

October 24 - November 5

LAYING HOLD ON
ETERNAL LIFE

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SPIRITUAL DIGEST



A photograph of several lit candles with a quote overlaid. The candles are lit, and their flames are visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The text is centered and reads: GOD IS MOST GLORIFIED IN US WHEN WE ARE MOST SATISFIED IN HIM. — JOHN PIPER

G O D I S M O S T G L O R I F I E D
I N U S W H E N W E A R E
M O S T S A T I S F I E D I N H I M .
— J O H N P I P E R



THE WORD OF GOD BEING ABLE
TO PIERCE EVEN TO THE
DIVIDING OF SOUL AND SPIRIT TO
EXPOSE OUR REAL SITUATION

He 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

He 4:13 And there is no creature that is not manifest before Him, but all things are naked and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we are to give our account.

Verse 13 is difficult to understand. Verse 12 says that God's word is living and able to divide the soul and the spirit, and verse 13 says that all things are manifest before the Lord, being naked and laid bare. How do we connect verses 12 and 13? Verse 13 indicates that God is able to see man's inward condition. First Samuel 16:7 says, "Man looks on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looks on the heart." In the New Testament age, God does not look merely on our heart; He looks on our spirit.

None of us is naked or laid bare before others, because they can see only our outward appearance; they cannot see the condition of our spirit. In contrast, God can see into our being. He sees our outward appearance, the thoughts and intentions of our heart, and also our spirit, which is surrounded by and hidden in our soul (Heb. 4:12). In the book of Hebrews Paul did not speak of man from the [71] human point of view; rather, he spoke from God's view. God's view is sharper than any x-ray; His eyes can penetrate into our spirit. God desires to show us where we are, that is, whether we are living in the flesh or in the soul and whether we are living in the thoughts and intentions of our heart or in our spirit. He shines into us so that we may have a clear view of our condition.

We often are not clear concerning our condition. After attending a few meetings and hearing some messages, some people think that they have seen a vision and that their condition has changed. It is not until God's light shines on them, however, that they realize that their "change" is superficial and not from their spirit. Although we are not naked and laid bare before one

another, we are naked and laid bare before the Lord. Verse 12 says that the word of God is living and operative and able to pierce our being even to the deepest part, our spirit. God's word represents God; hence, it can pierce and divide our inward parts to expose our real situation. We cannot hide before God; rather, we are naked and laid bare before Him.





CHRIST'S MORE EXCELLENT MINISTRY

Heb 7:11 If indeed then perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people have received the law), what need was there still that a different Priest should arise according to the order of Melchizedek and that He should not be said to be according to the order of Aaron?

He 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

The ministry of Melchisedec is not to save sinners. If you are still a sinner, then you need Christ's ministry as typified by Aaron. But we are no longer pitiful sinners; we are fighters, fighting against the by-products of death. Chedorlaomer, who was slaughtered by Abraham, does not represent sin but represents the by-products of death. When Abraham learned that Lot had been captured, that capture was a matter of the by-products of death. All of the elders in the churches must be slaughtering

elders. When the elders come into the meetings and see that many of the dear brothers have been captured by Chedorlaomer, they must slaughter that king. Do not rebuke or condemn the brothers who have been captured but slaughter Chedorlaomer, the by-products of death that have captured the brothers and sisters and hold them in bondage. If you do this, our Melchisedec will come in, and you will enjoy His minist

Many Christians do not understand Hebrews 7 and 8 because they maintain the position of being pitiful sinners. [396] Hardly any one of them is a slaughtering Abraham. We must slaughter all of the by-products of death mentioned in Romans 8; we must slaughter groaning, vanity, bondage, slavery, corruption, and decay. How can we slaughter these by-products of death? Through the intercession of our High Priest. While we are slaughtering Chedorlaomer and all of the by-

products of death, He will be interceding for us. This is the ministry of our High Priest, the heavenly Minister, today.

We see a picture of this ministry in the case of the warfare between Israel and Amalek (Exo. 17:8-13). Moses was holding up his hand (that is, praying) on the top of the hill and Joshua was fighting in the midst of the battle. While Moses was praying, Joshua was slaughtering the enemy. Likewise, I believe that while Abraham was slaughtering the kings, Melchisedec was praying for him. In the same way, while we are slaughtering the by-products of death, Christ, our heavenly Minister with a more excellent ministry, is in heaven interceding for us.

What is Christ's more excellent ministry today? It is to intercede for the fighters. Christ's intercession is like a powerful motor which energizes a machine that it may operate. How can power be brought into the machine? By the motor. When the motor runs, the power is transmitted into the machine. In like manner, the interceding Christ in the heavens is transmitting the heavenly power into us.

We need to have a high vision of Christ's more excellent ministry. It is not a low ministry for pitiful sinners; it is a high ministry for victorious fighters, for God's victors, the proper

descendants of Abraham. This is not the priesthood that we find in Leviticus but the continuation of the priesthood that we see in Genesis 14.



WHAT WAS INSIDE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT?

Interestingly, the most complete inventory of the contents of the ark of the covenant is found in the New Testament: Hebrews 9:4 says that the Most Holy Place had “the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.” The stone tablets were those on which God had written the Ten Commandments.

At various times in Israel’s history, it seems that various items were in the ark of the covenant. When God first gave Moses the instructions on building the ark, He said, “Put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you” (Exodus 25:16).

Sometime during the wilderness wanderings, God commanded that a bowl of manna be added to the ark’s cargo: “Moses said to Aaron, ‘

Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the Lord to be kept for the generations to come.’ As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved” (Exodus 16:33-34).

After the rebellion of Korah, God commanded the leader of each tribe of Israel to bring a staff to the tabernacle. The name of each leader was inscribed in his staff; the tribe of Levi bore Aaron’s name. God instructed that the staffs be placed in the tabernacle overnight. The next morning, Aaron’s rod “had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds” (Numbers 17:8) as a sign of God’s blessing on the Levitical priesthood. God then said, “Put back Aaron’s staff in front of the ark of the covenant law, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious” (verse 10).

So, by the time Israel reached the Promised Land, the ark was associated with the items mentioned in Hebrews 9:4: the stone tablets, the bowl of manna, and the staff of Aaron.

When King Solomon’s temple was finished, the king had

the ark of the covenant, along with all the other furnishings of the tabernacle, brought to the new temple's dedication. At that time, the biblical historian notes that "there was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb" (1 Kings 8:9; cf. 2 Chronicles 5:10).

There are two possible ways to reconcile 1 Kings 8:9 with Hebrews 9:4. One is that the ark in Moses' time contained all three items mentioned in Hebrews but, by Solomon's time hundreds of years later, only the stone tablets remained. The other items could have been removed in Eli's time by the men of Beth Shemesh when "they looked into the ark of the Lord" (1 Samuel 6:19). Before that, the ark was in the possession of the Philistines for a time, and they could have removed some of the ark's contents. It could also be that Solomon himself had the manna and the staff removed from the ark and set nearby in the same room at the time of the temple's dedication.

Another possibility is that the bowl of manna and Aaron's staff were not usually inside the ark of the covenant, but rather beside it. God's command in Exodus 16:33 was for Moses to place the manna

"before the LORD" (ESV) or "in a sacred place before the LORD" (NLT). Similarly, the staff was to be placed "before the testimony" (Numbers 17:10, ESV) or "permanently before the Ark of the Covenant" (NLT). So, the manna and the staff were kept in the same place as the tablets of stone, but it's possible they were not, strictly speaking, inside the ark.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



COME FORWARD
HEB 4:15-16

**For we do not have a High Priest who cannot
Be touched with the feeling of our
weaknesses,
But One who has been tempted in all
respects like us,
Yet without sin, yet without sin.**

**Let us therefore come forward
With boldness to the throne of grace
That we may receive mercy and find grace
For timely help.**

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK ONE (10/24-10/29)

MONDAY: HEBREW 2

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_2.htm#Heb2

TUESDAY: HEBREW 3

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_3.htm#Heb3

WEDNESDAY: HEBREW 4

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_4.htm#Heb4

THURSDAY: HEBREW 5

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_5.htm#Heb5

FRIDAY: HEBREW 6

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_6.htm#Heb6

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK TWO (10/31-11/5)

MONDAY: HEBREW 7

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_7.htm#Heb7

TUESDAY: HEBREW 8

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_8.htm#Heb8

WEDNESDAY: HEBREW 9

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_9.htm#Heb9

THURSDAY: HEBREW 10

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_10.htm#Heb10

FRIDAY: HEBREW 11

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/58_Hebrews_11.htm#Heb11