

## TOPIC: SCRIPTURAL EXEGESIS ON HEBREWS 11:1-6 & REVELATION

### Materials to use for this study:

- Bible dictionaries
- Bible concordance
- Books relating to Biblical Archeology
- Bible Hub on Google
- Bible Lexicons
- Bible Encyclopedia

### HEBREW 11:1-6 (KJV).

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (2) For by it the elders obtained a good report. (3) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (4) By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. (5) By Faith E'noch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had a testimony that he pleased God.*

### REVELATION 13:8 & 20:15.

*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

*20:15. And whosever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake fire.*

We are going to use three methods to get the root and Hebraic meaning from the above texts, which include the following:

- Method number one: Cultural Perspectives of the Texts.

- Method number two: Philosophies of the Bible
- Method number three: Word Studies.

### **Cultural Perspectives of the Bible:**

Speaking of biblical cultures, it is essential that we carefully investigate the lifestyle, writing, social, Economic, and religious living of the ancient people. Keeping in mind that we are studying the materials of people from different periods in the past, knowing much about their culture will give us a more vivid and precise understanding of who, what, and how of the Bible. Mary Ellen Chase said in her book *Life and Language in the Old Testament*; quote: The writers of the Old Testament are constantly calling upon their readers to look, behold, hearken, wait, watch, listen, lift -up their eyes. End quote. I agree with her, although she might have a different opinion from her narrative. It still gives us a lot of mental awareness regarding studying the Bible. A perfect example can be seen in *Genesis 27:37 -38*. *But Isaac answered Esau: look, I have made him a master over you, have given him all of his relatives as his servants, and have sustained him with grain and new wine. What then can I do for you, my son? Esau said to his father, "Do you only have one blessing, my father? Bless me too, my father! And Esau wept loudly.*

I want to start by saying that for now, we will look at the Cultural side of the text and not use the other two methods. One may ask, why could Isaac not say the exact words he said to Jacob in Esau's life now that their father Isaac knew what Jacob had done to his elder brother? Before you go ahead of me to say that God did predestine that to happen because somehow God told their mother about the younger serving, the older? I want you to take a deep breath and relax while stepping down from our religious high horse a little. Because if we stay on our horses while having this conversation, that could lead to much more, but let's understand this from its cultural background. Words in Isaac's time need to be understood from their prospectives and not as to how our generation understood words from an abstract sense. Looking at the Hebrew word, Davar means order or to arrange, but this is an abstract definition from a Greco-Roman understanding. But in the mind of the Ancient Hebrew, the word Davar can be translated as a "thing." When understanding the meaning of this concrete definition, we can now say that Isaac did not take Jacob's blessing back after learning about Jacob's evil act toward his brother. It's because Isaac saw it not just as a speech over Jacob but as a "thing" that cannot be taken back. In our time, we say we can't break our words when we give them. Thou many at times we do the opposite. It's like giving your wife an anniversary present that she once longed for; you know fully well if

you take it back after giving it to her, it will create havoc. Whether you are mad at her for any reason for something she has done, you are just starting a war you cannot win. Therefore, without fully understanding the Hebraic culture behind the text, you will miss out on some crucial factors behind the people of the bible.

And if you cannot see, hear, and think as they did, what good will it do you to be a student of the text? You won't be doing justice to the text. Therefore, Isaac's culture could not permit him to revoke those words given to His younger son Jacob. I have lived in two cultures, and I tell you, they are far more distinct in my home country, Liberia, which is in West Africa. Parents used the rod as a disciplining tool when training the children; trust me, my dad and aunt made me a first-hand witness to the disciplinary life of an African child in Africa. But when I came to the United States of America, I heard about Child service, parental school, etc. African Parents in Africa will get mad at your ancestors if you tell them about parental schooling or any of that sort because they whipped their children when the child did evil. And I am so grateful to have gotten that side of my culture; it helps make me who I am today. In short, we need to remove our cultural mentality and put on the artistic minds of those who live, write, and pass down the Bible to us. Because it's about them.

### **Philosophies of the Bible**

Philosophy is a discipline comprising its core logic, aesthetics, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology. (webster's ninth New Collegiate Dictionary). But for our discussion, I will term it as Schools of thought. There are two schools of thought, the Eastern and the Western. The Eastern schools of thought have to do with concrete reasoning, and on the other hand, the Western schools are more concerned about abstract reasoning. The Concrete school of thought exercises the human five senses perfectly. The Eastern school of thought concerns things that can be seen, touched, tasted, felt, and heard. On the other hand, the abstract school of thought has to do with imagination, wherein the human five senses cannot be used. And our modern Bible as we have it has been painted with the paints of abstract reasoning. It will only be good if I use few biblical words to illustrate my point on the philosophies of those in the bible. The word Grace (hhen) comes from the parent root Hh.N.H, they spell the same except for the addition of h at the end of the word. This verb carries the idea of "pitching a tent, or camping." But our modern translation of the word Grace means Elegance of beauty, favor, mercy or pardon. All those words cannot be experienced by the human five senses. Now as the Hebrews who were well known as desert travelers. Wherever they were to camp for the night they had to pitch their tent, and yes, they lived in tents until they

could settle in their promised land after their deliverance from Egypt. So the thought of pitching their tents in the manner of a city wall carries the ideas of, protection. Therefore, the word Grace means to pitch a tent, or camping, but figuratively means “protection”.

### **Word Studies:**

Words Studies: behind every modern word in the bible there is a hidden ancient Hebrew word. It is our responsibility to go beyond the modern words and translations, in search of the original ancient words that were used within a given text. As seen in the word father from the text.