

The Book of Hebrews

Chapter 11: verses 32 - 40 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – Dec 15th, 2022

Chapter 11 of the Hebrew epistle deals primary with faith, and those in the Old Testament who stood firm on their faith even though they could not see the promise, which was still afar off. This chapter further compares the faith of the Old testament fathers with the faith exercised by Christian believers. Although the Old Testament heroes had real faith, they did not receive the promise of God. The purpose for the delayed promised was to ensure that the Old testament heroes, were not made perfect apart from the priesthood work of Jesus Christ.

32. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

- The unknown author writes that he does not have time to tell about many other great and faithful men of the Old testament, who were faithful until death even though they did not receive the promise. Among these faithful men were Gedeon who led a small army into victory by obeying the Lord, Barak whom Deborah the judge called to lead Israel to battle and victory, Samson, a Nazarite unto God who would begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, Jephthah a mighty man of valor, who was the 9th judge over Israel and delivered God's people from 18 years of oppression by the Ammonites. David replaced King Saul as King over Israel, and became a great king. Samuel was a priest, a prophet, and a judge over Israel.
 - Read Judge chapters 4 to 16
 - Read 1Samuel chapters 7 to 17

33. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

- This verse is a follow on from the prior verse, which state that these great men of faith accomplished much, they conquered Kingdoms through righteous means, they received many promises of God, which included closing the mouth of a lions.

34. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to fight the armies of the aliens.

- The author continues to expound on the faithfulness of the old patriarch of the Old Testament, how they stopped the spread of violence, and were able to escape from their enemies without harm. Through the power of God these faithful men were made strong at a time of personal weakness, and given strength in battle. By the power of God they were willing to go to battle against unknown and foreign enemies.

35. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

- During the day of the Old patriarch, mothers witnessed their loved ones being raised from the dead by the power of God, at the same time other faithful men were tortured and were killed because they would not denounce God, they believed they would receive a better resurrection (raising from the dead).
 - 1Kings 17:20-22

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36. And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

- Still there were other faithful men of God who were put on trial and were mocked, tormented, and put into prison for their belief and following of God.
 - Genesis 39:20

37. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented.

- Many of the great and faithful men of the Old Testament were stoned to death for their faith and belief, some were sawed in two. Others were killed by the sword, and some just simply wandered about in sheepskins, goatskins and they were destitute, afflicted, and persecuted.
 - 1Kings 21:13
 - 2Kings 1:8

38. (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

- The author states that the world was not worthy of the personal sacrifice that these Old patriarchs made by staying faithful to God. They lived in the deserts, in the mountains, in dens and caves in this world.
 - 1Kings 18:4

39. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

- And all of these faithful men of the Old Testament died without receiving the promise, because they could not be made perfect in an apart from the finished work performed by Jesus Christ on the cross.

40. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

- Based on the dispensation of God's grace, and Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God has provided a better plan for us, which the old Testament faithful patriarch can now receive.
 - Hebrews 5:9