

Come to Jesus
By the Word of God



Recap

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 10:19** Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus ... ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith ... ²⁶ For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, ³⁵ Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised ... ³⁸ My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. ³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

➤ *Because of Jesus, persevere in living by fruit bearing faith.*



Faith is ...

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 - Lit. *faith is the foundation of continuous hoping, conviction of deeds not seen*
- Paraphrase: "Faith is living in accord with the reality of things hoped for," or "faith is living as if the things hoped for are real." (Cockerill)
- *Faith* includes connotations of endurance, trust, hope, and knowledge of divine realities ... to "live by faith" is to endure hardship with confidence and boldness, never doubting the divine promise. (Jewish Annotated NT)



Faith Means ...

- Faith means we take God at his word, trusting in what he has said, even if we don't see his promises coming to pass in our lives because we are confident he is willing and able to do so, and that in his time he will do so.
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 5:6** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight--
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.



By Faith

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 10:38** But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.
³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.
- ^{ESV} **Hebrews 11:2** For by it [faith] the people of old received their commendation. ... 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.
- “by faith”
 - 43 times in Bible (all NT)
 - 21 times in Hebrews
 - 19 times in Hebrews 11 (44%)
 - 10 times in Romans
 - 7 times in Galatians



OT Outline of Hebrews 11; By Faith

1. Primeval History (Genesis 1-11); vv. 3-7
 - *Creation, Abel, Enoch, Noah*
2. Abraham; vv. 8-19
3. Isaac; v. 20
4. Jacob; v. 21
5. Joseph; v. 22
6. Exodus; vv. 23-29
7. Conquest; vv. 30-31
8. Judges; vv. 32-38
9. Samuel/Kings/Chronicles; vv. 32-38
10. Prophets; vv. 32-38



Structure of the Pentateuch

- I. The Primeval Saga, Genesis 1:1–11:9
- II. The Abraham Saga, Genesis 11:10–25:26
- III. The Isaac Saga, Genesis 25:19–37:2
- IV. The Jacob Saga, Genesis 37:1–50:26
- V. The Moses Saga, Exodus 1:1 – Deuteronomy 34:12

- A SAGA is a long, prose, traditional narrative. It has typically an *episodic* structure developed around stereotyped themes or topics. These episodic units might be pieces of narrative tradition that were in themselves originally independent of the saga. ... These episodes narrate deeds or virtues from the past to the extent that they contribute to the composition of the present narrator's world. That world is the real world, not a world of fantasy or mythology. (George W. Coats)
- Genre of Pentateuch is Torah (story + commandment)



By the Word of God

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
- The idea of creation by divine speech both supports the claim that the visible is made from what is *not visible* and connects to the idea of divine promise of future reward, a major theme in what follows. (Jewish Annotated NT).
- Faith means we take God at his word, trusting in what he has said, even if we don't see his promises coming to pass in our lives because we are confident he is willing and able to do so, and that in his time he will do so.



- “These words take the hearers back to the first chapter of Genesis. There God created the physical world and arranged its parts in a harmonious whole by merely speaking his word. But the term translated “worlds” also means “ages.” It is by the word of God that the “ages” of the world have been ordered and will be brought to their climax. The next phrase brings out the significance of these facts — “so that what is seen has not come into being from things that appear.” “What is seen” is singular, describing the whole created order. It has not come into being from any “things that appear” or have the quality of visibility. This affirmation is the foundation of the faith exemplified in this chapter — it is not the visible world of daily experience but God and his word that constitute ultimate reality. His word is ultimate because it is the means of creation. Thus, it is also the means of redemption and final Judgment. To live “by faith,” then, is from beginning to end to live in accord with the word of God.” (Cockerill)



Who or How?

- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:6** Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ And God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:9** Then God said, "Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.



- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:11** Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so.
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:14** Then God said, ...¹⁵ ... and it was so.
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:20** Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures ... and God saw that it was good.
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:24** Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures ... and God saw that it was good.
- ^{NAS} **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...²⁷ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them ...³⁰ ... and it was so.³¹ And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

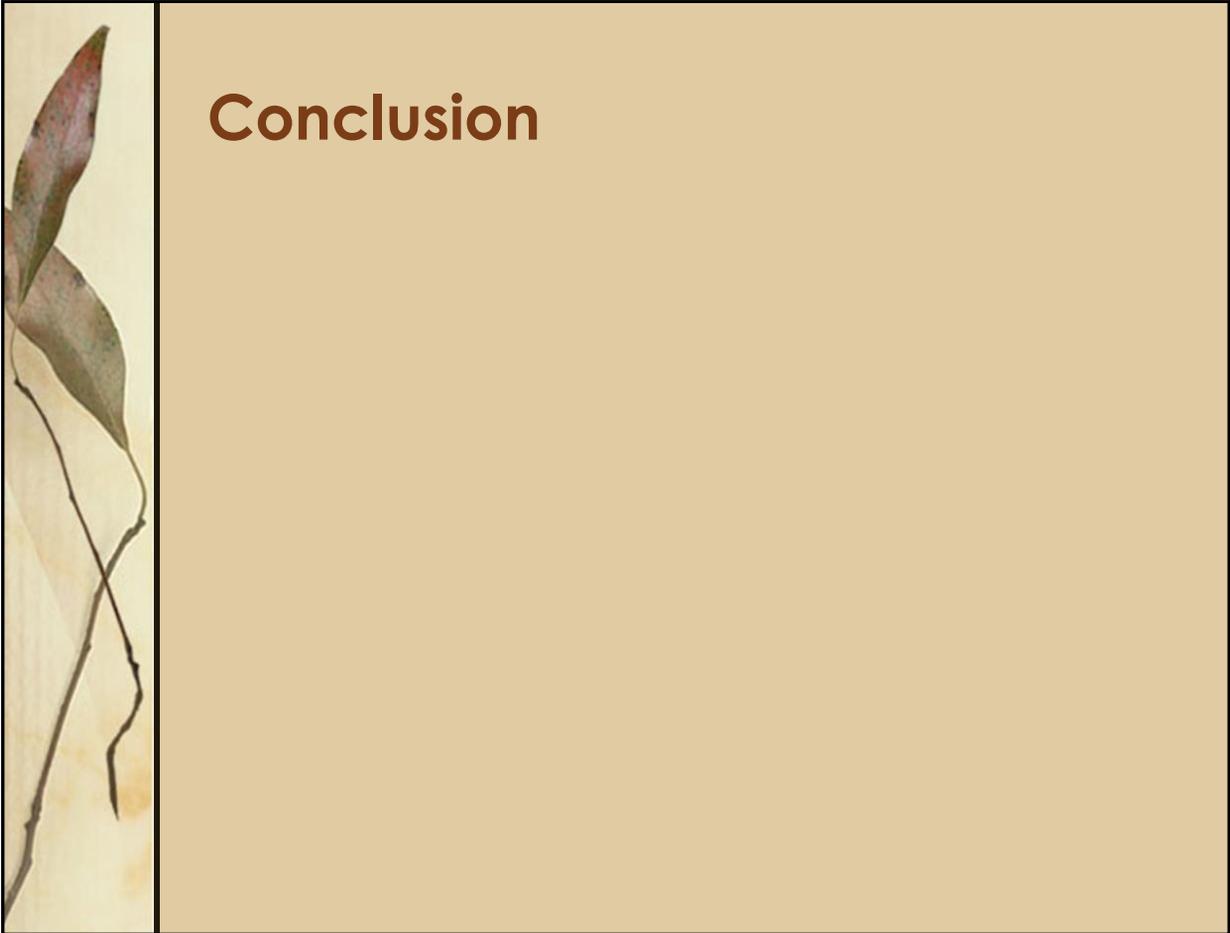
➤ Who or how?

➤ Who and how!



The Creative Word of God

- ^{NAS} **Psalm 33:6** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
- ^{NAS} **Psalm 148:1** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! ² Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! ³ Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! ⁴ Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.
- ^{NIV} **Isaiah 40:26** Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.
- ^{NAS} **2 Peter 3:5** ... it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,



Conclusion



By the Word of God

- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible... ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- *Faith means we take God at his word, trusting in what he has said, even if we don't see his promises coming to pass in our lives because we are confident he is willing and able to do so, and that in his time he will do so.*



The Living, Working Word of God

- ^{NIV} **1 Peter 1:23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
- ^{NIV} **1 Thessalonians 2:13** And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.
- ^{NAS} **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



The Truthful Word of God

- ^{NIV} **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent ... said to the woman, "Did God really say, ...'?"
- ^{NIV} **John 8:44** ... When he [the devil] lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- ^{NIV} **1 Timothy 6:20** ... guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,
- ^{NIV} **Numbers 23:19** God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
- ^{NIV} **Romans 3:4** ... Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."



The Victorious Word of God

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 55:10** "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth, And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 1:20** For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.