



The Happiness of the Christ: The Advantages of the Privileged Class, Heb 11:40: Church Age Winners Receive Rewards before Old Testament Heroes

17. What is preventing these Old Testament heroes from receiving these rewards in eternity for which they have been approved? When *will* they receive their eternal blessings and rewards?
 1. All Old Testament believers are currently in heaven but without resurrection bodies.
 2. The reason is that the Church—the Body of Christ—has not yet been resurrected and royalty must receive its resurrection bodies first.
 3. All Church Age believers, both positive and negative, rank ahead of all those mentioned in chapter 11's roster of heroes.
 4. The believers of all post-Incarnation dispensations in history are resurrected at the *end* of their age.
 5. Jesus Christ is the first fruits of all resurrections and thus must come first. He was resurrected at the end of the Incarnation.
 6. The Church as royalty must be next and will be resurrected at the rapture which closes the Church Age.
 7. Old Testament saints are resurrected at the Second Advent of Christ which marks the delayed completion of the dispensation of Israel of which the future Tribulation is a part.
 8. Finally, the millennial believers are resurrected at the end of human history.
 9. In our passage we discover the fact that Old Testament saints are in haven but without resurrection bodies and consequently without fulfillment of the promise or attendant rewards and blessings for those who were winners.
 10. Verse 40 gives us the explanation for this delay.

III. *Advantages of the Privileged Class*

Hebrews 11:40 - (KJV) God having provided some better thing for us, so that they without us should not be made perfect.

1. The verse begins with the masculine singular article **τοῦ, tou** followed by the genitive absolute of the noun **Θεός, Theos** and is translated, "Since God."
2. This is followed by the aorist middle participle of:
προβλέπω, problepō: A compound of the preposition **πρό, pro**, "before," plus the verb **βλέπω, blepō**, "to see," and means literally "to see beforehand."
3. This verb refers to the divine decree in eternity past and specifically to God's foreknowledge of Church Age believers.

aorist:	Constative; contemplates the action of the verb in its entirety but gathers it into a single whole. It refers to the divine decree and the escrow blessings associated with Church Age winners
middle:	Indirect; emphasizes God as the Agent producing the action by providing πολίτευμα, politeuma privileges to all Church Age believers including an escrow account.
participle:	Causal; demands the translation, " <u>Since</u> God."



Hebrews 11:40 - Since God, having decreed ...

4. What God decreed in eternity past is stated next by the accusative neuter direct object:
κρειττόν, kreittōn - With the neuter it means literally, “something better.” More precisely it means “more advantageous, more excellent, more prominent, more valuable, higher in rank, preferable, superior.”
5. The best way to view this word is to consider the advantages and privileges available to the Church Age believer to be more superior, more excellent, and more preferable than those provided the Old Testament saints.
6. Our possession of these preferences is brought out by the preposition **περί, peri** plus the genitive of the pronoun:
ἐγώ, egō - “on behalf of us Church Age believers.”

Hebrews 11:40 - Since God, having decreed preferences and advantages on behalf of us Church Age believers ...

7. What are some of these privileges and advantages? We are royal priests (1 Peter 2:9), royal ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), spiritual aristocrats (Romans 8:16-17), a new spiritual species (2 Corinthians 5:17); with a system to inculcate the plan of God (1 Corinthians 2:4-16), delegated omnipotence to execute the plan (Colossians 1:11), and imputed escrow blessings (Ephesians 1:3-4).
8. All these things and more are better than the Old Testament heroes had it and this improvement was made by God on our behalf. But what was the purpose of the “better things”?
9. Verse 40 continues with the conjunction **ἵνα, hina** which introduces a negative purpose clause, translated: “for the purpose that.” This is followed by the preposition, **χωρίς, chōris** plus the ablative of separation from the pronoun, **ἐγώ, egō**, translated: “apart from us.”

Hebrews 11:40 - Since God, having decreed preferences and advantages on behalf of us Church Age believers for the purpose that apart from us ...

10. Next comes the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb:
τελειόω, teleioō - “to be completed”
11. This verb is accompanied by the negative conjunction **μή, mē** which requires the translation: “they should not be completed.”

aorist:	Culminative; views the spiritual status of the Old Testament heroes in its entirety but emphasizes the existing results: they received their blessings in time with the result that they have received approval for their blessings in eternity but the negative mē indicates that they have not had this process completed as yet.
passive:	Refers to Old Testament heroes who, having not received their eternal blessings, have therefore not yet received the action of the verb “to be completed.”
subj.:	Prohibitive and with the negative mē means that Old Testament heroes are prohibited from acquiring their blessings in eternity until the believers of the Church Age receive theirs first.



12. We now have a corrected and expanded translation of:
- Hebrews 11:39** - And so, as a result of these witnesses [**Old Testament martyrs**], having received divine approval by means of doctrine, did not receive to themselves the promise [**cities, harvests, unconditional covenants**],
- v. 40** - since God Himself, having decreed beforehand [**in eternity past**] superior preferences and advantages on behalf of us Church Age believers for the purpose that, apart from us, they [**Old Testament saints**] should not be completed [**conveyance of eternal blessings**].
13. Note that all the Old Testament saints are prohibited from receiving their eternal blessings for a reason.
14. Verse 40 identifies that reason as being the royal family of God which must receive its eternal blessing first.
15. The Old Testament saints have indeed received approval but until the royal family receives its blessings they will not.
16. This system emphasizes the principle that rank has its privileges and this is reflected in the four resurrections:
1. Of Christ as the first fruits of our resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:20; Matthew 28:6; Acts 2:31-32)
 2. Of Church Age believers at the rapture. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:1-2)
 3. Old Testament saints and Tribulational martyrs at the Second Advent of Christ. (Isaiah 26:19; Matthew 24:31; Revelation 20:4)
 4. Millennial believers just prior to the destruction of Planet Earth along with the rest of the universe (2 Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 20:5)
17. It should be noted that Church Age believers do not receive their eternal blessings until the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ immediately following the rapture.
18. Old Testament saints do not receive their eternal rewards until the Second Advent. This doctrine is communicated by our Lord in His parables found in Matthew 25.
19. The completion of the Age of Israel is being delayed until the Body of Christ can be completed during the Church Age.
20. Only after the Body of Christ is completed and resurrected is the Age of Israel allowed to resume and terminate.
21. Once royalty is dealt with by our Lord, then He will turn His attention back to Israel.
22. PRINCIPLE: The eternal blessings for Old Testament believers can not be conveyed until the Church Age winners receive theirs.
23. All Israelite saints are in heaven. They are in interim body. They enjoy heavenly bliss. But their promises have not been fulfilled.
24. Reason: "Since God Himself, having decreed beforehand preferences and advantages on behalf of Church Age believers for the purpose that, apart from us, they should not be completed."



25. From this passage we have observed how Old Testament heroes were victorious in the Invisible War because they did not fear danger or death.
26. If you are afraid of dying then you are afraid of living. Fear of death is overcome by first learning about one's eternal future in Scripture and then developing an unwavering confidence in the veracity of this revelation.
27. The divine guarantee produces absolute confidence and becomes evidence of those things which we cannot see.
28. Old Testament believers who advanced to this level enjoyed the faith-rest life. However, New Testament believers can look back to the cross and acquire an even greater confidence based on the finished work of Christ.
29. We have the prototype example of Christ from which we can not only enhance our confidence but also become more motivated to become front rankers in the advance of the spiritual phalanx of Church Age winners.
30. We now turn our attention to the Prototype and the advance of the Privileged Class.