

INTRODUCTION

1. Heb 11:1&3. Faith: assurance, confidence & hope in *thgs not seen* - v3: Creator's creation.
2. The believers see invisible thgs w/ eyes of faith
 - i. v7 - Noah
 - ii. v24-27 Moses
 - iii. v13 = summary
3. Jn 3:3 - new birth gives us eyes of faith.

1st: Faith Sees the Word of the Old Testament Prophets

1. OT prophets were called *seers*: 1Sam 9:9; 1Kg 22:19; Isa 2:1; Mic 1:1.
 - i. Prophets given visions: commissioned & sent to speak words.
 - ii. False prophets: Jer 23:21-22
2. False prophets promise an experience in a shared vision: Col 2:18
3. YHWH's seers - Jer 23:22 *My words & call to repentance*.

2nd: Faith Sees the Incarnated Word of God

1. Jn 1:14 Jesus is "seen" Word who speaks the Word so that the spoken Word is a revelation of Jesus Himself.
2. Jn 20:26-31 physical sight juxtaposed w/ faith. Jesus *blesses* us who have not seen empirically, yet believe - see w/ eyes of faith.
3. Is the adage "seeing is believing" true?
4. Parable of seed & soil - RoadSide, Rocky, Thorny, Fruitful - all hear Word
 - i. Mat 13:9-18 v9 & v18 *hear* = inclusio. Hear in dependence on HS [Jn 3:8] - see effect of wind.

- ii. Jesus' parables bless & curse. Isa 6:9-10 judgment on apostate people among whom is a believing remnant who can hear: the disciples.
- iii. *It has been granted* [v11]. How? Not told. Told that & what is evidenced. What are disciples doing that evidences that they hear?
 - a. v10 - they hunger for truth - ask for further clarification
 - b. others leave complacent in their ignorance
- iv. *The mysteries of Kingdom of God* = revelation of NT. WE have been granted more than the believers listed in Heb 11.

3rd: Faith Sees the Word the New Testament Apostles

1. Apostles = *eyewitnesses* of Jesus' resurrection. Acts 1:21-22; 1 Jn 1:1-4
 - i. Revelation of Jesus exceeds that given to prophets & JnB [Lk 7:28]
 - ii. *what we have seen & heard we proclaim to you* [1Jn 1:3].
2. Cors were enamored w/ charismata - visions! Paul warns of false teachers who claim visions in Col 2:18. But Paul rec'd a vision 2C 12:1-7
 - i. Paul - what did you hear? *inexpressible words not permitted to speak*
 - ii. Paul focuses on a *thorn*
 - iii. So Paul prays - did you get another revelation? Yes - v9 Here are words Paul is permitted to speak! v11 *an apostolic nobody*
3. Scripture = message of seers - Rv 1:11; *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*; Rv 22:18-19 Isa 8:20

4th: We Hope for What Faith Sees

1. Faith in promises - Heb 11:1,13 What is promised is already possessed by faith w/ hope if we love the One promising.
2. Hope = confident expectation of what is promised. 1C 15:19; Tit 2:13
 - i. By faith we look at thgs which are unseen, eternal thgs (2C 4:18; 5:7)
 - ii. We hope for things presently unseen. R 8:24-25.

3. This eschatological tension characterizes the life of faith-hope-love.
Calvin on Hb 1:1. Jesus has all that is promised & we have Jesus.