

5/26/24

### Heb. 11:23-40

We continue in our study of the book of Hebrews with the testimony of various dimensions of faith in the lives of Old Testament saint, heroes of faith.

1. The author has given to us a description of faith in the opening verses. vs. 1-3
  - a. Faith is the assurance or confidence expectation of things hoped for and things not seen, as if one had seen them resulting in hope. vs. 27
  - b. By faith the elders obtained a good witness before God.
  - c. By faith the believer understands that the origin of the universe is due to God's creative act.
2. Three important things about faith!
  - a. It is based on God's revelation, not presumptuousness, self confidence or feelings.
  - b. It is evident by obedience to God's revelation.
  - c. It is active manifesting works.

The author is attempting to provoke these Hebrew Christians to a life of faith in Christ by their heritage in this "Hall of Faith".

\* "The just shall live by faith". Hab. 2:4; 10:38

We have looked at two groups so far.

1. The anti-diluvium witnesses of faith. Heb. 11:4-7
2. The Patriarchal witnesses of faith. Heb. 11:8-22

Now we will look at two other groups.

1. The Mosaic witness of faith. Heb 11:23-31
2. The subsequent witness of faith. Heb. 11:32-40

### 1:23-31      The Mosaic witness of faith.

#### 11:23      The witness of Moses' parents.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents." vs. 23a-c  
\* The passages. Ex. 2:2; Acts 7:20
- 2) The admiration of faith, "because they saw he was a beautiful child." vs. 23d  
\* The word beautiful "asteios" means elegant of body, comely and fair.
- 3) The evidenc of faith, "and they were not afraid of the king's command." vs. 23e  
\* The reason is not stated, but since the chapter is dealing with "faith", God must have revealed His purpose to them about Moses in the future.

#### 11:24-25 The witness of Moses and suffering.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter." vs. 24  
\* Moses saw the burdon on his brethren the Jews and kill the Egyptian, refusing to be honored by man. Ex. 2:11-14
- 2) The evidence of faith, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin." vs. 25

- a) Moses could discern true honor and by faith he chose to suffer affliction with the people of God.
- b) The word choosing “haireomia” means to take for oneself, to prefer, an aorist middle voice, Moses by faith exercised his free-will.
- c) Moses saw that both sufferings and pleasures of sin were only for a season, temporary, through the eyes of faith, but the long-term benefit with God’s people was the better decision.  
\* The outward and inner man....temporal and eternal. 2Cor. 4:16-18

### **11:26** The witness of true riches.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, “esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.” vs. 26a  
\* By faith Moses counted and valued the reproach of Christ a greater wealth, than the material wealth of the treasures of Egypt.
- 2) The evidence of faith, “for he looked to the reward.” vs. 26b
  - a) Moses by faith Moses turned his eyes attentively on the reward by God, detecting true value.
  - b) The worst Christ has for us is better than the best the world has to offer!  
\* Christ’s sufferings. Heb. 12:2; 13:12

### **11:27** The witness of faith.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, “By faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king.” vs. 27a-b
  - a) Not fearing to reject all he had in Egypt.
  - b) Moses certainly left in fear for his life.
  - c) The word forsook “katateipo” implying left never to return.
- 2) The evidence of faith, “for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” vs. 27c
  - a) Moses through the eyes of faith steadfastly fixed them on the invisible God, to not fear the visible Pharaoh.
  - b) Moses feared God, he did not allow the fear man to keep him from doing what he knew he must do.
  - c) Moses confronted Pharaoh and led the people out of Egypt. Ex. 10:28-29; 12:31
    - 1)) God opened Elijah's servants eyes. 2Kings 6:16
    - 2)) Jesus told the Jews Moses accused them, 2) for he spoke of Jesus. Jn. 5:45-47

### **11:28** The witness of redemption.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, “By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood.” vs. 28a
  - a) According to the instructions of God and their household. Ex. 12:12-30
  - b) The blood was a token of their faith.

- 2) The evedidence of faith, “lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.” vs. 28b
- a) The blood was for the protection of their own first-born.
- b) The Passover was propetic of Jesus was the Passover lamb. 1Cor. 5:7; Jn. 1:29; Jn. 13

**11:29** The witness of trust.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, “By faith Moses passed through the Red sea as by dry land.” vs. 29a
- a) In the midst of seeming impossibilities, the Egyptians behind them and the Red Sea before them!
- b) The passage, “So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the

face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.” And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Ex. 14:22-29

- 2) The evidence of faith, “whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.” vs. 29
- a) Moses said stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, as God would destroy the Egyptians. Ex. 14:13
- b) By faith trusting God to protect them. vs. 28; 1Cor. 10:1-2

**11:30** The witness of Joshua.

- 1) The evidence of faith is mentioned first this time, “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down.”
  - a) By faith Joshua believed the instruction from God to defeat Jerecho.
  - b) By faith Joshua gave God’s revelation to the people for victory. Josh. 6:1-5
  - c) By faith the people obeyed Joshua, “So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.” Josh. 6:20
- 2) The proclamation of faith comes second, “after they were encircled for seven days.”
  - a) By faith the detailed instruction of God were to be followed, exactly, “And the LORD said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall come to pass, when they make a

long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.” Josh. 6:2-5

- b) By faith they saw what God had revealed He would do through faith, the evidence of things not seen.

### 11:31 The witness of Rahab.

- 1) The proclamation of faith, “By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe.” vs. 31a
  - a) She believed what she had heard about God, “Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.” Josh. 2:8-10

- b) She is in the genealogy of Jesus Christ who was the great, great Grandmother of David. Matt. 1:5
- 2) The evidence of faith, “when she had received the spies with peace.” vs. 31b
  - a) The King ordered Rahab to turn over the men that had come to her, but she hid them and told them the men had come but she did not know where they were from and that they left at sundown as the gates were being shut. Josh. 2:3-5
  - b) Rahab’s faith was manifested by works She hid them on the roof and sent them out another way. Josh. 2:21-22; Ja. 2:25
  - b) She hung a scarlet cord outside her window in faith that they would not kill her and her family, according to their instructions by an oath. Josh. 2:17-21
  - c) Often the wall is pointed out as the only miracle, but the greater miracle was that the house of Rahab was upon the wall that fell flat, but her house remained and she survived, as she had the scarlet thread hanged out the window! Josh. 6:20, 22-23

### **11:32-40    The subsequent witnesses of faith.**

\* Now we are given a random selection in no chronological order and what they accomplish through faith.

### **11:32    The witness of six men of faith.**

- \* The proclamation of honor, “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of.”
- 1) Gideon. Judges 6-7
  - a) He threw down the altar of Baal by night.
  - b) He defeated the Medianites that were like locust without number with only 300 men according to God’s plan of the lanterns in the pitchers, he blew the trumpet, broke the pitchers and shouted “the sword of the LORD and of Gideon”. Josh. 7:18
  - c) He began with 32,000 then 22,000, ending up with only 300.
- 2) Barak. Judges 4
  - a) Barak defeated Sisera.
  - b) Barak was told by Deborah to go and fight, but he said, “If you go with me, then I will go.” Judg. 4; 8
- 3) Samson. Judges 13-16
  - a) He slew 1,000 Philistines with a jaw-bone of a donkey. Judges 15:16
  - b) He brought down the temple of Dagon on the Philistines. Judges 16:30
  - c) Samson did not commit suicide as some Pastors and Christian teach to day to defend and justify Christians committing suicide.
- 4) Jephtah. Judges 11
  - a) He defeated the Ammonites.

- b) He made a vow to God and dedicated his daughter to the LORD to not marry, some believe he sacrificed her, I used to believe that also, but it was a foolish vow he made.
- 5) David. 1Sam. 16; 1Kings 2
  - a) He slew the bear and the lion.
  - b) He slew Goliath.
  - c) He slew his 10,000's as he trusted God.
- 6) Samuel and the prophets. 1Sam. 2-16
  - a) Samuel was God's prophet in the transition from the judges to the prophets, being the prophet of God from Dan to Beersheba.
  - b) Samuel rebuked Saul for his rebellion and was very grieved.
  - c) Samuel anointed David.

**11:33-34** Their accomplishments of these men through faith.

- 1) "Who through faith subdued kingdoms." vs. 33a
- 2) They "worked righteousness". vs. 33b
- 3) They "obtained promises". vs. 33c
- 4) They "stopped the mouth of lions", David, Samson, Daniel. vs. 33d
- 5) They "quenched the violence of fire", Hananiah, Mishaiah and Azariah. vs. 34a
- 6) They "escaped the edge of the sword". vs. 34b

- 7) They "out of weakness were made strong." vs. 34c
- 8) They "became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens", Samson, David and many others. vs. 34d-e

**11:35** The witness of other women and men.

- 1) By faith, "Women received their dead raised to life again." vs. 35a
  - a) The widow of Zarephath's son was sick and died, Elijah laid himself on the child three times and prayed to God to revive the child, he revived and was given back to his mother. "Then the woman said to Elijah, 'Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth.'" 1Kings 17:17-24
  - b) The son of the Shunamite that God gave to her by the word of Elisha, but died while working in the field with his father, The Shunamite went to seek out Elisha at Mount Carmel, when he came to the house where the child laid Elisha laid himself mouth to mouth eye to eye twice and then the boy sneezed seven times and revived. 2Kings 4
    - \* "Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her

away. But the man of God said, “Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me.”

2Kings 4:27

- 2) Through faith, “Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that the might obtain a better resurrection.” vs. 35b-d
  - a) By faith they believed the greater gain of a better resurrection to eternal life with God.
  - b) By faith they did not deny their faith in Jesus, as many were stretched on racks and beaten to death, etc.

### **11:36-37** The witness of still others.

- 1) By faith in their persecution, “Still others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings.” vs. 36a
  - a) They were ridiculed, made fun for their faith and humiliated before the courts and magistrates, believers and prophets.
  - b) They received scourgings “mastix”, whippings with leather and other kinds of wips.
- 2) By faith in their confinement in prison, “yes, and of chains and imprisonments.” vs. 36b-c
  - a) Jeremiah was imprisoned.
  - b) Some believe this could include the Maccabees.

- 3) In Faith they died, “They were stoned”, the prophets. vs. 37a
  - a) The prophets who courageously call the people to repent from their apostasy.
  - b) For their faith in the word God gave to them to proclaim to the people.
- 4) In faith they died torturous deaths, “They were sawn in two.” vs. 37b
  - a) Some believed this is in reference to Isaiah by Mannasah.
  - b) Tradition says he sawed Isaiah in two with a wooden saw.
- 5) In faith they stood firm, “were tempted and slain with the sword.” vs. 37c-d
  - a) They were tempted with reward or life itself if they turned for God.
  - b) They were executed with the sword.
- 6) By faith they declared they were pilgrim and sojourners, “They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented.” vs. 37e-h
  - a) Notice that these negative aspects of sufferings are attributed to faith!
  - b) “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2Cor. 4:17-18

- c) All those who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2Tim. 3:12
- d) Peter deals with suffering extensively. 1Pet. 2:20-21; 3:15-17; 4:12-15, 19

**11:38** The witness their pilgrimage by faith.

- 1) The ungodly and God hating world, “of whom the world was not worthy” vs. 38a
  - a) The heavenly blessing and high privilege of the sinner to have men and women of faith that faithfully live out and preach the gospel of salvation.
  - b) The perspective of heaven is stated, “the world was not worthy “anxious” deserving or meriting of all these men of faith.
- 2) The godly in faith, “They wandered in deserts and mountain, in dens and caves of the earth.” vs. 38b-c

**11:39** The witnesses of faith commended.

- 1) These died in hope, “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise”. vs. 39
  - \* All the elders, men and women of faith in this chapter gave a visible faithful witness of their faith.
- 2) Yet all these individuals of faith mentioned “did not receive the promise” of the Messiah before they died in faith.

- \* Their faith was accounted to them for righteousness, believing what God had revealed and promised about their Redeemer. Gen. 3:15; 49:10; Is. 7:14

**11:40** The witness of the plan of God.

- 1) In the Incarnation, “God having provided something better us”. vs. 40a
  - a) The plural pronound “us” refers to the New Testament saints.
  - b) The very image in the person of Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit, receiving of the promise Emmanuel, God with us. Matt. 1:20, 23
- 2) In the Messiah, “that they should not be made perfect apart from us”, in the sense of the goal, the Messiah. vs. 40b
  - a) They refers to the Old Testament saints had the shadows and types and died in faith waiting in Sheol or Hades, commonly known as the bosom of the Father, the place of comfore and Paradise. Lk. 16
  - b) Jesus preached to saints and led captivity captive. Eph. 4:8-10; 1Pet. 3:19-22
  - c) The New Testament saint is instantly present before the Lord at death. 2Cor. 5:1-10
- 3) So in view of the exhortation given in this chapter of faith, we can obtain a good



witness before God only by faith in Jesus Christ.

- a) This is the context of the book and we dare not lift it from its context.
  - b) Our faith is in the person and the work of Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. Heb. 12:2
- 4) By and through our faith a variety of things can happen:
- a) We can lose our life as Abel.
  - b) We can be translated as Enoch.
  - c) We can be a witness to warn the world as Noah.
  - d) We will receive an inheritance as Abraham.
  - e) We will dwell as pilgrims.
  - f) We can be tried severely as Abraham and Job.
  - g) We can choose to suffer afflictions with the people of God.
  - h) We can be used of God and obtain a better resurrection.