

Exhortations to Persevere in Belief

§ 1 • The General Significance and Essence of Belief

PART 22

57 Now belief is the underlying claim on the things that one eagerly anticipates, it is the reason we can know of things that are not themselves seen. 2•By it, indeed, our elders were commended.

11:1–2

58 As to belief—we understand the ages to have been ordered by the utterance of God, with the consequence that what is seen is not born of things that are evident.

11:3

§ 2 • The Significance and Nature of Belief in the Lives of Jewish Ancestors

§ 2.1 • The Significance and Nature of Belief in the Lives of Pre-Abrahamic Believers

PART 23

59 As to belief—Abel offered up to God a better offering than Cain. 2•In view of this, he was attested to be *dikaïos*—God attesting to it on the occasion of his gifts. 3•And through it, though he died, yet he speaks.

11:4

60 As to belief—Enoch was taken up such that he did not see death. “2•And he could not be found, because God had taken him up.” [Genesis 5:24, LXX] 3•Now, before his taking up, he had been attested to being pleasing to God. 4•Yet, without belief it is impossible to be pleasing. 5•For it is necessary for the one who approaches God to believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

11:5–6

61 As to belief—having been warned about things not yet seen, Noah, paying heed to it, prepared an ark to keep his household safe through that event by which he condemned the world, and he became an heir by the *dikaïosune* that accords with belief.

11:7

§ 2.2 • The Significance and Nature of Belief in the Life of the Patriarchs

PART 24

62 As to belief—Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to the place that he was eventually to receive as an inheritance. 2•And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

11:8

63 As to belief—he lived as a foreigner in the land of promise, dwelling in tents, along with Isaac and Jacob, fellow-heirs of the same promise. 2•For he was awaiting a city that had foundations—the architect and builder of which would be God.

11:9–10

64 As to belief—even while Sarah herself was barren, he received the ability to produce an offspring, even beyond the time of his male potency, because he considered the one who had promised him to be faithful. 2•Therefore, indeed, from one man—who had been brought near to death—even these offspring were fathered: they were as “the stars of the heavens” in number, and as the countless “sand that is on the shore of the sea.”

65 In the midst of their belief, these men all died, not having received the promises—having rather seen and greeted them while they were still a long way off—and having confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on the land of promise. 2•Now those who say such things make it evident that they long for their homeland. 3•But, if they were reminiscing about that homeland from which they had come out, they had the opportunity to return. 4•Now, in fact, they want a better one, that is, one given by heaven. 5•Therefore, as for them, God is not ashamed to be called their God. 6•Indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

11:13–16

66 With regard to belief—Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. 2•Indeed, the one who had embraced the promises was willing to offer up that unique son—to him it had been said, “In Isaac your descendents shall be called” [Genesis 21:12]—since he reasoned that God is in fact able to raise him up from the dead. 3•For this reason, he received him back as a sort of parable.

11:17–19

67 With regard to belief—Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.

11:20

68 With regard to belief—Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph; and “he bowed down in humble gratitude to God over the extent of his branch of the family.” [Genesis 47:31]

11:21

69 With regard to belief—Joseph, when he was reaching his end, made reference to the exodus of the sons of Israel and gave instructions concerning his bones.

11:22

§ 2.3 • The Significance and Nature of Belief in the Times of the Exodus

PART 25

70 With regard to belief—Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw the child to be notable and they were not afraid of the edict of the king.

11:23

71 With regard to belief—Moses, when he was grown, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, opting rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to have the fleeting enjoyment of sin, because he counted the ridicule of the anointed one as greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. 2•For he was keeping his eyes on the reward.

11:24–26

72 With regard to belief—he left Egypt, not fearing the fury of the king. 2•Indeed he remained firm in his commitment to do as God instructed, as one who is seeing the invisible outcome.

11:27

73 With regard to belief—he performed the Passover feast and the sprinkling of the blood to the end that the destroyer would not touch their firstborn.

11:28

74 With regard to belief—they passed through the Red Sea as if on dry land. 2•When the Egyptians made the attempt to cross over on it, they drowned.

11:29