

**The Promise: Christmas of the Ancients**

Hebrews 11:39-40

**INTRODUCTION:**

**I. The Christmas Witnesses (v.39)**

**A. All these...**

1. Variety of people
2. Variety of circumstances
3. Variety of contexts
4. Singular hope
  - a) God's covenant promise to make for Himself of people through Abraham
  - b) The coming Messiah
  - c) **Luke 2:25-38**

**B. Were commended for faith**

1. Approved
2. Testimony of God
3. **Hebrews 11:6**

**C. Did not receive the promises**

1. In part, some

2. In total, none
3. Pointing to eventual joy
  - a) The incremental is in perspective of future joy
  - b) The eventual joy supercedes present circumstances & contexts
  - c) **Psalm 16:11**

**II. The Christmas Provision (v.40)**

**A. Christ, the promised Messiah ("better")**

1. Superior as a person
2. Superior as a priest
3. Superior as a sacrifice
4. Superior as example

**B. At just the right time**

1. "Apart from us..."
2. **Galatians 3:7-9**
3. **Galatians 3:24-29**
4. **Galatians 4:4-7**

**C. To make His own perfect**

1. **Hebrews 10:14**
2. **2 Peter 1:3-4**

**III. The Christmas Gift (Hebrews 12:1-2)**

**A.****The gift of joy**

1. Promise to come
2. Passionate pursuit (with endurance)

**B.****The gift of perfection**

1. Positional
2. Practical

**C.****The gift of Christ in Community**

1. The universal church (true believers for all time)
2. The local church
3. The argument is progressive