

GAINED APPROVAL, BUT NOT COMPLETED

The writer divided (Heb.11:1-40) into four groups of believers:

- Antediluvian (Heb.11:1-7)
- Patriarch (Heb.11:8-22)
- Jewish (Heb.11:23-38)
- **Church** (Heb.11:39-40)

The writer also gave a doctrinal principle regarding the Faith Cycle in each group:

- Antediluvian (Heb.11:6)
- Patriarch (Heb.11:13)
- Jewish (Heb.11:38)
- **Church** (Heb.11:39-40)

This lesson will study five aspects of the Old Covenant believer gaining approval through their faith without receiving the promise but were completed by faith of New Covenant believers.

1. (Heb.11:39) “And all these, having gained approval (martureo/ a.p.ptc. nplm) [generational historic impact in/ group] through their faith (tes pistis), did not receive (ouk komizo/ a.m.ind.3pl) ~~what was~~ the promise (ten aggelia/ asf)”

Translations:

- NASB: Gained approval
- KJB: Obtained a good report
- NIV: Commended

The Greek verb is martureo and means to bear witness or to testify.

Martureo was used in:

- (Heb.11:2) gained approval
- (Heb.11:4) testimony
- (Heb.11:5) obtained the witness
- (Heb.11:39) gained approval

2. **Despite gaining approval through application of the faith cycle, these Old Covenant believers still didn't receive 'the promise'. They all died in faith without it! (Heb.11:13).**

Komizo (a.m.ind.3pl) means to bear something that would be to their advantage or benefit (middle voice). Although they gained approval for their faith; their faith didn't benefit them receiving the promise.

What they had to contend with to maintain a consistent walk of faith (2 Cor.5:7) is described in:

(Heb.10:35-36) ³⁵ Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive **what was promised**.

They were not benefitted by all the grace benefits associated with the coming of Christ into the world (Church period). They would not be completed until Christ came into the world (Incarnation).

3. (Heb.11:40) “Because God (tou theos/ gsm) had provided (problepo/ a.m.ptc.gsm) [foreseen/ eternal plan of God] something better for us (Church Age Believers), so that (hna+subj) [the why? =>Divine purpose] apart from us they would not be made perfect (me teleioo/ a.p.subj.3pl) [completed].” (NASB)

- KJB “That they **without us** should not be made perfect (completed).”
- NIV “so that only **together with us** would they be made perfect completed.”

All these Old Covenant believers were looking for the Messianic Kingdom of God to come in each of their generations of time on earth in the Plan of God. This was continued into the time of historical coming of Jesus Christ (5BC).

4. What did the writer of Hebrews show us about the pivot of Old Covenant believers?

That throughout biblical history, Old Covenant believers were all looking for the coming of Christ into the world. From Abel to Jesus Christ (Luke 3:23-38). This was captured by Luke in the first three chapters of his book (Luke 1-3).

There were Jews looking for the imminent coming of Christ in 5BC at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ.

- **Zacharias** mentioned it at the birth of John the Baptist in (Lk.1:68-71) - “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, **for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people.**” (Lk.1:68)
- **Simeon** mentioned it at birth of Jesus in (Lk.2:25) - “Looking for the consolation (Parakletos) (Jn.14:1-4, 16) of Israel.”
- **Anna** mentioned it also at birth of Jesus in (Lk.2:38) – “Looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Many Jews wondered if John the Baptist was the messiah.

He said, no, and gave them clues of identifying Christ (Luke 3:15-18).

- John the Baptist testimony – “I myself have seen and testified to you this is the Son of God.” (Jn.1:34)

5. Yet, even when He, ‘The Promise’ came, many still didn’t believe!

When Jesus told His disciples that He must die by crucifixion, be buried for 3 days, and then be raised from the dead, but they would not believe (Matt.16:21-23).

Even after his resurrection **Thomas** refused to believe because his desire for messianic kingdom died with Jesus (John 20:24-29).

Even after 40 days of post-resurrection appearances and just before His ascension, they still were struggling with this doctrinal issue - “So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘**Lord is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’” (Acts 1:6)**

They did not understand the doctrine of the Mystery of the Church (**Eph.3:1-11**) [study] that would separate the First Advent of Christ from the Second Advent of Christ. The millennial kingdom they were looking for will come with the **Second Advent** (Rev.20:1-7).