



February 5th, 2023 • Hebrews 12:1-2
Topical Message • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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Running the Race with Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus

1. We’re surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses – people of faith

2. Let us lay aside every weight & every sin which clings so closely

3. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

4. Looking to Jesus – the founder & perfecter of our faith

● who for the joy set before Him endured the cross & despised the shame

● who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God

Excursus: Some Highlights of Hebrews

Sources: *The Epistle to the Hebrews* by F.F. Bruce (NICNT); *Hebrews* by George H. Guthrie (NIVAC); *NIV Zondervan Study Bible* (NIVZSB) {“Introduction to Hebrews”}

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

He is fully God and fully man: “The central theme of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ as exalted Son and high priest is God’s final revelation and provides full cleansing from sin and open access to God-the reality that the OT anticipated but was never meant to accomplish” (NIVZSB).

He is greater: than the OT prophets, the angels, Moses, the OT priesthood, all OT sacrifices, the Mosaic covenant, the temple, & the OT heroes of the faith.

He is our great High Priest: and the one, only & final sacrifice for sins.

He persevered faithfully thru temptation & suffering: He suffered & was tempted just as we were (4:14ff); learned obedience from what He suffered (5:7ff); kept His eye on the joy set before Him (12:1ff).

Application: See the supremacy of Christ (including thru the OT); Recognize God’s plan and Jesus’ example within suffering & temptation; and Worship Him accordingly, persevering by faith with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

The Priority of the Old Testament Scriptures

Hebrews contains the most References to the OT Scriptures of any NT Book (see Guthrie, 19): 101 total references, including 35 OT quotes; 34 allusions to the OT, 19 OT summaries, and 13 OT names/topics. “Our author’s appeals to the Old Testament scriptures reflect his confidence that his readers, even if their loyalty to the gospel is wearing thin will recognize their authority” (F. F. Bruce, 6).

The Continuity of the OT & the NT: “The same God who spoke in former times has now revealed himself fully and finally in his Son (1:1-2). Hebrews argues for the superiority of Christ and his saving work and supports its argument from OT Scripture, viewed as God’s revelation by the Spirit (3:7; 9:8; 10:15). The author often does this by quoting an OT passage and then explaining a few key words to draw out their theological meaning in context (2:8-9; 8:13; 10:8-10)” (NIVZSB).

Application: Know the Scriptures and understand the OT thru the NT (& vice versa).