

# Be Devoted & Fruitful

## Hebrews 6

There's a tremendous sense of urgency about the epistle to the Hebrews. And Chapter 6 not only maintains this urgency, it also contains a great deal of frustration from the author as well. One of the keys to understanding why there is such an urgency and frustration is found in the statements of the New Testament about the generation to whom Hebrews is written.

1. Note the following Scriptures and build a picture about the generation in which Christ appeared and the disciples ministered-

Matthew 11:16, 20 - \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 12:41-42 - \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 23:33-36 - \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 11:30-32, 50 - \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 17:25 - \_\_\_\_\_

It seems that when Galatians 4:4 says that God sent forth His Son at just the right time, it was also just *in* time. The generation that witnessed Christ and the first apostles was the most wicked generation ever. But what qualified them as the most wicked generation of all time was two fold.

2. Christ told a parable where He was the central character. How does the parable of Christ in Matthew 21:33-44 reveal the first reason why *that* generation was the most wicked ever?

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3. Secondly, not only did that generation reject Christ Himself, what else did they do that no other generation has ever done, or could do? (Note the implication of these verses Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39, 41; 1Corinthians 15:15)

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The generation that hosted Christ had a form of godliness, but they were merely religious, not genuinely godly (note what Christ said in Matthew 23:27; and what Paul said in Acts 23:3). Their era, the Jewish era, was going to come to an end (note the use and context of the term “last days” refers to the last days of that generation- the last days of the Jewish era). When Christ foretold of the events of 70AD when the Romans would come and destroy Jerusalem and murder over one million Jews during their 1,260 day attack, He actually gave a very clear timeframe when this would happen (which many people have overlooked or changed to suit their own interpretations).

4. Read Matthew 24:34 and note the timeframe for judgment coming upon Jerusalem-

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When we consider that the epistle to the Hebrews was written in the mid to late 60s AD, and that from the hindsight of history we know that God was going to forcibly bring the Jewish era to an end by using the Romans as instruments of judgment, we might begin to understand why the writer to the Hebrews was prophetically frustrated and almost impatient with his readers.

## Elementary Things

The writer to the Hebrews is frustrated that so many Hebrew Christians were entertaining the idea of returning to Judaism or had failed to press forward in their walk with Christ. He encourages them to move beyond the elementary things of Christianity and grow up.

5. Read Hebrews 6:1-2 and list what he describes as elementary doctrines-

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6. What is the warning he gives to those Hebrew Christians considering returning to Judaism? (Heb. 6:4-6)

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7. What positive encouragement does the author similarly give to Hebrew Christians to maintain their walk with Christ? (Heb. 6:11)

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8. What two things are required to inherit God's promise of salvation? (Heb. 6:12)

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9. The author threads together the father of Judaism to Christ, thus showing that the God of Abraham is the God who ushered in the New Covenant through Christ. So if God had promised a New Covenant what is the point to the author referring to one aspect of God's character in Hebrews 6:18?



And it is ultimately God who deserves to be trusted, according to the writer to the Hebrews. Because He is totally trustworthy, we can have hope that we will be vindicated in our trust of Christ and encouraged to maintain our walk with Him.

This chapter of Hebrews shows us that Christianity comprises two aspects to our growth. Firstly, it requires that we become increasingly familiar with the doctrines of the Bible. Secondly it requires that we live a life which reflects devotion to Christ. May God grant us both of these prized qualities as we press forward with Christ.

*Amen.*