

The Promises of God

Promise of the Messiah Fulfilled in Christ

For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us. He shoulders responsibility and is called: Amazing Adviser, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His dominion will be vast, and he will bring immeasurable prosperity. He will rule on David's throne and over David's kingdom, establishing it and strengthening it by promoting justice and fairness, from this time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

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Promise of the Messiah Fulfilled in Christ

Key Verses: Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:14

Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's covenant promises.

Prophecy: The Coming King and Savior

From the earliest covenants, God revealed His plan to redeem humanity through a promised Deliverer. The prophets spoke of this Messiah centuries before His birth.

Isaiah 9:6-7

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this."

Micah 5:2

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity."

These prophecies display God's **faithfulness** — He declared His plan long before fulfilling it.
They also show His **sovereignty** — even the place of Messiah's birth was preordained.

Fulfillment: Christ's Birth, Ministry, Death, and Resurrection

Every event in Jesus' life aligned with prophecy:

Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)

From the line of David (2 Samuel 7:12-13; Luke 1:32-33)

Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 26:15)

Crucified and pierced (Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34)

Raised from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:31)

God proved in history that He keeps His promises, no matter how long the wait.
"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law."
— **Galatians 4:4**

The cross and the empty tomb are the clearest evidence that God's word never fails.

God's Character Revealed in Jesus

The Promise Made Flesh

Matthew 1:21-23

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).

In Him, we see God's mercy, truth, and justice perfectly united.

He is not merely the messenger of God's promise — He is the promise fulfilled.

God's Character Revealed

The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases...

Hosea 6:6 – Jesus quotes twice in Matthew

- Mat 9:13 “Go and learn what this saying means: ‘**I want mercy and not sacrifice.**’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”
- Mat 12:7 “If you had known what this means: ‘**I want mercy and not sacrifice,**’ you would not have condemned the innocent.”

‘Mercy’ is translated from Hebrew ‘hesed (חֶסֶד)’

- Hosea 6:6 ‘I desire **mercy** (Heb. *hesed*), not sacrifice.’
- Psalms 89:34-35 ‘I will not break my **covenant** (Heb. *hesed*) or go back on what I promised. Once and for all I have vowed by my own holiness...’

What hesed means (and why covenant matters)

- Core ideas: **covenant loyalty, steadfast love, faithful mercy.** Love that acts to keep promises. It's relational, oath-shaped, and other-seeking.
- Hesed is **covenant love-in-action.** It's the *moral shape* of God's promise-keeping.
- **Implication:** Jesus operationalizes hesed: *mercy > sacrifice; greatness = servanthood; rule = self-giving love.*
- Paul saturates his letters with “**one another**” commands (love, bear, forgive, submit). It's the communal ethic of covenant loyalty now formed “in Christ.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning; **Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is Thy faithfulness!**

Looking Backwards Through the Lens of the New Covenant

Covenant	Promise Given	Promise Fulfilled in Messiah	<i>hesed</i> expression
Abrahamic	Blessing to all Nations (Gen. 12:3)	Salvation through faith in Jesus (Gal. 3:8,16)	Faithful inclusion of all who believe
Mosaic	Holiness and Obedience (Exo. 19:5–6)	Law written on hearts by the Spirit (Heb. 10:15–18)	Inward transformation, grace over law
Davidic	Eternal Throne (2 Sam. 7:12–16)	Jesus, Son of David, reigning forever (Luke 1:32–33)	Covenant love established forever

Synthesis: If *hesed* is *covenant love-in-action*, then being **in Christ** means:

- **Status** – Our Standing with God. Counted righteous in Him (**2 Cor 5:21**), welcomed as sons/partners of the New Covenant (**Jer 31**; **Luke 22**).
- **Ethic** – Our new Fruit-Bearing Way of Life. Empowered to practice *hesed*-shaped love (“*walk in love*,” **Eph 5:1–2**), expressed as Paul’s union in Christ expression of “one anothers.”
- The new covenant doesn’t cancel the old; it **completes** it.
- Jesus, The **Messiah**, is the covenant keeper on both sides of the covenant...
- **Messiah** = Man’s perfect obedience to God + God’s perfect mercy toward man.

What the data supports:

God sees us ‘in Christ’—that is, clothed with Christ/justified/adopted—**by faith** (union), not by performance. Status is a **grace gift** grounded in Christ’s obedience, cross, and resurrection.

Ethic flows from status. The Spirit writes the law on hearts (Jer 31; Ezek 36), so we **live out** covenant loyalty as fruit—Paul’s “one anothers.” This is the **messianic hesed** reproduced in us.

Nuance: It’s better to say: *Because we are in Christ, God regards us in the status of His Son, and therefore calls and empowers us to live the Son’s ethic.* Our obedience doesn’t create the status; it **confirms and expresses** it (Eph 2:8–10; Rom 8:4).

Status in Christ is by union (grace), and the ḥesed ethic is its necessary fruit. In Christ, God keeps His Davidic/New-Covenant oath; and in Christ, we share both His **standing** and His **way of life**—the way of ḥesed.

Ps 89:33–35; Isa 9:6–7; Mic 5:2; Hos 6:6 → Matt 9:13; 12:7; Mark 10:42–45; John 13; John 1:14; 14:6; Rom 6:3–5; 8:1–4; 2 Cor 5:17,21; Gal 2:20; 3:27; Eph 5:1–2,21; “one another” catena (Rom 12; Eph 4; Col 3; 1 Thess 5; Heb 10; 1 Pet 4–5).

The Book of Hebrews

Unveiling Connections between Covenants

Abrahamic Covenant → Messiah, the Faithful Seed

- Abraham's promise was righteousness through faith (**Genesis 15:6**).
- **Hebrews 6:13-18** says God confirmed that oath by Himself, so it cannot fail.
- Jesus is the **guarantor (7:22)** - the living fulfillment of God's unbreakable *hesed* oath.

Mosaic Covenant → Messiah, the Perfect Mediator

- The law exposed sin but could not change the heart (**Hebrews 10:1-4**).
- Jesus fulfills it by offering His own blood, accomplishing inward cleansing (**9:14-15**).
- His priesthood is after **Melchizedek** - eternal, righteous, and merciful (**7:23-27**).
- *"He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."* (**7:25**)

Davidic Covenant → Messiah, the Eternal King

- **Hebrews 1:8-9** applies **Psalms 45** to the son: *"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever... you have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness."*
- Jesus reigns as king and priest - a combination no Israelite king ever could hold under the Mosaic Law.
- This unites the covenant strands: a faithful Davidic king, a righteous high priest, and a better covenant built on better promises (**8:6**).

The author of Hebrews builds a theology that ties the old covenants to the new covenant in Christ. In Christ, *hesed* and covenant faithfulness converge — God keeping His oaths through the obedient Son.

The New Covenant promised (Jeremiah 31:31–34)

"Look, the days are coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors... I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... for I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more."

— Jeremiah 31:31–34, NET

- In context, Jeremiah's audience imagined national restoration — land, peace, temple. but the promise went far deeper: **inner transformation, forgiveness, and direct relationship** with God.
- This covenant isn't about stone tablets but about hearts reshaped by God's Spirit (compare Ezekiel 36:26–27). it's the *hesed* of God now written inside His people.
- The Israelites expected renewal *around* them; God promised renewal *within* them.

Israel's misunderstanding of the Messiah and *hesed*

- Ancient Israel largely read the messianic prophecies politically — a ruler like David who would free them from gentile rule. but they missed the moral and relational nature of the Messiah's rule: His *hesed*.
- **Isaiah 53** shows the suffering servant who bears sin through self-giving love — the *hesed* of God made flesh.
- **Micah 6:8** already summarized covenant morality: *"to do justice, to love hesed, and to walk humbly with your God."* the people loved ritual but ignored covenant loyalty.
- By Jesus' day, this blindness persisted. when Jesus quoted **Hosea 6:6** ("I desire *hesed*, not sacrifice"), he wasn't introducing a new idea; he was restoring the original covenant ethic Israel had abandoned.
- The mystery was not that the messiah would come — but *how*: as a servant, not a conqueror; as one who rules by dying, not killing.
- His throne was a cross.
- His victory was *hesed* fulfilled.

The revelation of true *hesed*

When viewed from the cross:

- *hesed* = God's faithful love that fulfills every promise despite human failure.
- In Christ, that *hesed* becomes personal — poured into hearts by the spirit (rom 5:5).
- the "mystery" hidden for ages (Col 1:26–27) is that gentiles and jews together share this covenant faithfulness through union with Christ.
- "Now the main point of what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven... he is the mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises." — **Hebrews 8:1,6**, NET

Summary Thoughts

- The ancient covenants were **shadows**; Christ is **substance**.
- Their rituals hinted at what his *hesed* would achieve: forgiveness, transformation, and unbreakable fellowship.
- So when we read backward through the new covenant, we see the same God — steadfast, loyal, merciful — fulfilling His own covenant from the inside out.

Apostolic Theology

The heart of *hesed* as the Apostles understood it...

Theme	Old Covenant Concept	Apostolic Fulfillment in Messiah
<i>hesed</i> (Steadfast Love)	God's loyal faithfulness to Israel	Christ's faithful obedience unto death; believers now embody it
Servant/Slave	One bound by covenant duty	One who freely serves out of Christ-like love
Moral Measure	Law as external standard	Jesus Himself as living standard ("as He is")
Community Ethic	Neighbor love (Lev 19:18)	Mutual service and honor ("one another")
Covenant Sign	Circumcision, ritual	Self-giving love shown in action (John 13:35)

Messiah is both the revelation and reproduction of God's covenant love.

- His followers, joined to Him by the Spirit, become living witnesses of that same faithfulness - serving, giving, forgiving, and suffering as He did.

The apostolic theology of *hesed* can be summed up this way:

Christ is both the revelation and reproduction of God's covenant love.

- His followers, joined to Him by the Spirit, become living witnesses of that same faithfulness — serving, giving, forgiving, and suffering as He did.

Lev 19:9-18 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. (10) And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God. (11) 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. (12) And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. (13) 'You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. (14) You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD. (15) 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. (16) You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. (17) 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. (18) **You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**

Joh 13:31-35 So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. (32) If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. (33) Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. (34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have

loved you, that you also love one another. (35) **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

Apostolic Theology

The heart of *hesed* as the Apostles understood it...

hesed becomes incarnate in Christ

- *hesed* describes God's *steadfast love* - his *covenant loyalty, mercy, and faithfulness*. In Jesus, that word took on flesh.
- His life defined what *hesed* looks like when embodied: compassion that serves, truth that acts, loyalty that sacrifices.
- When the apostles looked at Jesus, they saw not just a teacher but the full revelation of God's *hesed*.
- "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)
- That phrase "grace and truth" echoes the Hebrew pair *hesed w'emet*, "*steadfast love and faithfulness*."
- **Jesus is God's covenant love walking among men.**

Joh 1:1-18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (4) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (6) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. (7) This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. (8) He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. (9) That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (11) He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. (12) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (13) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (15) John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He

of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " (16) And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (17) **For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** (18) No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

Apostolic Theology

The heart of *hesed* as the Apostles understood it...

The Apostles reinterpreted “service” through the lens of *hesed*

- In Roman society, a **slave** or **servant** held no honor. But the apostles turned the idea upside down.
- **Jesus** said, “Whoever wants to be first among you must be slave of all.” (**Mark 10:44**)
- **Paul** called himself “a slave of Christ Jesus.” (**Romans 1:1**)
- **Peter** told believers to “use your freedom to serve one another.” (**1 Pet 2:16**)
- This wasn’t humiliation for its own sake. it was the *hesed* way - love that puts the other’s good above self, because that’s what Christ did.
- To serve as Jesus served is to practice covenant faithfulness inside the new covenant family.
- So when believers act as **stewards**, **servants**, or **slaves**, they’re living out divine loyalty - the practical expression of *hesed*.

Mar 10:35-45 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." (36) And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" (37) They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." (38) But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (39) They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; (40) but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared." (41) And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. (42) But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (43) Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. (44) **And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.** (45) For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Rom 1:1-2 Paul, a **bondservant** of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God (2) which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

1Pe 2:13-25 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— (16) **as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.** (17) **Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.** (18) Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. (19) For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. (20) For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. (21) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: (22) "WHO COMMITTED

NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH"; (23) who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; (24) who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. (25) For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Apostolic Theology

The heart of *hesed* as the Apostles understood it...

"As He is" - Messiah as the moral measure of *hesed*

- Refer to John's many "*as He is*" statements (**1 John 1-5**). That repetition is the Apostolic ethic:
 - The measure of holiness, righteousness, purity, love, and truth is *Jesus Himself*.
 - **Walk in the light, as He is in the light** → faithfulness in truth.
 - **Be righteous, just as He is righteous** → moral integrity shaped by His obedience.
 - **Love one another, as He loved us** → covenant love extending outward.
 - **Purify yourself, as He is pure** → moral renewal through fellowship with Him.
 - Each "*as He is*" ties ethics back to Christ's nature - His *hesed* in action.
 - It's not moralism but participation: sharing His life by the Spirit (1 John 3:24).

1 Jn 1:1-10 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— (2) the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— (3) that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (5) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light **as He is** in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we h

1 Jn 3:11-24 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (13) Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (14) We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. (15) Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (16) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (17) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (18) My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (19) And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. (20) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. (21) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. (22) And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (23) And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. (24) **Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He**

in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.ave not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Apostolic Theology

The heart of *hesed* as the Apostles understood it...

The *hesed* test - "As you did it to one of these" (Matt 25:40)

- Jesus made relational ethics the ground of final judgment.
- To serve others as if they were Christ is the ultimate covenant expression of love.
- This mirrors God's own *hesed*: He treats us as His own Son deserves and calls us to treat others as if they were His Son.
- The moral test, then, is not ceremony or confession alone, but whether we live the *hesed* life - mercy, service, faithfulness, love - toward others.

Apostolic Leadership - Passing on the *hesed* Pattern

- For Paul, Peter, and John, leadership meant **modeling Messiah's faithfulness**.
 - *"Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ."* (1 Cor 11:1)
 - *"Shepherd the flock of God among you... not lording it over those entrusted to you."* (1 Pet 5:2-3)
- Their model was not authority but loyalty - *hesed* stewardship: guiding others' good as Christ guided theirs.

Mat 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (32) All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. (33) And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: (35) for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; (36) I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' (37) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? (38) When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? (39) Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' (40) **And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'** (41) "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (42) for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; (43) I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' (44) "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' (45) Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' (46) And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

1Co 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

1Pe 5:1-11 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: (2) **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;** (3) **nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;** (4) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. (5) Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." (6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, (7) casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (9) Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (10) But may the God of all grace, who called us to His

eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (11) To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.