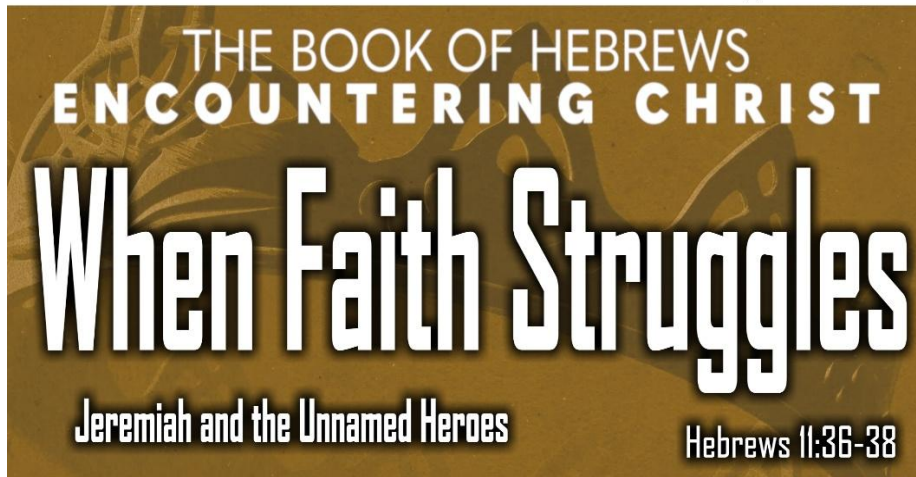




DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • OCTOBER 25, 2026

ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 176 (IN THE NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

Jeremiah, a prophet to Judah (circa 500 BC)—often called “the Weeping Prophet”—was a faithful prophet whose entire ministry was marked by deep suffering. Called by God as a young man, he spent more than forty years preaching to a nation that refused to listen. He was mocked by the public, beaten by officials, imprisoned by kings, and eventually lowered into a muddy cistern and left to die. He carried the weight of a collapsing nation on his shoulders, often feeling alone, unheard, and emotionally drained. Yet through every rejection, every tear, and every moment of despair, Jeremiah kept obeying God—a living picture of the kind of faith Hebrews 11:36–38 honors: **faith that struggles but doesn't give up on God**. *The world was not worthy of Jeremiah—a prophet who sometimes wrestled in his faith and sometimes suffered because he stayed faithful.*

1. Faith Struggles When Obedience Is Painful.

Hebrews 11:36, NASB95 - ³⁶ and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.

Jeremiah was mocked publicly (Jer. 20:7–8), beaten and imprisoned (Jer. 37:15), labeled a traitor (Jer. 26:11), and obedience cost him his reputation (Jer. 20:7–8), comfort (Jer. 37:15–16), and family and personal relationships (Jer. 12:6, 16:2).

Faith is not the absence of pain—it is obedience in pain.

2. Faith Struggles When Circumstances Get Worse, Not Better.

Hebrews 11:37, NASB95 - ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated...

Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern to die (Jer. 38:6), starved (Jer. 37:21), rescued only to suffer again (Jer. 38:13, 28), preached 40 years with almost no visible fruit (Jer. 7:25–26) and saw Jerusalem fall despite his warnings (Jer. 52:4–11).

Faith is not proven by what you do (results)—it is proven by steadfast endurance.

3. Faith Struggles When You Feel Alone and Unseen.

Hebrews 11:38, NASB95 - ³⁸ (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

Jeremiah stood alone against kings (Jer. 37:2), priests (Jer. 26:11), prophets (Jer. 23:16–17), and the nation (Jer. 7:27–28), felt abandoned (Jer. 20:14–18), wrote Lamentations from a place of grief, yet **God** saw him (Jer. 1:8 - “Do not be afraid... for I am with you to deliver you.”), sustained him (Jer. 15:20–21 - “I am with you to save you and deliver you... I will redeem you.”), and honored him (Jer. 1:10 - “I appoint you over nations and kingdoms...”).

**The world may not value you—but Heaven does!
The world may not see you—but Heaven does!**

4. God Strengthens Us When Our Faith Struggles.

The unseen were not failures; they were **God's treasures**. Their suffering was not a sign of weak faith, but of deep faith. Their endurance was not unnoticed here but celebrated in Heaven. **Jeremiah** lived faithfully, finished his course, left a legacy, and though his faith struggled at times, it never failed.

Hebrews 11:38, NASB95 - ³⁸ ...men of whom the world was not worthy...

**To the world: You are worthless! • To God: You are worthy!
Your calling is to live for God's Verdict!!**