

In Christ We Have

Hebrews 1:1-3 HCSB Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. (2) In these last days, He has spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe. (3) He is the radiance of His glory, the exact expression of His nature, and He sustains all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

To be without Christ is to be:

Without God

- **2 Corinthians 5:19 HCSB** ...in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

If God reconciles the world to Himself through the Messiah, then to be outside of the Messiah's sheltering wing is to be outside of God. God wants to bring us back to Himself by blotting out our sins and making us right with Him. When we trust in Christ, we are no longer God's enemies or strangers or foreigners to Him.

- **Ephesians 2:12 HCSB** At that time you were without the Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, with no hope and without God in the world.

Pious Jews still consider all Goyim ceremonially unclean. They think of themselves as pure and clean because of their national heritage and religious ceremonies. Paul pointed out that Jews and Gentiles alike are unclean before God and need to be cleansed by Christ's atoning blood. In order to realize how great a gift salvation is, we need to remember our former natural, unclean condition.

If you feel separated, excluded, and hopeless, these verses are for you. No one has to be alienated from God, from Christ's love, or from His holy nation.

- **John 1:12 HCSB** But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name,

Without eternal life

- **John 1:4 HCSB** Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men.
- **John 14:6 HCSB** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- **Acts 4:12 HCSB** There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

There are many today who argue that there are many paths to salvation, to ultimate truth, to heaven. Unfortunately, many of these fools claim to be followers of Christ! They must ignore Jesus' own clear statement that He is the ONLY way to the Father.

You may say "That way is too narrow." In a sense you are right. Listen to Jesus' own statement on the matter:

- **Matthew 7:13-14 HCSB** "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. (14) How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

On the other hand, as narrow and restricted as it may be, the way is still wide enough for all of humanity should they choose to take God's way. Quit balking at the fact that there is one way. Start thanking God that a way was provided at all!

Without light

- [John 1:9 HCSB](#) The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
- [John 3:19-21 HCSB](#) "This, then, is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. (20) For everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. (21) But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God."

Many don't want their lives exposed to God's light because they are afraid of what will be revealed. They don't want to be changed. They try to comfort themselves by putting their faith in something they do or have. Maybe it's good deeds; skill, intelligence, hard work, church attendance, or family. In reality, there is only one thing that we need to fear and the ironic thing is that that our rightful object of fear is also the single thing that can support and save us. That is the Messiah's offering of amnesty.

- [Luke 11:39-40 HCSB](#) But the Lord said to him: "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and evil. (40) Fools! Didn't He who made the outside make the inside too?"

The reason many people metaphorically wash the outside of the bowl while leaving the uncleanness inside is because they CAN! We can do nothing about our spirits, and to turn to God and ask for His searing light to probe deep inside is to admit our complete and utter dependence upon Him. For many, their pride renders this unthinkable.

Without promise

- [2 Corinthians 1:20 HCSB](#) For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in Him. Therefore the "Amen" is also through Him for God's glory through us.
- [2 Corinthians 7:1 HCSB](#) Therefore dear friends, since we have such promises, we should wash ourselves clean from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, making our sanctification complete in the fear of God.

All of God's promises of blessing, hope, and salvation are fulfilled in the Messiah. When we question whether or not God loves us, we should look to the Son hanging on the cross and hear the resounding answer "Yes!"

When we are discouraged by the length of time we have been waiting and question whether or not God will keep His promises, we should look at His promise in the garden of Eden of a coming son of a woman who would crush the serpent's head, look at the cross and whisper an encouraging "yes!" to ourselves.

- [2 Peter 3:8-9 HCSB](#) Dear friends, don't let this one thing escape you: with the Lord one day is like 1,000 years, and 1,000 years like one day. (9) The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

Without hope

- [Ephesians 2:11-13 HCSB](#) So then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh--called "the uncircumcised" by those called "the circumcised," done by hand in the flesh. (12) At that time you were without the Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, with no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.
- [Ephesians 2:19 HCSB](#) So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household,

A Goy (a Gentile) who chooses to obey Hashem's commands is to be considered a native Jew. A native Jew who rebelliously disregards Hashem's mitzvot is cut off from the people. Just as a Goy who submits to the laws (particularly in accepting Adonai's King, the Lord Jesus) will become a Jew, a Jew who stubbornly refuses to obey becomes a Goy.

- **Numbers 15:30-31 HCSB** "But the person who acts defiantly, whether native or foreign resident, blasphemes the LORD. That person is to be cut off from his people. (31) He will certainly be cut off, because he has despised the LORD's word and broken His command; his guilt remains on him."

To be without Christ is to be outside of the nation of Israel, and to be cut off from Israel is to be cut off from hope.

In Christ we have:

An inheritance

- **Hebrews 1:14 HCSB** Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?

Many pride themselves on the wealth they inherited from their fathers. Many rejoice in the good name they received from their ancestors. However, those who humbly admit their sins and their need for a Savior/King receive the ultimate inheritance – salvation, eternal life, the opportunity to spend eternity living in the presence of the King!

A great high priest

- **Hebrews 4:14 HCSB** Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens--Jesus the Son of God--let us hold fast to the confession.
- **Hebrews 8:1 HCSB** Now the main point of what is being said is this: we have this kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Christ is superior to every human priest. When the Temple was still standing, the high priest was the ultimate spiritual authority. He alone could enter the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement for the sins of the whole nation. In that limited sense, he was the source of salvation for all the people.

Like the high priest, Jesus is our source of salvation. He alone has entered into the Holy of Holies but there is this vast difference: He entered without any personal sin and He offered His own blood.

Boldness

- **Hebrews 4:15-16 HCSB** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. (16) Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.
- **Hebrews 10:19-25 HCSB** Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus, (20) by the new and living way that He has inaugurated for us, through the curtain (that is, His flesh); (21) and since we have a great high priest over the house of God,
 - (22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.
 - (23) Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- (24) And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, (25) not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

We should approach the throne room with reverence because He is our great King.

However, we can approach boldly, confidently, because we know that He loves us. After all, He was willing to die for us while we were still sinners.

A strong encouragement

- **Hebrews 6:18-19 HCSB** so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. (19) We have this *hope*--like a sure and firm anchor of the soul--that enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

God cannot lie. He is incapable of it. He is also omnipotent. Anything He chooses to accomplish He can. If God makes a promise, you can bet your soul on it. We are secure in Him. If we have submitted to Him unconditionally and by faith trusted Him to save us, HE WILL DO IT. You need never fear that He will falter. You can KNOW that you are saved because you can trust Him.

A better possession

- **Hebrews 10:34-35 HCSB** For you sympathized with the prisoners and accepted with joy the confiscation of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves have a better and enduring possession. (35) So don't throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

In Greek “the promise,” refers to the thing God promised, not to the pledge itself. What is that “enduring possession”? Holy peace and joy, eternal bliss commensurate with our faith. In a word, God’s divine and approving presence.

- **Psalms 16:5-6 HCSB** LORD, You are my portion and my cup of *blessing*; You hold my future. (6) The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
- **Psalms 73:25 HCSB** Whom do I have in heaven but You? And I desire nothing on earth but You.
- **Genesis 15:1 HCSB** After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great.

Ironworks students pay careful attention for a moment. Here the noun “reward” is in apposition to “shield” and refers by metonymy to God as the source of the reward. Some translate here “your reward will be very great” (cf. NASB, NRSV), taking the statement as an independent clause and understanding the Hiphil infinitive absolute as a substitute for a finite verb. However, the construction *ma’od rabah sakar* is never used this way elsewhere, where it either modifies a noun or serves as an adverb in relation to a finite verb.¹

Now let the entire congregation heed. God is literally saying “I am your exceeding great reward.”

A country

- **Hebrews 11:13-16 HCSB** These all died in faith without having received the promises, but they saw them from a distance, greeted them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth. (14) Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. (15) If they had been remembering

¹ Joshua 13:1; 1 Samuel 26:21; 2 Samuel 12:30; 2 Kings 21:16; 1 Chronicles 20:2; Nehemiah 2:2

that land they came from, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But they now aspire to a better land--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

We are “foreigners and temporary residents on earth.” This world is not our home. Don’t get too comfortable with it. After all we cannot live here forever anyway.

- **Matthew 5:18 HCSB** For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.
- **Matthew 24:35 HCSB** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.
- **2 Peter 3:10 HCSB** But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that *day* the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.
- **Revelation 21:1 HCSB** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea existed no longer.

Never lose sight of your heavenly homeland. Don’t get frustrated because your needs, wants, expectations, and demands are not immediately met when you accept Christ as your Savior/King. Do not grow impatient. Do not quit. Take courage. Our God has promised us a new country, a new identity, a new King, and the promise of eternal life – and our God keeps His promises.

He who possesses the Son possesses all.