

“Better Things:” a prophetic word for 2024

Opening Text: Hebrews 6:9 - *But, beloved, we are **confident of better things** concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.*

Background: This letter was initially written to those early Jewish believers in Jerusalem. It was a time of persecution against Christians and of great political tension in Israel. In a few years there was going to be a Jewish revolt, which would result in the destruction of Jerusalem (AD70). Many of these young believers were wondering why Jesus hadn't come back yet in the face of all that turmoil. Maybe some had started to doubt their faith. The book of Hebrews is also known as a 'book of warnings' because of 5 specific warnings we read about, regarding the risk of abandoning faith in Jesus. In one of those warnings, we read, **Hebrews 2:3a** - *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation” ...*

Some people had stopped running the Christian race, some were being persuaded to return to Judaism, while others were not growing in God like they should. They had become stagnant. The author of Hebrews uses all his theological persuasion to make sure that they will stay faithful to Jesus to the end. His warnings at times seemed even harsh. In chapter 6 verse 4, however, he changes the tone of his argument and makes this statement:

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

He calls them '**beloved**' - so they understand that although his words seemed harsh, they are only motivated by deep affection.

He then says, **“we are confident”** - just like we read in **Philippians 1:6** - *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

Confident of better things – This is like a coach who gives his team a mid-game pep talk, after a bad first half: he is saying, I know you can and will do better than this, I am confident in your ability to score and be victorious.

A few months ago, I felt the Lord speak to me in my prayer time these two words, which I believe to be prophetic for 2024: *“better things”*.

2024 is to be a year of better things: a year to run our race better, to grow in maturity, increase our faith, to make better decisions, to have a better game plan for our lives, to hear God better, to worship better, etc. **The key word for your 2024 is 'better'.**

Better is a key word in the book of Hebrews. It is mentioned at least 12 times:

- Hebrews 1:4 – Jesus better than angels.
- 7:22 – A better covenant.

- 8:6 – A better covenant based upon better promises.
- 9:23 – Jesus’ sacrifice is better.
- 11:16 – Heaven is a better place.
- 11:40 – God provided something better for us.
- 12:24 – The blood of Jesus speaks better things.
- etc.

One dictionary defines ‘better’ as

- Something in an improved state
- Something that surpasses a previous achievement.
- Something of a higher standard, superior or more excellent

In fact, Hebrews 1:4 and 8:6 use that expression: “*more excellent*”.

Hebrews 1:4 - *having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

Hebrews 8:6 - *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*

Interestingly in **Hebrews 11:4** says that “*by faith Abel offered to God a **more excellent** sacrifice than Cain*”. Can we do this in 2024? - Offer better worship to God, more excellent service to Him, can we do even better in 2024?

Clearly God has something better for you and I in 2024! God has more excellent things for you and I to walk in an aim for – not mundane, average, sub-standard, mediocre, but better and more excellent things.

In **1 Corinthians 12:31b** God says, ...”*I will show you a more excellent way*”

As we continue this series, over the next few weeks, let us journey together to find those *better things* and that *more excellent way*.

A few thoughts about ‘better things’:

1. You were saved for better things.

Hebrews 6:9 - *But, beloved, we are confident of **better things** concerning you, yes, **things that accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner.*

You were saved for better things and things that accompany salvation: The Greek word for ‘accompany’ is similar to the word used for conjoined twins. ‘*Better things*’ and ‘*salvation*’ go together. They are inseparable. God saved your spirit but in the package of salvation there are inseparable things, *better things*.

Salvation is not the arrival hall of your journey but the departure gate. You get saved and then start growing, maturing in Him, getting better and more like Jesus, improving in every way. We were never meant to stop and stagnate.

2. Better, most of the time, is a choice.

For instance,

Psalms 84:10 says “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

The psalmist chose what was *better*.

1 Samuel 15: 22b - to obey is better than sacrifice,

Obedience is better, but it still is a choice. The Bible points us to many things that are ‘*better*’ but it always remains our choice to embrace them

Psalms 118:8-9, says that it is better to trust God than man – however that is always our choice who to trust.

Proverbs 16:16 says that it is better to have wisdom, Proverbs 28:6 says that is better to walk in integrity etc. God will always point us to what is better in any given situation but, most of the time, *better* is a choice we make.

3. There has never been a time for *better things* like now

Ecclesiastes 7:10 - Do not say, “Why were the former days **better** than these?” for you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

We may have experienced good things in the past but there has never been a time for *better things* like now! 2024 is your year for better things.

God said to Israel,

Ezekiel 36:11 - I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times and **do better for you than at your beginnings**. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

There has never been a time for *better things* than right now! This is the hour of the church, this is your hour!

In **John 4: 46-54**, we find the story of a nobleman whose son was sick at the point of death at Capernaum.

Verses 50-54 - ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. ⁵¹ And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!”

⁵² Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.” ⁵³ So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.

Read again **verse 52**: the hour he got better!

In Jesus we have every expectation for an hour, a month, a year, a season, when things that are impossible are going to get better! Things that are ready to die will live again.

We will continue these thoughts next week but as we close today, let us remember:

- 1. You were saved for *better things*.**
- 2. Sometimes *better* is a choice.**
- 3. There has never been a better time for *better things*, like now.**