

Catford Lectures 2007-2008

Part 1

Speaker	Catford Lectures Conference; Paul Dronsfield; Michael Hardt; Andrew Poots; Graham Warnes; Ernest Brown; Nick Fleet; Geoff Hawes; Arend Remmers
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[00:00:00] ...concerning Abraham and his victories in faith.

Perhaps we could begin at the end of chapter 13, Genesis 13, verse 18.

Then Abraham removed his tent and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and bought there an altar unto the Lord. And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel, king of Shinar, Ariok, king of Eleazar, Chedralonia, king of Elam, and Tidal, king of nations, that these made war with Bera, king of Sodom, and with Bersha, king of Gomorrah, Shinab, king of Admar, and Shenemba, king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela, which is Zohar. All these were joined together in the Vale of Sidon, which is the Salt Sea. Twelve years they served Chedda-leroma, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. And in the fourteenth year came Chedda-leroma, and the kings were with him, [00:01:04] and smoked the Rephaims in Ashteroth, Carnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Sheva, Curathaim, and the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elpharan, which is by the wilderness. And they returned, and came to Enmishfat, which is Kadesh, and smoked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Haziotzon, Tamer.

And they went out, the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admar, and the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela, the same as Zohar, and they joined battle with them in the Vale of Sidon. And Chedda-leroma, the king of Elam, and with Tydal, king of nations, and Amraphel, king of Shina, and Ariok, king of Elasa, four kings with five. And the Vale of Sidon was full of slime pits, and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there, and they that remained fled to the mountains. [00:02:03] And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre, the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner, and these were confederate with Abram. And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants to a room in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hoba, which is

on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him, after his return from the slaughter of Chedorah Lona, [00:03:04] and of the kings that were with him at the valley of Sheba, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram, of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth.

And blessed be the Most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hands. And he gave him tithes of all.

And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take from a thread, even to a shoelatch it, and that I will not take anything that is thine, lest thou should say, I have made Abram rich. Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, [00:04:02] Anah, Eshgal, and Mamre, let them take their portion. I'll just read the first verse of chapter 15. After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

We see Abram here in this chapter overcoming, victoriously, steadfast in faith.

In the first half of the chapter we see him as a conqueror because he conquers his enemies and they are vanquished by him and they rise up no more. That is to be a conqueror. But in the latter part of the chapter we see him as an overcomer when the king of Sodom, that corrupt and evil king comes to him and by offering him these goods which belong to Sodom would have set him in a wrong course [00:05:07] from that path of faith that he had been treading if he had accepted them. But Abraham, he withstands against that and he, by faith, stands firm and he does not fall to that temptation. And in doing so we see Abraham as an overcomer by faith.

Now, the day will come when we will be associated with the Lord Jesus when he comes to this earth as a conqueror. We find that in Revelation 19.

He comes with the armies of heaven, the armies in heaven. And he comes on a great white horse with that name upon his thigh, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. And all the enemies are put down and he is a conqueror, his saints with him.

But in this present day [00:06:02] the Lord would have us to be overcomers. And in a sense, perhaps this is what Paul meant when he said in Romans 8 regarding all the things that were against the people of God at the end of that chapter. Yet he could say in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. And perhaps to be an overcomer, to stand fast, the enemies don't go away but we in faith do not fall to them.

We stand fast in the strength that the Lord gives and through faith in him. And to do so would make us more than a conqueror. But I'd like to look at those enemies that are against us and we find perhaps a figure of them in the latter part of the chapter with the King of Sodom coming to Abraham.

[00:07:03] Abraham, his inheritance was an earthly inheritance that had been promised. Everything that Abraham was given or promised by God was bound up with a Christ on earth.

That's what Abraham was looking for. Our inheritance, our blessing, our hope is all bound up with a Christ in heaven. So Abraham's enemies were flesh and blood. But we read in Ephesians chapter 6 that the enemies that assail us they are not flesh and blood.

I'll just read it.

Ephesians 6, verse 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers against the rules of the darkness of this world against spiritual wickedness [00:08:01] in high places or in the heavenlies.

And so our enemies or we read of three of them in the scriptures the world Satan and also the flesh is another enemy. And we get in verse we get in verse 21 of our chapter 14 it says The King of Sodom said unto Abraham Give me the persons and take the goods to thyself. Now in that verse there is an allusion to all three enemies. Sodom which was speaker of the world a corrupt city which had its corrupt king a city which had overturned God's order both moral and creatorial [00:09:02] and was pursuing its own course away from God according to its own light in rebellion against God and Sodom would speak to our hearts of this world the world which Satan rules over and the world in which the flesh governed by sin that principle of lawlessness which governs the flesh is seen where man is put at the center of things and Christ is given either a secondary or no place at all but God he would have the Lord Jesus his son have the permanence in all things this is the place that God would give his son but man says no we want that place and as a result we get this administration this order which is really a disorder of lawlessness against God [00:10:03] and this is what marks Sodom and then we get the king of Sodom Satan and Satan is another enemy we read in the first epistle of Peter that he warns us against Satan your adversary goeth about as a roaring and a raging lion seeking whom he may devour Satan who himself wants the place that Christ alone can have he wants to be worshipped he has set his throne or he sought to set his throne above the heavens that place that only Christ can occupy that's the place that Satan wanted therefore he is the enemy of God and therefore the enemy of the people of God and he too is set against us in our desire to be faithful and then we get implied in what the king of Sodom says to Abraham [00:11:01] we get the flesh because the king of Sodom says give me the persons and take the goods to thyself Satan would maintain his power over the souls of men the king of Sodom says give me the persons or the souls I want those but you, I'd like you to have the goods of Sodom because Satan would seek through appealing to the flesh that nature within us which we've inherited from Adam which is corrupt which Paul could say in me, that is in my flesh good doth not dwell and we read in Romans 8 concerning the carnal mind that enmity against God that's the fleshly mind [00:12:14] verse 7 because the carnal or fleshly mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be so then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God but ye are not in the flesh but in the spirit if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you now if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his and so Satan would say to us think about yourself have yourself as the object and look at all the lovely things there are in this world that you can be occupied with and in doing so he would try to turn us aside from faithfulness [00:13:01] and then he would be able to quench the testimony of the gospel in our lives and he will hold on as it were to the souls that he wants so much in this world his prisoners we read in Isaiah 14 concerning Lucifer that he is not willing to open the door of his prison to let his prisoners out but thanks to God that he is the one through the Lord Jesus Christ who has defeated Satan and we read of in Hebrews 2 that Satan is in fact a conquered foe Hebrews 2 verse 14 for as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood he also himself likewise took part of the same that through death he might destroy him that have the power of death that is the devil and deliver them who through fear of death [00:14:01] all their lifetime subject to bondage so we were once captives to Satan

but the Lord Jesus has delivered us through the truth concerning himself as our saviour and indeed every captive that he takes from Satan he does so through revealing this truth to their hearts and faith in him and that deliverance repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ so we have the enemies arranged against us and in Christ there is the answer to overcome those enemies whether it is Satan whether it is the world whether it is the flesh we get the man don't we in Romans 7 and he is a wretched man he wants to please God he is I believe a child of God [00:15:02] he is truly born of God but he finds within himself he has not got the power to do the things which he wants to do and at the end of that chapter he cries out in his wretchedness a wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from this body of death and then the answer comes in verse 25 he looks away from himself he looks up to heaven where Christ sits in glory and he says I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord there is the answer and he receives it in faith so now his strength he no longer seeks strength to resist the flesh in himself in his own strength but he receives it from the one who has overcome [00:16:01] and sat down upon his father's throne who has put away sin by the sacrifice of himself and he through the power of the Holy Spirit now walks not according to the flesh but he walks in a way which is pleasing to God well I would like to look at Abraham's faithfulness to God and also later on with Melchizedek God's faithfulness to Abraham which underpins everything Abraham's faithfulness to God can be seen in the tent in the previous chapter and in the altar now the tent spoke of Abraham's separation from the land in which he was in he wanted no part of it he walked separate from it he would be given it in God's time [00:17:01] when God gave it to him and until that time he didn't want any of it he wanted no part of it and so he did not live in a city he did not settle down his separation was shown because he lived in a tent and in Hebrews chapter 11 we read of him in verse 8 by faith Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive from inheritance obeyed and he went out not knowing whether he went by faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob the heirs with him of the same promise for he looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God and in verse 13 the Israel died in faith not having received the promises but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers [00:18:02] and pilgrims on the earth the tent was the outward evidence of Abraham's position his confession that he was a pilgrim in the earth because he had something so much better it was not that he sacrificed these things he wanted them really but he wouldn't have them he would abstain from them no he had something so much better that he no longer wanted these things because Stephen tells us in his address to just before he was martyred that the God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham Abraham had seen the God of glory and so the glory of the cities around him they were dim in comparison with that and he didn't want them and he pursued that course because his heart had been as it were [00:19:02] captivated by God and a moral transformation had taken place in his heart God had transformed him morally and now he would tread that path of faith separate from the world around him pursuing a course which and he would never have those things in his lifetime he died in faith but that made no difference to him because God had promised them and so he knew that that promise would be fulfilled whether in his lifetime or later on that was irrelevant but it was God himself whom he pursued that was his object and it was the things that God had promised him that he wanted because God had promised them and he loved God and the altar would speak of that if the tent would speak of [00:20:01] Abraham's separation from the world the altar would speak of Abraham drawing near to God because the altar it speaks of approach to and acceptance by God it is the ground as it were of that approach and acceptance and I think last month we had that thought brought before us in the altar in that scripture in Matthew where it says that the the gift is sanctified by the altar because the altar speaks of Christ himself and the life and death of Christ Christ offered up to God in life or in death had all his value in the sight of God because of who he was and so the gift, the sacrifice is sanctified by the altar this is the basis as it were [00:21:02] from which the work of Christ

was so pleasing in the sight of God because of the one who offered himself to God the greatness of his person in Exodus 20 there are instructions by God as to these altars and if we could just turn to Exodus 20 we read there of an altar made of earth verse 24 of chapter 20 an altar of earth shalt thou make unto me and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, thy peace offerings thy sheep and thine oxen in all places where I record my name and I will come unto thee and I will bless thee and if thou make me an altar of stone thou shalt not build it of humestone for if thou lift up thy tool upon it thou hast polluted it neither shalt thou go up thy steps unto my altar that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon so we get an altar of earth [00:22:02] and that would speak to us again of the person of Christ but as to his humanity earth the name Adam means earth and the Lord Jesus is the last Adam he became a man he took a place he took a place in a foreign order of things although he himself was not part of that order but he took a place in it because he is the man out of heaven he could say to those who opposed him when he was upon earth ye are from beneath I am from above ye are of this world I am not of this world but he was a true man he was a true man but all that we see in him as he walked through this earth that lovely moral character of holiness that we see in him he took all his character from who he was he was God and so the altar of earth [00:23:02] would speak of his humanity and we read again in Hebrews chapter 10 verse 4 it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins wherefore when he cometh into the world he says sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not but a body hast thou prepared me in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure then said I lo I come in the volume of the book it is written of me to do thy will O God above when he said sacrifice and offering and burnt offering offering for sin thou wouldst not neither hadst pleasure therein which are offered by the law then said he lo I come to do thy will O God [00:24:02] he taketh away the first that he may establish the second by the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all so these sacrifices that were to be offered up on this altar of earth spoke of the Lord Jesus and his holy humanity coming into this world as a man in order that he might die in order that he might taste the death for everything that he might offer up himself to God as that mighty sacrifice and all these sacrifices speak of him in one way or another as he offers himself up to God now the altar of stone if earth if the earth altar of earth speaks of his humanity then surely the altar of stone would speak of his deity because stone is something permanent in becoming a man he became that which he was not before but the altar of stone would speak of something fixed [00:25:01] which does not move and this is the name of the Lord Jesus the same we find that name in Psalm 102 thou art the same that is a name of God it's the name of Christ he is called the same because he is the unchanging one he is God and regarding this altar no tool must come upon it man mustn't lift up a tool on it mustn't shape those stones because if we are to know God if we are to know Christ if we are to know the Father it can only be in the revelation that he gives of himself it cannot be after the devisings of our own mind or imagination it is only in the word that we find the truth of the revelation of God in Christ he himself is that revelation no man has seen God at any time the only begotten who is in the bosom of the Father he hath declared him and so in Christ [00:26:02] we get the full revelation of God and we must not interfere or intrude in any way our own thoughts upon that we must receive it as the Holy Spirit would give it to us in his word because he would have us to be in the full knowledge of these things and in the full enjoyment of them even though we cannot we cannot as it were work out that mystery but we can receive it by faith and not seek in any way to intrude upon it and then no steps were to go up to the altar because there must be no self-exaltation by men in the presence of God even if it is on that first step that little first step there must be no degree of exaltation before God because Christ alone must have that place none other can share it and so there must be no steps God says up to my altar Peter he suggested in a way [00:27:02] that there should be steps when he said let us make three tabernacles one for thee one for Moses one for Elias and then God spoke from heaven this is my beloved son hear him God would not have any as it were to be brought alongside his son he must have the chief

place and the only place he must have the place of preeminence now you can't have a tent without an altar the two must go together otherwise the tent would just be an outward formality, conformity Sodom he had a tent but he didn't have an altar and very quickly he lost his tent or he gave up his tent and he lost his pilgrim character altogether and settled down in Sodom there must be the tent must be the result of the altar as it were our separation from this world [00:28:01] must be a result of our joy near to God and our desire to be in communion with him and then we have in the latter part of the chapter God's faithfulness to Abraham before the king of Sodom comes to Abraham God has caused him to be met by another king who strengthens his hand and by whom he can stand firm through his ministry this Melchizedek who we read in Hebrews is interpreted king of righteousness king of peace now I'd like to look at Melchizedek just briefly because he speaks so wonderful of the Lord Jesus first of all the person of Melchizedek and if we turn to Hebrews chapter 7 and verse 3 [00:29:02] we read of Melchizedek he was without father without mother without descent having neither beginning of days nor end of life but made like unto the Son of God he abideth a priest continually now consider how great this man was unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils and so Melchizedek we don't read of his genealogy we don't read of his death why? because he is taken up to be a type of the Lord Jesus who had no beginning and has no end he is God and he is the great I Am the one whose existence is in himself equal with the Father how great this man was and he combined two offices he was both a king and a priest [00:30:01] we don't read of any man in the whole scriptures who is both a king and a priest we get sometimes a king and a priest put together in a certain context for instance with Ezra Joshua the high priest the rabble who was of the royal line but never is the office combined in one man but in Melchizedek it was because he speaks of Christ both king and priest and with a king or anyone who has office the office is that which gives him his glory with a mere man that's true isn't it if a king was stripped of his kingship he would be just like you and I he would have no more glory anymore but with the Lord Jesus when he is given an office he gives glory to the office because of the greatness of his person and we read that in regard to him being a king in Psalm chapter 2 [00:31:08] God says concerning his king yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion I will declare the decree the Lord has said unto me thou art my son this day have I begotten thee and again in Hebrews Hebrews 5 and verse 5 we read of his office as a priest that he has been given by God chapter 5 and verse 5 it says so also verse 4 no man taketh his arm unto himself but he that is called of God as was Aaron so also Christ glorified not himself to have made him high priest but he that said unto him thou art my son [00:32:01] this day have I begotten thee so both as king and as priest he has those offices because of the greatness of his person he is God's son and the glory of his priesthood and his kingship if there is such a word is because of who he is he gives glory to that office and then we read of the order of the Melchizedek priesthood in Hebrews 7 it's not after the order of Aaron it's a new order of priesthood we might say that the Lord's priesthood is after the pattern of the Aaronic priesthood because Aaron is taken as a pattern and his ministry and the garments he wears they all set forth a picture of the glory of Christ and the ministry that he undertakes in the holy place on our behalf [00:33:01] for us it's all after that pattern but the Aaronic order could not speak of the Lord's order of priesthood and so this Melchizedek priesthood had to be introduced to us so that we might know what that order was and the order of the Aaronic priesthood we read in chapter 7 was one that was constituted under law so it could never bring perfection in other words it could never bring completion it could never complete the purpose and the counsel of God under that order of things under that order of law there had to be another order brought in and that order comes under a new covenant we read in this chapter that the Lord is surety of a better covenant a new testament and that is the covenant of grace and the Lord's priesthood comes under that covenant he is the guarantee of all the promises that God has given us in grace [00:34:01] that new covenant not made with us no, made with Israel but we come under the blessing of it and all the promises we have are on as it were the basis of that covenant that covenant of grace and the Lord

Jesus his order of priesthood is according to that order that covenant of grace and of course the Aaronic priesthood as we read in this chapter they could not continue because of reason of death and that's all that can be brought under the law it ends in death but the Lord Jesus he was made a priest we read according to the power of an endless life and so he is a priest forever his priesthood will not be given to another he is a priest forever that's the order of his priesthood it is an eternal priesthood and then finally the ministry of Melchizedek he came forth and gave Abram [00:35:01] bread and wine now the ministry of Aaron is taken up in Hebrews as a picture of the Lord's present ministry for us if I can just read that in Hebrews 9 Hebrews 9 verse 11 but Christ being come and high priest of good things to come by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands that is to say not of this building neither by the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us and then again down the chapter verse 25 for Christ has not entered into the holy places made with hands which are the figures of the true but entered heaven itself [00:36:02] now to appear in the presence of God for us so God's present ministry towards his people his priestly ministry is after the pattern of the Aaronic ministry he has gone in to the holy place to intercede but the Melchizedek ministry is that he goes out he comes out in blessing and that ministry will be seen primarily in the millennial reign of Christ when all things are brought into accord with the mind of God and we get that thought when Melchizedek is spoken of as the priest of the most high God possessor of heaven and earth God is the possessor of heaven and earth but he will not actually as it were take up that possession until the millennial reign of Christ and then he will be seen to be the possessor of heaven and earth at the moment the earth has got corruption in it [00:37:03] and defilement and that which is opposed to God and also the heavenly places too we read of that in Ephesians 6 spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies although Christ is supreme in the heavenly place there is still that spiritual activity which Satan and under Satan and it's in opposition to God but under the millennial rule we read in Isaiah chapter 24 and verse 21 it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high that's Satan and the kings of the earth upon the earth that's the earth [00:38:01] and they shall be gathered together as prisoners are gathered in the pit and shall be shut up in the prison and after many days shall they be visited then the moon shall be confounded and the sun ashamed when the Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before his ancients gloriously and so the heavens and the earth will be brought into conformity to God and he will set his king and priest there and in Zechariah chapter 6 we read of that king and priest it says even he shall build the temple of the Lord and he shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule upon his throne and he shall be a priest upon his throne and the council of peace shall be between them both Jacob had a vision a ladder stretching up to heaven in Genesis 28 [00:39:05] and the angels of God ascending and descending upon it it was a ladder which had its base upon earth and which top the top of which was in heaven and the angels of God ascended and descended upon it and above it was the Lord himself was Jehovah himself and that speaks of the time when there is as it were a call between heaven and earth and communion between heaven and earth and God is above all things and he sets his king upon the earth the Lord Jesus and in John chapter 1 the Lord makes reference to this vision and he says to Nathaniel he says thou art the son of God thou art the king of Israel he says you'll see greater things than these he said you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending [00:40:01] upon the son of man and so all as it were is on that basis God has God in his council and purpose has fulfilled all his desire in Christ all on that basis Christ all is brought to fruition in him and so the angels descend and ascend on him it's all on account of him and so the council of peace is between them both between Jehovah in heaven and his king and priest upon earth the council of peace in Luke's gospel the gospel which is so much the priestly gospel it stresses the priestly ministry of the Lord Jesus although he was not yet a priest you read that in Hebrews that while he was on earth he could not be a priest but he acted in a priestly way and Luke brings that out

and at the beginning of Luke when he is born the angels declare glory to God [00:41:01] in the highest upon earth peace good pleasure delight found in man it is a millennial prophecy heaven and earth on accord under God in Christ his king and his priest well finally we see how Abraham was so strengthened by this ministry of Melchizedek he gave him bread and wine and bread will speak of of that which sustains wine speaks of joy the Lord said didn't he to his disciples when he drank of the the cup before he suffered well he didn't drink of the cup but when he gave him the cup before he suffered he said I will no more drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it anew with you in the kingdom of my father he looked on to that time when he would as Melchizedek bring forth the wine bring forth the joy [00:42:01] which he would have in his people upon earth Israel up to then he had no joy in them but in the millennial reign he will find that joy and he will share it with his people and Abraham he has a foretaste of what he's been promised in that ministry and his heart is strengthened and in all the his desire for those things the things that the king of Sodom presents to him are of no value at all he does not want them and he says I don't want them he says I haven't got myself at the centre of my thoughts I have I want God to have the glory I want him to have the glory for giving me that thing he has promised and I will not receive these things at your hand I will not be made rich by you I will wait to be made rich and blessed by God and the Lord himself when Satan came to him [00:43:01] and he promised him all the kingdoms of the world if you'll worship me the Lord Jesus would not receive the kingdoms at Satan's hand he would receive them only at the hand of his God and his father and he said to Satan he said thou shalt worship God and him only wilt thou serve well although we've said that primarily the ministry of Melchizedek is a future one yet I think that we can enjoy that ministry now we can have we know the Lord sustaining us and giving us the joy which was his joy when he was in this earth in communion with his God and father my joy he says I leave with you that's the joy that was his in his own heart and we can be we can have that joy by being in communion with him and walking with him this is the joy that he gives us and [00:44:02] in Hebrews 10 at the end we speak it speaks of the assurance of hope Abraham he was given the assurance of that hope through the ministry of Melchizedek faith we read is the substantiating of things not seen and the conviction of sorry I can't remember the faith is the substantiating of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen and although Abraham hadn't seen with his eyes that which God had promised the ministry of Melchizedek made it real to his heart by faith and as we draw near to our great high priest we read in Hebrews 10 19 [00:45:01] having therefore brethren boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which he has concentrated for us through the veil that is to say his flesh and having a high priest over the house of God let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering our hope is not the same as Abraham's as we have said his was with Christ on earth but ours is with Christ in heaven that's our hope Abraham waited for Christ to put his feet upon Mount Olivet and to take up his kingdom and the Lord said Abraham rejoiced to see my day and he saw it and was glad Abraham, we don't know how much he entered into that truth but the fact is the day that he longed for and rejoiced in [00:46:01] was the day of Christ and Abraham saw it by faith and the joy of that made him glad then before he'd even received it and we're encouraged now to enter into the holy place where Christ sits and as a result of that ministry that priestly ministry to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering for he is faithful but promised as we said this underpins everything the faithfulness of God the one who promised these things he will faithfully bring them about and he will be faithful in his dealings with us and through his love we will be strengthened that we can continue on a pathway which is a difficult one and often a lonely one but which we can continue in through his faithfulness and the ministry [00:47:01] of our great high priest I wonder if we could sing 160 O bright and blessed hope when shall it be that we his faithful love revealed shall see perhaps we could sing the first four verses of this hymn O bright and blessed hope