

Christ Above all else

Hebrews 11:20-40

- Chapter eleven is referred to as the faith chapter where people throughout the Bible despite facing circumstances and situations that would cause most people to turn back, continued on their journey trusting that God Who called them, was also faithful to lead them where He would have them to be. So people like Abel, Noah, Enoch, Abraham, and Sarah, we read how they remained true to the call that God had given them, despite the obstacles that were set before them.

V20-40

- **V20-22** shows us that faith can be passed down from generation to generation, and that it is the greatest inheritance anyone can leave to their children and family. Abraham by faith obeyed God when He called him out from idols and ungodliness despite that being all that he had known, and he sojourned to a land, willing to wait for a city whose foundations, Builder and Maker is God.
- Through Abraham's faith we read by faith his son Isaac blessed his children Abraham's grandchildren Jacob and Esau, teaching them of the things to come, what things? How blessings live next door to obedience, for while Jacob listened to his father unfortunately his brother Esau didn't, and it cost him dearly, and he missed the call of peace that his grandfather, father, and brother all enjoyed.
- If that wasn't enough **V22** says "**by faith Joseph**" the son of Jacob, which would make him Abraham's great grandson, before he died had his children promise that when they eventually leave Egypt that they would carry his bones out from there knowing that place which represents the world was not to be his final resting place. In these three verses we read about four generations walking with God by faith Wow!
- **V23-** although mentioning Moses it all started with his parents by faith placing him in his own little ark and putting him in the Nile River with Crocodiles, and other creatures surrounding him able to devour him, but his Mom trusted God to protect him believing that he had a call upon his life.

- **V24-25** mom's faith led to Moses who was second in line to be the Pharaoh over Egypt having been adopted by Pharaoh's daughter refused that call so that he could answer the call of God, even though that meant his life would be much more difficult. In this we see everyone has to make a choice, it is either going to be made by faith or by the flesh, but make no mistake a choice will be made.
- Moses chose affliction over pleasure, as one meant fellowship with the people of God and the other meant wallowing with the temporal enjoyment of sin. Notice scripture says sin is enjoyable, don't ever tell people they won't enjoy sin because when they do they'll think you lied, what you tell them is it has a shelf life, and eventually that pleasure turns into pain, disappointment, and death > **Rom 6:23**- for the reward of sin is death, not sometime but every time, something is going to decay
- **V26-29** here we see the reward of faith, but before we experience the **reward of faith** we first must practice the **denial of sin**. Moses first had to say "**no**" he said no to the pleasures of sin, and the prestige of power being the Pharaoh's daughter and heir. This allowed him to see clearly that the suffering of being a believer had greater riches and reward than any earthly treasures he could receive.
- So when Pharaoh threatened him with death, he only saw Him Who had given him life, when everyone else feared the dreaded king Moses looked and saw The King of Kings. Moses is worshipping The True God, celebrating Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, knowing that he was going to be spared from the death Angel. This explains why when everyone else was panicking when they faced the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army bearing down on them Moses simply trusted God > **Ex 14:10-14**.
- **V30-31** not only did God destroy the most powerful army on earth at that time but also collapsed the most fortified city in the Promised Land Jericho without Israel ever lifting a weapon except faith. **V32-38** Gideon a man who said of himself > **Judg 6:12-15** The Lord called him a mighty man of valor, but he only saw himself as the enemy saw him, weak and insignificant, God sees us with Himself behind us, that is what makes us mighty, immovable, unbeatable, for its God Who is with us.
- Barak the same, Samson, Jephthah, these men had tremendous flaws in their character, and committed horrible sins in their lives, yet they trusted God and The Lord used them mightily. When you read the incredible feats these people accomplished conquering Kingdoms, stood against darkness, shut the mouths of lions both figuratively and literally, won battles despite the odds being against them.

- Escaped death, being weak and scared were made strong, and chased the enemy from the innocent, saw people raised from the dead, tortured, mistreated, lied on, falsely imprisoned, put to death by public beatings and sawed in two. Without the creature comforts of a comfortable life, no where to live or lay their heads, living in places that were fit for animals only, afflicted, destitute, tormented, and yet its not who the writer feels sorry for, it's the world who rejected their example.
- The world wasn't worthy, when you look at everything that's said history says Paul endured this, The Apostles endured this, Isaiah was sawed in two, John the Baptist wore uncomfortable clothing, Peter and his wife were tortured upside down, Lazareth raised from the dead as his sisters rejoiced, you name it beatings, imprisonment, scripture has recorded it, and in the end it was all for God's glory, for what the enemy means for evil God turns it around for good see Joseph's story.
- **V39-40** although believers have suffered throughout the centuries, we must always remember our reward is waiting on the other side of eternity not on this side. We receive blessings no doubt, but our ultimate reward spending eternity with our Lord, no more sin, sickness or death, no more disappointment or pain and suffering, no more lies only truth and love, in this we all we be worshipping our Lord King Jesus.