Brethren, of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brethren, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Ruth, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah the father of the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations, and from the Christ to the birth of John fourteen generations, and from the birth of John to the Ministry of Jesus fourteen generations, and from the Ministry of Jesus to the crucifixion of Jesus fourteen generations, and from the crucifixion of Jesus to the resurrection of Jesus fourteen generations, and from the resurrection of Jesus to the ascension of Jesus fourteen generations, and from the ascension of Jesus to the Mission of Jesus fourteen generations.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Eliab, and Eliab the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Azariah, and Azariah the father of Aazar, and Aazar the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah, and Jechoniah the father of the Messiah.

After the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Azariah, and Azariah the father of Aazar, and Aazar the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah, and Jechoniah the father of the Messiah.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11 Verses 9-10, 32-40: Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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INSCRIPTION OF THE ELEVATOR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED! The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold. Nevertheless, things are moving. Granite along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues have been addressed. The gates are now virtually complete. The lobby doors have been installed. Stonecraft has put in the remaining pavers. We are now waiting for the elevator to be inspected. Meanwhile, our certificate of occupancy for the garage has been issued. All we need now is the okay by our local police department and we’re good to open the garage! Opening the garage is necessary when we reopen to in-person worship. At long last!!! As a community, we’ve been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake, back in 1989. But, we’ve bounced back. It wasn’t easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return to a so called “new normal.” – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all: Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church.

“The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.”