

## 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.”