

Hebrews 11:13-28 – Hall of Faith

The recipients of the letter of Hebrews needed to break away from the Sinai covenant. They now had a better covenant, a better mediator, a better priest and a better sacrifice. They had to break from the Pharisees' teaching which focused on outward shows of religion. The Pharisees may have looked clean on the outside but they were dirty on the inside. Chapter 11 puts the focus where it should be. Faith is required to please God. The outward works spring from a cleansed heart that has been born of God. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah were all examples of people with true faith. Their faith was a faith that endured trials and persevered to the end. Tonight's section in Hebrews 11 continues with more examples of true and enduring faith.

Read Hebrews 11:13-16.

What is the significance of the people, previously mentioned, all dying in faith? The original text has "in faith, these all died". NIV has "All these people were still living by faith when they died". Here, the NIV is more of a paraphrase than a translation. "These" are clarified in the rest of the verse and are most likely the patriarchs and primarily Abraham. According to verse 13, did Abraham receive what was promised? What did Abraham acknowledge? (11:13)

According to verses 14-16, what was Abraham seeking? What was the application to those who were experiencing persecution? How does God treat people of faith, like Abraham? (11:14-16)

Read Hebrews 11:17-22.

In verse 17, what did Abraham do by faith? See also Genesis 22:1-19. Why did this take a tremendous amount of faith? Verse 18 partially gives the significance of this act. (11:17)

What Old Testament verse is quoted in verse 18? See Genesis 21:12. Why was Isaac so important? (11:18)

According to verse 19, why didn't Abraham protest when God told him to sacrifice his son who was designated to be Abraham's heir of the promises? What reasons were there to not offer Isaac as a sacrifice? What evidence is there in Genesis 22 that Abraham believed that he would return with Isaac after the sacrifice? See Genesis 22:5. (11:19)

In verse 20, what did Isaac do by faith? See Genesis 27:1-41; 28:1-5. Why was this blessing by faith and not by social norms? See Genesis 25:19-28. (11:20)

In verse 21, what did Jacob do by faith? See Genesis 47:31-48:20. Why was this blessing by faith and not by social norms? “Worshiped on the top of his staff” is from Gen. 47:31 in the LXX. The original Hebrew has “bed” although NIV translates the word as “staff”. It is the same Hebrew word that was used in Gen. 48:2 when Isaac sat up in bed. (11:21)

In verse 22, what did Joseph do by faith when he was dying? See Genesis 50:24-26. Why did this demonstrate faith to the end? (11:22)

Read Hebrews 11:23-28.

In Verse 23, who did what by faith? See Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10. What did Moses’ parents risk by doing this? ESV, NKJV and NASB have “beautiful”. NIV has “no ordinary child”. The Greek word in the NT is only used here and in Acts 7:20. Both are references to Exodus 2:2. (11:23)

In verses 24-25, what did Moses do by faith? See Exodus 2:11-15. What did Moses give up by doing this? By making this choice, what did Moses experience along with the people of God? (11:24-25)

What does verse 26 reflect about Moses’ values? BDAG says that the word “reproach” is an “act of disparagement that results in disgrace, reproach, reviling, disgrace, insult”. What was the application for those being persecuted? (11:26)

In verse 27, what did Moses do by faith? See Exodus 10:28-29; 11:8-10; 12:31-32; 14:5-14. Why did this take faith?

In verse 28, what did Moses do by faith? See Exodus 12. Why did this take faith? (11:28)