

# Seeing The End From The Beginning

Ephesians 4:11-16: By Larry Bailey

---

**Introduction:** One of the proofs that God gave Israel that He indeed is God is that the idols know nothing while He declares all things from before they happen, Isaiah 44:6-8. In Isaiah 45:1, 11-13, the prediction of the work of Cyrus, came true after the destruction of Jerusalem/Judah – over more than 150 years AFTER Isaiah wrote this! We can read it happening in 2 Chronicles 36:22-23, and in Ezra 1:1.

## I. God From The Beginning Can See The End

- A. Promise to Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3; 22:17, 18
  - 1. Nation promise fulfilled in Israel, Exodus 19:4-8; Deuteronomy 7:6-9
  - 2. Land of Canaan promise, Genesis 17:8, fulfilled in Joshua 21:43-45
  - 3. The Seed promise is fulfilled in Christ, Galatians 3:8, 18 – and all Christians, verses 26-29.
- B. So sure Is God's Word – Spoken As Already Accomplished Before the Event, Joshua 6:2, fulfilled 7 days later, V. 20!

## II. Consider The End of Faith In Christians, Hebrews 13:7

- A. Appointed As Elders, V. 17, Overseers, Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- B. Consider the Qualifications, 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
  - 1. Young Christians grown to spiritual maturity
  - 2. Good example to those in/out of the church
  - 3. Toward others: hospitable, encouraging, corrects, able to teach, a good influence.
  - 4. Faithful family
- C. Started early and Grew, 2 Peter 3:18 – Now as an older person, see the Result in his life and in other's lives!

## III. For What End Do We Hope?

- A. Some, Hebrews 10:35-39, draw back. Luke 9:57-62.
- B. Grow In Faith By Putting Word Into Practice, Luke 17:5-10; Matthew 25:21, 23
  - 1. Study, meditate, pray, do, Philippians 2:12-16; 4:6-9
  - 2. Work for others, not just self, Philippians 2:4
- C. In Regard To Family, Ephesians 5:22-6:4
  - 1. Consider Manoah's request of God, Judges 13:12
  - 2. Be An example of putting God first in your heart and life – Don't expect your children to be more faithful to the Lord than you are.
  - 3. Be consistent – practice what you teach! To church, family, those outside, 2 Timothy 2:2, 24-26
- D. Study, Pray, Mediate, Train, these will cause growing with the Lord's help in our lives!

**Conclusion:** Our end in this life is a heart of faith that bears the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-24. Our end of this life is the glorious life in heaven, 1 Peter 1:3-9!

*Presented at the  
Avondale church of Christ gospel meeting  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007*