

# THE HOPE SET BEFORE US

Heb. 6:11-20

by R. E. Neighbour

Christ Is Coming Christ is coming! Shout the story!  
Coming, crowned with power and glory—  
Coming down through skies grown hoary,  
    For He said, "I'll come again";  
Hasten, Thou, great God, eternal,  
Come, Thou Son of God, supernal,  
All Thy promises are vernal,  
    Come, oh Lord, on earth to reign.

In the darkness we have waited,  
Never has our hope abated,  
Faith and joy, with hope, related,  
    Ever longing Thy Return;  
Earth in sorrows now is reeling,  
Saints are praying, watching, kneeling,  
Looking for Thy blest revealing,  
    Saying, Come! with hearts that burn.

Open now those skies above us,  
For we know that Thou dost love us,  
Lord, how long wilt Thou still prove us,  
    Let us see Thy blessed face;  
All the earth in war is groaning,  
Hearken, Thou, unto their moaning,  
Lord, forget their madness, stoning  
    Come, in plenitude of grace.

Come and end the throes of sadness,  
Come and vanquish Satan's madness,  
Start Thy reign of joy, and gladness,  
    Blessings to Thy chosen bring,  
See Thine Israel is bending,  
While their hearts in pain are rending,  
Come, Thou Prince of Peace, descending,  
    Cleanse their sins, and let them sing.

R.E. N.

It seems to us that we should give you an outline of what has gone before us, in the study of this God-written Book of Hebrews. This will help to give us a better comprehension of the things before us in this final message on chapter six.

1. Jesus Christ is God's appointed Heir (Heb. 1:2).
2. He is Heir of the kingdoms of this world. He is now seated at the Father's right hand (Heb. 1:3). He is coming again to the inhabited earth to take His throne, even the throne of David (Heb. 1:6, 8). Compare Isaiah 9:6 and Luke 1:31, 32.
3. Saints are heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:13). This salvation has to do with the inhabited world to come (Heb. 2:1, 6).
4. The fathers in Israel lost their "rest" through their sins, and utterly failed to enter in to their Canaan (Heb. 3; 4).
5. Saints also have a "rest that remaineth" for them, and they must fear lest they fail of their rest. Their rest is a sabbatical rest, and no doubt that is the Millennial Rest (also Heb. 3:4).
6. Saints will be members of Christ's House, which is His Kingdom, only if they hold fast to the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end (Heb. 3:6).
7. Saints are urged to go on to full growth lest they fall away, and find it impossible to be renewed to repentance, seeing they put Christ to an open shame, crucifying Him afresh. These cannot inherit the promises of Millennial Rest, the Rest that remaineth (Heb. 6:1-12).

### **Showing Diligence of Hope unto the End**

Here is verse 11, in full: "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end."

1. What is this "hope"? May we remind you of Hebrews 3:6 —"Christ whose House we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Now let us observe Hebrews 3: 14: "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end." Now place our verse 11 by the side of these others. This hope is something that they held, but that they might lose, because each of the three verses quoted refers to the same "hope," and each verse speaks of "unto the end."

In 3:6, it is holding fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the HOPE firm unto the end.

In 3:14 it is holding the confidence, steadfast unto the end.

In 6:11 it is showing the same diligence of hope unto the end.

2. What is the meaning of the words “the end”? They refer beyond doubt to steadfastness until death. There are many who run well for a season, but they allow their hope to crumble before the onslaught of the enemy.

What is the great call of Hebrews 10:23? Here it is, “Let us hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering,” that is, unto the end.

3. What is the meaning of this four times stated admonition? The meaning is simple: the elders of Israel did not hold fast to their confidence, or to their “rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” What about saints of today? Let us gather up some admonitions to us, and ponder them carefully.

After recounting in First Corinthians 10: 1-11 the account of Israel’s falling in the wilderness, the Spirit says, in verse 12. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

Mark the words in First Corinthians 10:7, “Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them.

Verse 8, “Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them.”

Verse 9, “Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them.”

Verse 10, “Neither murmur YE as some of them.”

Hebrews 2:1, “We ought to give the more earnest heed, lest at any time we slip.”

Hebrews 2:3, “How shall we escape, if we neglect.”

Hebrews 3:6, “Whose House are we, IF.”

Hebrews 3:12, “Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief.”

Hebrews 3:13, “Lest any of you be hardened.”

Hebrews 3:15, “Harden not your hearts, as.”

Hebrews 4:1, “Let us therefore fear, lest.”

Hebrews 4:11, "Lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

It is Scriptural to proclaim the safety of saved, so far as eternal life is concerned; it is folly to overstep these warnings to saints concerning the things that may be lost; the rest, Millennial Rest, that may be missed. Once more we quote the words, "IF we suffer, we shall reign with Him; IF we deny Him He also will deny us." Once more we quote the words of First Corinthians 9:26, 27, "I therefore so run, so fight I lest I myself should be a castaway.

Tell me why did Paul forget the things behind, and reach forth to the things before? Why did he press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling, if all saints are sure of that prize and of the high calling?

4. To whom did the Spirit particularly speak in Hebrews 6:11. It was not to the ones who had already fallen away, and of whom God said, "It is impossible to restore them again to repentance." So far as they were concerned God closed their opportunity, because they had themselves failed Him, so greatly. The Spirit is now addressing the ones of whom He wrote, "We are expecting better things of you, even the things which accompany salvation." The Spirit is addressing the ones of whom He said, "God is not unfaithful to forget your work and labour of love." It is to these, that He presses home the words: "We desire that every one of you shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope firm unto the end."

They had heretofore been diligent, so the Spirit wanted them to remain diligent, to have the same diligence to the end. Why this warning? Let us take up the next verse.

### **Inheriting the Promises**

Verse 12 presents a further warning, with a plea to the saints who were said to have those better things that accompany salvation. Mark you, the Spirit says, they "accompany" salvation. To such He says, "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." The Christian life must ever be an active, aggressive life. Paul speaks of "running," of "fighting," of "enduring hardness," of "fighting the good fight of faith." He "pressed" toward the prize.

To-day the Christian life has, with many, been relegated to an insignificant something that may be observed with due ceremony, and pomp, on Sunday morning; and then put to one side for the rest of the week. It is not first, or, pre-eminent. It is not all consuming, and all vital.

The word “slothful” is quite appropriate to the average believer of today. On the other hand, how active, how energetic is the true life of faith; and how great is its accomplishments. Read the “By faith” as set forth in Hebrews 11, and you will grasp something of the energy expended in service to God by the faithful.

The expression, “inherit the promises” is enlarged upon in the successive verses of our chapter.

### **God’s Promises Are Sure**

When God, by example, made promise unto Abraham, “because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying, I will multiply thee.” God’s promise to Abraham was based on Abraham’s obedience. God said, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, and unto a land that I will show thee, and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee,” et cetera.

What did Abraham do? “He departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him.” Thus the obedience of Abraham began, and thus it continued through many years of promise. There were days when it seemed, from every human point of view, that God had forsaken Abraham. What then did the aged Seer do? Romans 4 says of Abraham, “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations.” “And, being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old; neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: he staggered not at the promise of God, through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”

And what now does our verse in Hebrews 6 say of Abraham? (vs. 15): “And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

“Oh, for a faith that will not shrink  
Though pressed by ev’ry foe;  
That will not tremble on the brink,  
Of any earthly woe.”

Let us cease our doubtings. Let us stop trying to unsay all the good things that Gods in Christ, hath said about His Coming, and about the rewards that He brings with Him.

Where is the man upon earth’s sod,  
Who dares to say, “There is no God”  
Who lives His promise to fulfill,

Who lives to work out all His will?

What God hath said, that He will do,  
He still abides above the blue;  
His promises are yea, amen,  
With Him, we'll live, with Him we'll reign.

Cast your fears to the winds. God's promises are blessed realities, and not to be denied.

### **What Are the Particular Promises in Our Text?**

Let us recapitulate once more:

- In Hebrews 1:2, God appointed His Son to be the Heir of all things.
- In Hebrews 1:8, when the Father brings the Son the Second Time into the inhabited earth, He says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy Kingdom."
- In Hebrews 1:14, saints are announced, as "heirs of salvation."
- In Hebrews 3:6, we are promised that we shall be "His House," "if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope, firm unto the end."
- In Hebrews 4:9, is the promise, "There remaineth therefore a rest (Sabbath Rest) to the people of God." We are told to labor to enter into that rest.

These verses above explain to us what the promises imply. God's promises in Hebrews 6 are indissolubly connected with the hope set before us.

That hope, in Titus 2:11, 12, is thus stated, "Looking for that Blessed Hope, and the Glorious Appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

That hope is the hope of First John 3:2, 3, "When He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every one that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."

### **This Is Our Hope in This Hour of Darkness**

To the heirs of the promise God has given a hope, and He has given it abundantly, and He has sealed His promise by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie.

His promise backed by His Word and by Himself is our hope. This hope therefore has in it “a strong consolation” to those who have “fled for refuge to lay hold upon the HOPE that is set before us.”

What then do we care for the dark hours? The trying circumstances? The world conditions that surround us?

We have a hope.  
Why should we grope  
In shadows of despair?  
Our hope is sure,  
It will endure,  
So cast away your care.

Yet, we must flee,  
For thus, says He,  
A refuge is prepared;  
A blessed Rock  
That stands the shock  
By tempests ne'er impaired.

Verse 18 breathes security, and assurance, only to them who are heirs of the promise, only to them who flee to the refuge, and LAY HOLD upon the HOPE that is set before us.

### **A Hope That Is an Anchor to the Soul**

When you think of an anchor, you cannot disassociate it from storms and “Euroclydons” (see Acts 27:14, 29), and tempests. A man built his house on a rock, and the winds blew and the rains fell, and floods came, but the house stood firm, for it was built on a rock. The simile is different, but the truth is the same—we have a Rock, and that Rock is a Refuge and it is an anchor that holds.

The Hope, which anchors the soul, is a hope that enters into that within the veil. It pierces the gloom of night; it looks past the shores of time and place; it sees Christ standing at the right hand of God. It sees Him coming in the clouds of Heaven. It sees Him taking the throne of David. It anticipates the rest from strife and war, and Satan, and evil, and all things that destroy.

Christ is, Himself, according to the last verse of our chapter, the blessed forerunner who, for us, has entered into the Heaven-lies, “even Jesus, made a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.”

Thus we have vouchsafed unto us the foregleams of what lies ahead. We see not yet, our Lord Jesus Christ sitting on David's throne; but we see Him exalted, and sitting at the Father's right hand; we see Him sitting there anticipating the hour when He shall come, and He is there is a stir, as it were in the midst of the mulberry trees; we can almost see Him arising to bend the heavens, and to come down. The thrones are about to be placed, the reign on earth is about to begin. Thus, we join with John, the well-beloved, and with you, in saying~ "Amen! Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

---

***The Hope Set Before Us***, pages 84-90 from **If They Shall Fall Away** by R. E. Neighbour.

© 1984, Schoettle Publishing Company, Inc.

Schoettle Publishing Company, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1246  
Hayesville, NC 28904

Special permission has been granted to InTheBeginning.org by Schoettle Publishing Company, Inc. to copy Chapter XV from If They Shall Fall Away by R. E. Neighbour

These pages may NOT be reproduced or altered for any pecuniary or publishing purposes without expressed permission from the publishing company.

---

Original document was scanned with an [Epson 636 Expression scanner](#) using [TextBridge Pro98](#) software as the interface to [WORD97](#).