bosom of God, by which the worlds were framed, was faith; and that it is by reason of this principle of power existing in the Deity, that all created things exist; so that all things in heaven, on earth, or under the earth, exist by reason of faith as it existed in Him." (Lectures on Faith, 1:15)

Paul gives us many examples of how Old Testament prophets relied on faith to perform great works

Heb 11:5,7,8,11,17,23,27,39-40

[5] By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

[7] By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

[8] By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

[11] Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

[17] By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

[23] By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

[27] By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

[39] And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

[40] God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

JST Heb 11:40 God having provided some better things for *them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not* be made perfect.

What do we learn from these examples about how faith proceeds miracles?

Matthew S. Holland

“Speaking of many of the Bible’s greatest heroes and their griefs, the Apostle Paul said that ‘God... provided some better things for them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect.’ You see, the very nature of God and aim of our earthly existence is happiness, but we cannot become perfect beings of divine joy without experiences that test us, sometimes to our very core.” (CR, Oct. 2020)

We must practice patience in suffering

Heb 10:35-36

[35] Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

[36] For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 12:1-2

[1] Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

[2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

When can we expect to receive the blessing promised by the Lord for our obedience?

(ye have need of patience

let us run with patience the race that is set before us

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross)

Neal A. Maxwell

‘Paul wrote of how, even after faithful disciples had ‘done the will of God,’ they ‘[had] need of patience’ (Heb 10:36). How many times have good individuals done the right thing initially only to break under subsequent stress? Sustaining correct conduct for a difficult moment under extraordinary stress is very commendable, but so is coping with sustained stress subtly present in seeming routineness. Either way, however, we are to ‘run with patience the race that is set before us’ (Heb 12:1) and it is a marathon, not a dash.

“When you and I are unduly impatient, we are suggesting that we like our timetable better than God’s.” (CR, April 1990)

Hand in hand with exercising patience is enduring chastisement from the Lord

Heb 12:5-11

[5] And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

[6] For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

[7] If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

[8] But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

[9] Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

[10] For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

[11] Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Why is it important to the Lord that we harken to, and don't "faint" from, His chastisement?

(for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness
afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness)

Taniela B. Wakolo

"Sometimes God manifests His love by chastening us. It is a way of reminding us that He loves us and that He knows who we are. His promised blessing of peace is open to all those who courageously walk the covenant path and are willing to receive correction.

"When we recognize the chastening and are willing recipients, it becomes a spiritual surgery..... To those who need it and are willing to receive it, [surgery] can be lifesaving. The Lord chastens whom He loves. The scriptures tell us so. That chastening, or spiritual surgery, will bring about needed change in our lives. We will realize, brothers and sisters, that it refines and purifies our inner vessels." (CR, April 2021)

Priesthood

Paul talks about the greatness of the prophet Melchizedek

Heb 7:1-4

[1] For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

[2] To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;
[3] Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.
[4] Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

JST Heb 7:3 For this Melchisedec was ordained a priest after the order of the Son of God, which order was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life; and all those who are ordained unto this priesthood are made like unto the Son of God, abiding a priest continually.

What do we learn about the prophet Melchizedek from these verses?

(Abraham gave a tenth part of all
King of righteousness... King of peace
abideth a priest continually)

Because he was such a great high priest we refer to “The Holy Priesthood, after the Order of the Son of God” as the Melchizedek priesthood

D&C 107:2-4

[2] Why the first is called the Melchizedek Priesthood is because Melchizedek was such a great high priest.
[3] Before his day it was called the Holy Priesthood, after the Order of the Son of God.
[4] But out of respect or reverence to the name of the Supreme Being, to avoid the too frequent repetition of his name, they, the church, in ancient days, called that priesthood after Melchizedek, or the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Paul emphasizes that we needed a higher priesthood because the Levitical priesthood lacked the necessary saving power

Heb 8:7-13

[7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.
[8] For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:
[9] Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.
[10] For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

[13] In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

What does it mean to us to receive the new covenant that the Lord has given us in the latter days?

(I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people)

Russell M. Nelson

“When we realize that we are children of the covenant, we know who we are and what God expects of us. His law is written in our hearts. He is our God and we are His people. Committed children of the covenant remain steadfast, even in the midst of adversity. When that doctrine is deeply implanted in our hearts, even the sting of death is soothed and our spiritual stamina is strengthened.” (CR, Oct. 2011)

An essential part of keeping the covenants that we have made is serving others.

Heb 12:12-16

[12] Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

[13] And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

[14] Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

[15] Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

[16] Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Generally speaking, what are we expected to do with the gifts and blessings that we've been given?

(lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees
make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way (set a good example)
Follow peace with all men
Looking diligently... lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you)

Camille N. Johnson

“As covenant members of His Church, we promise ‘to mourn with those that mourn’ and ‘comfort those that stand in need of comfort’ (Mosiah 18:9). Because we are ‘come into the fold of God’ and are ‘called his people,’ we ‘are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light’ (Mosiah 18:8).

“Our covenantal blessing is to partner with Jesus Christ in providing relief,

both temporal and spiritual, to all of God's children. We are a conduit through which He provides relief.

“And so, like the friends of the man with palsy, we ‘succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees’ (D&C 81:5). We ‘bear... one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ’ (Gal 6:2). As we do, we come to know Him, become like Him, and find His relief.”
(CR, April 2023)