"BY FAITH"

Hebrews 11:17-40

1/12/97

**** Realize all that God can do in you, through you, and for you BY FAITH!***

I. By Faith we <u>pass the test</u> of <u>trials</u>
(v.17-19) *(The faith of Abraham)*

II. By Faith we <u>anticipate God's blessing</u> regarding the <u>future</u>
(v.20-22) *(The faith of Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph)*

III. By Faith we <u>take noble risks</u> without <u>fear</u>
(v.23)*(The faith of Moses' parents)*

IV. By Faith we <u>separate</u> from <u>ungodliness</u>
(v.24-27) *(The faith of Moses)*

V. By Faith we <u>heed</u> God's <u>warnings</u>
(v.28)*(The faith of Moses & Israel)*

VI. By Faith we <u>believe God</u> can do the <u>impossible</u>
(v.29-30) *(The faith of the O.T. Nation of Israel)*

VII. By Faith we <u>care</u> for <u>God's people</u>
(v.31)*(The faith of a former prostitute named Rahab)*

VIII. By faith we <u>triumph</u> over <u>great obstacles</u>
(v.32-35a) *(The faith of the judges, kings & prophets)*

IX. By faith we <u>endure</u> the pressure of <u>persecution & tribulation</u>
(v.35b-38) *(The faith of God's suffering servants)*

Conclusion: v.39-40

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I. By Faith we <u>pass the test</u> of <u>trials</u>
(v.17-19) *(The faith of Abraham)*

V. 17

"The promises" - God's unconditional promises:

1) That Abraham's descendents would be as numerous as the stars of the heaven (Gen. 15:5).

2) I will *"multiply thee exceedingly"* (Gen. 17:2)

3) Gen. 17:19 - *"And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him."*

The proof of Abraham's faith was his willingness (even after a century of waiting and wondering) to give back to God the treasure he had, the son of promise (MacArthur, p. 335).

God's intention was to see if Abraham loved Him more than he loved Isaac.

"Only begotten" - (cp. Jn. 3:16) - here is a proof that the term *"monogenes"* refers to uniqueness not origin, because Isaac, in fact, was not Abraham's only son; he also had Ishmael before Isaac was born, and he had other children by Keturah, who Abraham married after Sarah's death (Gen. 25:1-6).

V. 19

Although Isaac did not die on the altar, his rising up off of it serves as a "figure" or type of Christ's rising from the dead.

The offering of Isaac was not only a test of faith, but that event served as a type or foreshadowing of God offering up His only begotten (unique) son.

The mountain of Moriah (Gen. 22:2) was the same location (in Jerusalem) where Solomon's temple was built (II Chron. 3:1) and sacrifices were made, and where the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would eventually be sacrificed.

II. By Faith we anticipate God's blessing regarding the future (v.20-22) *(The faith of Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph)*

V. 20

In Gen. 27:26-40, the old Patriarch Isaac pronounced a future blessings on his sons, particularly on Jacob.

V. 21

Jacob intentionally crossed his hands and laid his right hand on Joseph's younger son Ephraim and his left on the firstborn Manasseh, and pronounced that God would lbess both, but Ephraim would be the predominate tribe (Gen. 48:19).

V. 22

By faith Joseph knew that when the 400 years of Israel's sojourn in Egypt had ended that they would exit and go into the promised land.

He also requested that his bones not be left in Egypt, but that they be carried to the land of promise (Gen. 50:24-25).

III. By Faith we <u>take noble risks</u> without <u>fear</u>

(v.23)*(The faith of Moses' parents)*

V. 23

"A proper child" - a beautiful child (Ex. 2:1-15).

By faith Moses' parents Amram and Jochebed took the risk of being killed by disobeying Pharaoh's command of infanticide. They hid their son and when they could no longer conceal him, they by faith build a little ark of bulrushes and placed it among the papyrus reeds in the Nile River.

IV. By Faith we <u>separate</u> from <u>ungodliness</u>

(v.24-27) *(The faith of Moses)*

V. 24

"Come to years" - When Moses was 40 years old, he left Pharaoh's family with all of its abundant wealth and prestige and visited his family.

V. 25

"Affliction" - ill treatment

Sin has pleasure but it is only temporary. The after-effects are grievous.

God's pleasures, however, are everlasting (Ps. 16:11), and they contain no sorrow with them.

"The reproach" (disgrace) ***of Christ greater riches" -*** Christ in the Old Testament? Yes! Jesus led, fed, and protected Israel through the wilderness (cp. I Cor. 10:4).

V. 26

Which riches do you esteem greater? The ones this world offers? Or the ones Christ gives?

For Moses, to even suffer for Christ was greater riches than what Egypt had to offer (cp. Acts 5:41).

V. 27

"He forsook Egypt" - He abandoned and left Egypt.

Are you willing to abandon anything of the world (whether cultural, domestic, political, economical, etc.) so as to follow Christ?

V. By Faith we <u>heed</u> God's <u>warnings</u>
(v.28)*(The faith of Moses & Israel)*

Those who feared God, obeyed God regarding the most horrifying of plagues which would come. By faith they slew the lamb, applied the blood to the door posts and lintel, and were saved from judgment.

VI. By Faith we <u>believe God</u> can do the <u>impossible</u>
(v.29-30) *(The faith of the O.T. Nation of Israel)*

V. 29

If God can dry up a huge body of water instantaneously and provide a paved corridor for 2 million men, women, children, animals, carts, etc., is anything too hard for Him to do?

V. 30

It may have seemed foolish to march around a city wall for 7 days and then to shout on the seventh and believe that God would crumble the city, but they did it by faith, because God said to.

VII. By Faith we <u>care</u> for <u>God's people</u>

(v.31)*(The faith of a former prostitute named Rahab)*

By faith she feared God and provided refuge for God's point men and saved their lives (Josh. 2:1-21; 6:22-25).

VIII. By faith we <u>triumph</u> over <u>great obstacles</u> (v.32-35a) *(The faith of the judges, kings & prophets)*

V. 32

We could talk about Gideon's little 300-man army (Jud. 7:12), and Barak's conquest over Sisera (Jud. 4:15), and Samson's exploits over the Philistines (Jud. 13-16), and Jephthah's faithfulness to his vow after his victory over the Ammonites (Jud. 11), and David's victory over the giant of Gath (I Sa. 17), and Samuel's submission to God even as a boy (I Sam. 2:18), and the prophets like Jeremiah who by fiath suffered, wept, and preached, like Daniel whose life of faith still speaks today, but time would fail to cover them all.

V 33

--They ***"subdued kingdoms"*** by faith, as Joshua.

--They ***"wrought righteousness"*** by faith, as Josiah.

--They ***"obtained promises"*** by fiath, as Caleb.

--They ***"stopped the mouths of lions"*** by fiath as Daniel.

--They ***"quenched the violence of fire"*** by faith, as Shadrach, Meshec, and Abednego.

--They ***"escaped the edge of the sword"*** by faith, as Micaiah.

V. 34-35a

--They waxed valiant in fight by faith, as Israel during the conquest of Canaan.

--***"Women received the dead raised to life again"*** by fiath, as the Widow of Zarephath (I Ki. 17:8-23) and the Shunammite woman (II Ki. 4:18-37).

IX. By faith we <u>endure</u> the pressure of <u>persecution & tribulation</u> (v.35b-38) *(The faith of God's suffering servants)*

V. 35b

Faith in God does not necessarily mean a life of <u>comfort</u> and <u>ease</u>!

V. 35-36

Others were tortured by faith like those who lived during the Maccabean period under the persecution of Antiochus Epiphanies (II Macc. 6:18-7:42).

Others endured mockings (causing mental anguish) and scourgings (causing physical pain).

Others were chained up and imprisoned like Joseph in Egypt, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, and Paul.

V. 37

Others were ***"stoned"*** like Zechariah (II Chron. 24:21), and Stephen (Acts 7).

Others were ***"sawn asunder"*** (cut in halt) like tradition says happened to Isaiah.

Still others were ***"slain with the sword"*** as the two prophets in Elijah's day (I Ki. 19:10), and like James.

Others ***"wandered about in sheepskins"*** like Elijah (I Ki. 19:13).

V. 38

And others were hiding ***"in mountains. . . in dens and caves"*** like the prophets in Obadiah's day, who were persecuted by Jezebel I Ki. 18:4).

EX: Foxes' Book of Martyrs
EX: the persecution of the Anabaptists

God never promised to keep us from trials and tribulation. We are not exempt from suffering, persecution, or death. God did promise to keep us from His wrath, but never did he say we would not endure the wrath of Satan via the Antichrist!

Conclusion: v.39-40

V. 40 - ***"some better thing" -*** The best is yet to come!
Faith always looks to the future!