# Hebrews, Chapters 7-10

Reflections, prayers, scripture, and recorded new hymns for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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## **Hebrews 7:1-10**

(NIV)

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

## Jesus Christ, Our High Priest

Hebrews 7:1-10

Father, Jesus Christ is the complete High Priest, the perfect Mediator between God and us. He, and He alone, is able to unite us fully and forever with You.

He perfectly represents You to us.

He is 100% like You and

shares all You are with us.

He is the exact representation of Your very being (Hebrews 1:3).

Your Spirit is His Spirit.

All Your fullness fills Him (Colossians 2:9).

He lives, and has lived, in

unbroken, heart-to-heart relationship with You forever,

without beginning and

without end.

He also perfectly represents us to You.

He is 100% like us.

as human as you or I.

He has experienced all that we have experienced.

He has shared all our neediness.

all our temptations, and

all our weakness,

yet without sin.

His priesthood transcends

every other priesthood.

His oneness with You is

unbounded and

unbroken

from all eternity to

all eternity.

He shares all You are with us, and

by His death,

by His Spirit,

He enables us to respond

fully and

perfectly to You.

Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, has united

```
each of us and all of us
with You, our holy and transcendent Father, fully and forever.

Praise to You,
Father,
Son, and
Holy Spirit!
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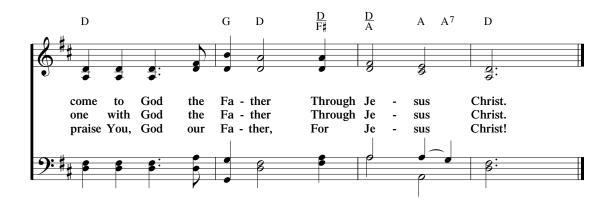
Hymn recording: Our Great High Priest

# Our Great High Priest



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## **Hebrews 7:11-28**

(NIV)

If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared:

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

"The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'"

Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

## Jesus Christ, Our Intercessor

Hebrews 7:11-28

```
Father, Your dearly-loved, only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ,
is with You completely,
intimately,
side-by-side,
heart-to-heart,
in unbroken fellowship,
breathing Your Spirit,
now,
every moment,
from eternity to eternity.

And through that relationship,
as our Great High Priest,
He is praying for us right now
```

as our Great High Priest,
He is praying for us right now.
He is bringing all our needs
to Your great and loving heart,
forever making intercession for us,
forever saving us,
forever bringing us near to You.

He is always asking all that His heart desires for us, and You, His dear Father, are always hearing and always granting all His requests.

His intercession for us is complete, constant, and forever.

Praise to You, loving Father!
Praise to You,
Holy Son,
our Savior,
our Brother!

Right now
Jesus Christ is in
the Father's very presence,
praying for you.

Hymn recording: Psalm 118

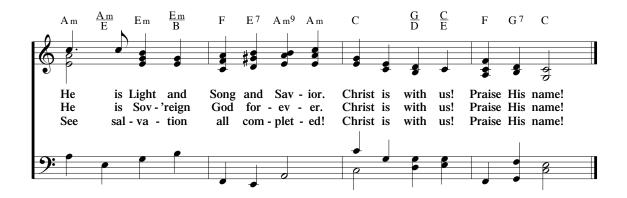
## Psalm 118



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 118 8.8.8.7.8.7.8.7.

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#### **Hebrews 8**

(NASB)

Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the [e]tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain."

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. For finding fault with them, He says,

"Behold, days are coming, says the Lord,

When I will effect a new covenant

With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers

On the day when I took them by the hand

To lead them out of the land of Egypt;

For they did not continue in My covenant,

And I did not care for them, says the Lord.

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

After those days, says the Lord:

I will put My laws into their minds,

And I will write them on their hearts.

And I will be their God.

And they shall be My people.

"And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen,

And everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'

For all will know Me,

From the least to the greatest of them.

"For I will be merciful to their iniquities,

And I will remember their sins no more."

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

## A New Relationship with God

Hebrews 8

```
our new and better Intercessor,
      Jesus Christ brings us into
      a new and better relationship with God.
Jesus ministers for us.
      not in a tabernacle on earth.
       a shadowy copy of a heavenly original.
He ministers in The Tabernacle,
      in heaven itself,
      in the full, immediate presence of
             God.
             the I AM,
             His own Father.
His Father is now
      our Father.
His Spirit is now
      our Spirit.
His wisdom,
      His word.
      His will
are no longer a set of lofty rules
      we humans find impossible to keep.
His desire is now
      our desire.
His wisdom is now written,
not on tablets of stone, but on
      our minds and
      our hearts.
God works in us, both
      to want and
      to do
             all that He wants (Philippians 2:13, para.).
His beautiful will flows,
      not from the outside, in,
      but from the inside, out,
filling our whole beings with the beauty of
```

As our new and better High Priest,

who He is and who His love is recreating us to be.

HE is our salvation.
Our "work" is now simply trusting Him.
Our joy is now
knowing Him,
loving Him,
glorifying Him, and
sharing Him.

Hymn recording: <u>Holy, Holy, Holy God</u>

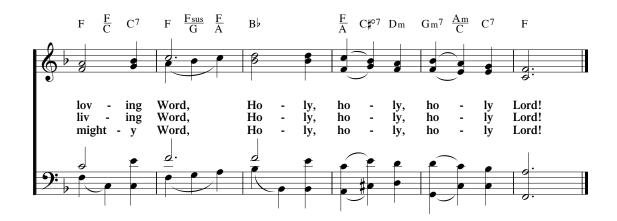
# Holy, Holy, Holy God

TUNE: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (GROSSER GOTT)

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:16 – 37:28



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774; arr. by Ken Bible GROSSER GOTT 7.8.7.8.7.7.



## **Hebrews 9:1-10**

(NASB)

Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the [h]sins of the people committed in ignorance.

The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

## **Christ in Genesis and Exodus**

Hebrews 9:1-10

In Genesis, at the very beginning, when God spoke the universe into existence, Jesus Christ was that sovereign, creative Word. All that the Father willed, the Word brought to reality (Genesis 1; John 1:1-18).

Christ was the deliverer God promised to Adam and Eve. He was their descendant who would crush Satan's head (Genesis 3:15).

Christ was the rainbow's promise to Noah that in the face of overwhelming evil, life would always triumph (Genesis 8:21; 9:8-17).

Christ was the heir promised to Abraham and the sacrifice God provided in place of Isaac (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:4; 22:8, 14).

Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest. Melchizedek and the entire Old Testament priesthood pointed ahead to Him (Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7; 10:19-23).

In the Exodus, Christ was the Passover lamb. Through His blood God's people were saved from death (Exodus 12). Christ was the manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16) and the Bread of the Presence (Exodus 25:30). His life was the completion of the entire sacrificial system and won forgiveness for all our race (Hebrews 10:11-14).

Jesus Christ fulfilled Sinai's law for all of us (Matthew 5:17; Romans 10:4). Moses saw the back of God for a few seconds (Exodus 33:18-23; 34:1-7). In Christ we see Him face-to-face and are changed into His glory (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Tabernacle in the wilderness feasted our senses on reminders of God's presence (Exodus 40), but Jesus Christ is Himself God's tabernacle among us and within us (John 1:14).

Under the Old Testament law, the transcendent God could not be pictured in physical form, and anyone who tried was guilty of idolatry. But Jesus Christ is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15) and "the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3, NIV).

In the creation, at Sinai, and in the wilderness, to Adam and Abraham and all God's people, the Father longed to make Himself known and trusted and loved. His desire is fulfilled completely and forever in Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with Us.

Consider this: Why did God wait so long before sending

Jesus Christ,
the final answer for all our needs?
Because we can't understand Him without
the law, the history, the Psalms, and the prophets.
They form the necessary backdrop for
all He is and all He has done.
Without them, we can't fully receive Him as
the fulfillment of all God's promises and purposes,
as our Sacrifice, our Great High Priest, our Redeemer, and our King.

Hymn recording: Christ in Genesis and Exodus

## Christ in Genesis and Exodus

TUNE: Once in Royal David's City (IRBY)

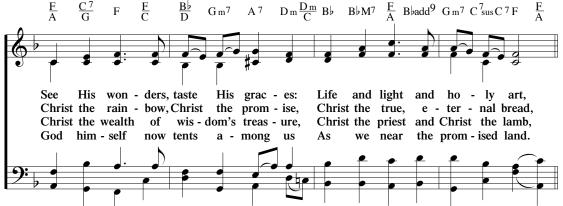
Genesis 1; 3:15; 8:21; 9:8-17; 12:1-3; 14:17-20; 15:4; 22;

Exodus 12; 15; 16; 19; 25:8-9, 30; 33:18-23; 34:1-7; 40:34-38;

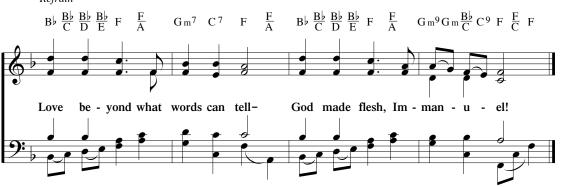
Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-18

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-18

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## Hebrews 9:11-14

(NASB)

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

## **Clean Forever**

Hebrews 9:11-14

Father, our redemption in Christ is
complete and
forever,
having taken place in a realm higher than our own,
in Your very presence,
with a perfect High Priest and
a perfect sacrifice:
Your own, dearly-loved Son

I am clean!
I am free!
I am sanctified and
set apart entirely to You.

So in response,
help me set myself apart
entirely to You.
Help me be fully responsive to
all You have done,
all You are now doing in me, and
all You want to BE in me.

I am truly, forever, alive in You!

Hymn recording: Alive in You

## Alive in You

Romans 6:1-11



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ALIVE IN YOU Irregular

#### More

Reflection on Hebrews 1:1 - 9:14

```
Jesus, I am finding You
more than a promise,
more than a hope,
more than a thought.
```

#### You are

more than I have let You be, more than I can imagine You to be, more than all the dreams that have cluttered by mind.

#### You are

all the "more"
of my restless desires,
all the "more"
of God's restless love for me,
all the "more" of eternity,
ever here,
ever flowing,
ever full,
yet ever growing,
ever satisfying and
ever surprising.

Jesus, to You be
all my love and trust,
all my hungering and hoping,
all my living and rejoicing and aspiring,
look by look, Lord,
more and more.

Almighty Father,
You are leading us to the
fullness of life and love, to
peace, to
continual joy, to
complete and constant oneness with You.
Lead on!
Help us keep in step with Your Spirit.

**Hymn recording:** Beyond Imagination

# **Beyond Imagination**

TUNE: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ST. ANNE) Psalm 34:8; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 3:14-21



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: William Croft
ST. ANNE
C.M.

Alt. Tune: AZMON

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## **Hebrews 9:15-28**

(NASB)

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

## One Sacrifice

Hebrews 9:15-28

```
Father, thank you for
patiently teaching us
all You have done for us
       in Jesus Christ.
All the old testament sacrifices - all
       that gore,
       that killing,
       that death --
become meaningful and lovely in the light of
       Your Son.
The complexity and ugliness of that
       entire sacrificial system
highlights the beauty of
       Jesus' one act of
       simple self-giving.
Your love, Father –
       Your amazing love -
has transformed a scene of
       gore,
       violence,
       bitter injustice, and
       utter humiliation
into an incomparable vision of
       holy glory and
       incomprehensible mercy.
And now, Father, we are waiting.
We are eagerly awaiting Jesus' return and
the completion of
       all Your gifts,
```

all Your blessings

We eagerly await our full inheritance in Christ:

in Him.

a full, constant, unbroken, unhindered relationship with You. Hymn recording: <a href="I Know That My Redeemer Lives">I Know That My Redeemer Lives</a>

# I Know That My Redeemer Lives

TUNE: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (from Handel's Messiah; alt.) Job 19:25-27; 1 Corinthians 15:20



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## Hebrews 10:1-10

(NIV)

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.
Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.'"

First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## Lamb of God

Hebrews 10:1-10

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV)

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24, NIV), but His sinbearing did not begin on Golgotha.

As He emptied Himself of all that made Him equal to the Father (Philippians 2:5-8), He was taking our sins upon Himself.

John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, NIV), not at the end of His ministry, but at its very beginning. The first public act of this sinless One was to humble Himself, line up with sinners, and symbolically die beneath the waters of the Jordan. There, from day one, He bore our sins.

For forty days He faced extreme deprivation and temptation in the wilderness, all that we might have a high priest...who has been tempted in every way, just as we are...that he might make atonement for the sins of the people (Hebrews 4:15; 2:17, NIV).

Throughout His ministry He bore all the fruits of our sin. Homelessness, rejection, hatred, poverty, and persecution were His daily experience. He took upon Himself the needs of the thousands that flocked to Him—their ignorance, disease, demon possession, grief, and hunger.

Finally, He laid down His life before those who hated Him and thirsted for His blood. He silently surrendered Himself to their humiliation, torture, and cruel execution.

But this was only the culmination of His self-sacrifice. He bore our sins, not for a few hours, but for His entire holy life.

Hymn recording: You Bore Our Sin, O Lamb of God

## You Bore Our Sin, O Lamb of God

TUNE: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (WALTHAM)

Isaiah 53; Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13;

John 1:29; 10:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:24



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### Hebrews 10:11-18

(NIV)

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

"This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds."

### Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

### One

Hebrews 10:11-18; Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:16-17

```
Father,
       all the desires of Your loving heart,
       all Your promises,
       all Your lavish gifts,
       all Your forgiveness,
       all Your cleansing,
       all Your empowering
have come to me in
       Jesus Christ.
One life,
       one death,
       one willing sacrifice,
       one astounding resurrection,
       one Holy Spirit, and
all that is
       is now one with You
       in Jesus Christ.
I am now one with
       Father,
       Son, and
       Holy Spirit.
I am now one with
       every person
       of every time,
       of every place,
       who simply trusts You.
All creation
       united with You -
it has been won, and
       it will soon become full reality
       in Jesus Christ!
```

Hymn recording: I Am Your Salvation

# I Am Your Salvation

Psalm 35:3b



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### Hebrews 10:19-23

(NIV)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

### **Full Assurance**

Hebrews 10:19-23; Colossians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Hebrews 6:11

## Father, I remember who I was. I remember what I've done. But now I am fully and forever forgiven, fully and forever innocent, fully and forever holy, and fully and forever YOURS. I can be absolutely certain of this now. each moment, in every situation, for all eternity because my purity rests on You and what You have done in Your perfect Son, Jesus Christ. In all my weakness, in all my uncertainties, I can live utterly secure, in full assurance. I can live joyfully, lovingly, at peace with You and at peace with the world as I trust Jesus Christ. Praise to You, Father! Praise to You, my Savior and Brother!

Praise to You, faithful Holy Spirit!

**Hymn recording:** Full Assurance

## **Full Assurance**

TUNE: In Christ There Is no East or West (ST. PETER), alt. *Colossians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Hebrews 6:9-20; 10:19-25* 



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle (1799-1877) and Ken Bible

ST. PETER 2 8.6.8.8.6.

## Hebrews 10:24-25

(NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## **What Will Last**

Hebrews 10:24-25

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Father,
the works of our hands
in themselves
are not what is
important or
lasting,
whether they be
a career
a book,
a sermon
a song, or
an empire.
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Your purpose is lasting, and
Your purpose is
Your people.
The investments we make in Your people,
even a cup of cold water,
will never be lost (Matthew 10:42).

Hymn recording: <u>How Precious Are Your People</u>

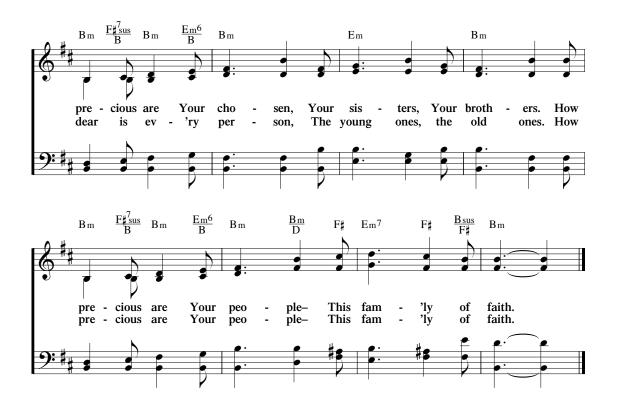
# **How Precious Are Your People**



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### Hebrews 10:26-31

(NIV)

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said,

"It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again,

"The Lord will judge his people."

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

### The Power to Choose

Hebrews 10:26-31

God is sovereign over all reality. All matter was created by Him and responds to His Word. He speaks, and all that is obeys. He says, "Let there be...", and worlds spring into being.

But to us human beings, made in His image, He delegates the power to choose, within set boundaries. As Sovereign God, He gives us the privilege and responsibility of making decisions - real decisions, with real consequences.

Put yourself in our Heavenly Father's position. As parents, we deeply desire a close, loving relationship with each of our children in all their individuality. But we cannot compel such a relationship, and we wouldn't want to. We want our children to love and trust us freely, by their own choice. We want them to want to be with us. We do everything we can to nurture and encourage such a choice, but in the end we honor what the child chooses. It's not the kind of decision we can ignore or override, no matter how much we want to.

Our Heavenly Father is the same. He does all He can to bring us to Himself. Even in our sinful weakness and blindness, He gives us the grace to choose Him. But He does not compel it, and in the end, He honors our choice. If we respond to His grace with even the feeblest desire to love and trust Him, He will move heaven and earth to lead us into full union with Himself.

But if we choose separation from Him, He will at last honor our decision, completely and eternally.

He is forever the only source of life, light, goodness, peace, and love. Imagine the results of final and complete separation from Him. Choose wisely!

The great drama of salvation,
with all its faithfulness and betrayal,
its patient endurance and apostasy,
its self-centeredness and self-sacrifice,
is going on right now.
Each of us is taking part day by day.

**Hymn recording: Free to Choose** 

# Free to Choose

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

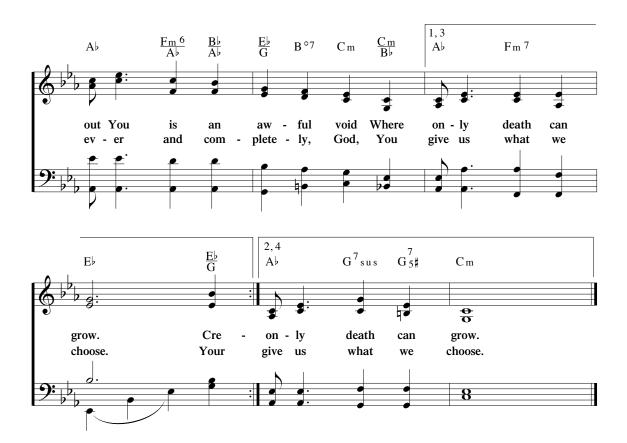


WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

FREE TO CHOOSE 3.9.8.6.8.6.8.6.

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### Hebrews 10:32-39

(NIV)

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For,

"In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay."

And,

"But my righteous one will live by faith.

And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back."

But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

## **God's Persecuted People**

Hebrews 10:32-39

Jesus, You are our Savior,

our Sacrifice,

the Faithful and True Witness,

the Lamb slain for our salvation.

We are Your followers,

Your servants,

Your friends,

Your bride.

Loving Savior, we are Your own Body.

We share Your glory, and

we share Your shame.

We share Your honor, and

we share Your suffering.

We share Your strength

and Your weakness,

Your joy

and Your sorrow.

We share Your death and

Your everlasting life.

### Our desire

and our destiny

is to share in all You are.

As You depended on the Father

and were complete and sufficient in Him,

we depend on You

and are complete and sufficient in You.

Lead on,

omnipotent,

conquering Savior!

We love You!

We trust You!

We take up our cross and

follow wherever You lead!

Drawn by such magnificent promises from such a magnificent God,

## may we walk by faith, even when the road grows dark and difficult.

Hymn recording: <u>Hymn for the Persecuted Church (HYMN TO JOY)</u>

# Hymn for the Persecuted Church

TUNE: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (HYMN TO JOY)

Matthew 5:10-12; 16:24; Luke 1:78-79; John 8:12; 17:13; Acts 5:41; Romans 5:3-4; 6:8; 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 1:12-14; 3:7-11; 2 Timothy 2:11-12; Hebrews 12:1-3; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 4:12-14; Revelation 22:16



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