

Hebrews

Chapter 10:37-Chapter 11

Hebrews 10:37-39

"For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Habakkuk

- Habakkuk had a problem because he didn't understand the silence, inactivity, and apparent unconcern of God.
- Habakkuk complains to God, why would God use a people more wicked to destroy his own nation for its wickedness?
- God's answer is that He has a purpose in using the Babylonians
- Habakkuk resolves himself to faith
- "But the just shall live by his faith." (Hab. 2:4)

- "Habakkuk then said in effect: This is worse than ever. It seemed bad enough if God were doing nothing; but now He tells me that He is using these people, [Babylonians] the terror of the nation, for His own purpose....The man of faith has often been perplexed, overwhelmed with the difficulties of the situation, and the hour in which he lives; and more troubled about this than anything else, that God seems to be doing nothing! We have often heard in recent times. What is God doing? Why doesn't God do something? God is still saying the same thing: I am at work, though if I told you, you would not believe, or understand...." - G. Campbell Morgan

"Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was..... Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."-John 11:5-6;20-21

Why Did Jesus Stay Two More Days?

- For a bigger revelation of Himself to His disciples.
- Chambers: "Because Jesus Christ keeps silence it does not mean that He is displeased, but exactly the opposite, He is bringing us into the great run of His purpose, and the answer will be an amazing revelation."
- God can trust you with His silence because He knows it will drive you deeper into Him.

- The truth is God is not silent but we may not be listening.
- Sometimes we may not want to hear what God is saying through His silence.
- Sometimes we may be looking for a big lightening bolt to hit us.
- It may never have occurred to us that He is speaking to us at all through silence.

Two World Views

- "Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4
- In opposition to a life of faith is a puffed-up world view that is filled with pride and self assurance.
- The other is a life of dependence upon God. A sense of certainty in spite of appearances and circumstances we can trust in God to do what He has promised.

Faith is a gift from God

- Rom 12:3
- For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith
- Faith is not a work. It is a gift and the means by which man is saved.

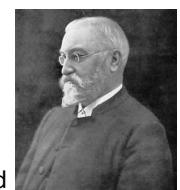
The Just Shall Live By Faith

The Phrase	Placed Used	Emphasis
The Just Shall Live by Faith	Habakkuk 2:4	"Live"
The Just Shall Live By Faith	Romans 1:17	"Faith" Justified by Faith-Principle
The Just Shall Live By Faith	Galatians 3:11	"Just" Justified by Faith as opposed to the Law
The Just Shall Live By Faith	Hebrews 10:38	"Live" Living by faith in God's promises

Faith verses Fantasy

- Fantasy is built upon false expectations on how we want to live but can never be fulfilled how we imagined it to be. Our expectations are usually built upon the culture we find ourselves socially living.
- Faith is not fantasy but the polar opposite. Faith brings a context in which to interpret unexpected events that happen to us in the journey of life. It is grounded in a Biblical faith, and has God and His Word at the center of reality.

"There is no other foundation for faith but [in God's promises]; and the faith that rests on any other foundation is not true faith at all. A faith resting on human tradition, or on the authority of a Church, is not Divine faith; it is mere superstition, it is a faith which stands on the wisdom of men, and not in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:5)"--E.W. Bullinger



What We Know About Faith

- Faith is not a work. It is a gift and the means by which man is saved. (Rom. 12:3)
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**”-**Ephesians 2:8**
- “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”-Romans 10:17
- “Yet, **looking to the promise of God**, he [Abraham] didn’t waver through unbelief, **but grew strong through faith**, giving glory to God, and **being fully assured that what he had promised**, he was also able to perform.” **Romans 4:20-21**

- Faith is being **fully convinced** in the promises of God.
- We are made **righteous** before God through faith.
- We are **justified** before God through faith as opposed to the Law.
- We **live** by faith in the promises of God.
- Faith is the opposite of sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)
- It is by faith that we perceive the things happening around us are not by chance.
- “Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.”

The Order Of Hebrews Eleven

- If we truly believe that the Bible is God’s holy word and that it is God-breathed and given by inspiration from God then nothing in the Bible is given by chance.
- Every word has meaning. The context has meaning. Numbers have meaning. The order has meaning.
- “The law of the Lord is **perfect**, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple”-Psalm 19:7

- God in His infinite wisdom has given us the chronological order of Hebrews eleven.
- **Abel** comes first not because he is first in the historical order but because he **believed** God which is the first fundamental step in living by faith.
- **Enoch** comes next because he **walked** with God which is the next step in living by faith.
- **Noah** comes next because he was saved by the grace of God and became a **witness** which is the next step in living by faith.
- Many try to walk with God first but don’t have faith in His word.
- Many try to be a witness first without knowing what it is to enjoy walking with God which becomes works not Grace.

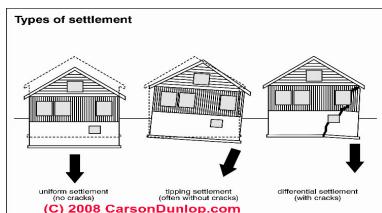
Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

Faith Is The Substance

- The word for substance in the original text is the word “*hypostasis*” which literally means “ground” or “foundation.” Some Bibles have assurance or confidence.
- The English word substance comes from the Latin “*sub stans*” which means “standing under”.
- Faith is the foundation of the things hoped for that is not in our possession.
- We all hope for many things but the question is, what is the foundation for our hope?
- Hope depends on the fact that God has spoken and revealed Himself to us through His Son Jesus.
- If God has not spoken there is nothing for us to believe about Him therefore there is nothing hope for other than our vain imaginations or ourselves or man.

A Strong Foundation



- If God has not spoken there isn't a foundation for us to believe about Him therefore there is nothing to hope for other than our vain imaginations or ourselves or man.

Faith Is The Evidence

- The word in for “evidence” in the original text is “*eleghos*” which means a “a proof by which something is proved or tested”.
- Faith is the proof or conviction of things that are not seen.
- Do we believe what God has spoken? He has given to us exceeding great a precious promises. If we do, then faith is the foundation of all we hope for and the proof of what we heard but do not see.

1 Peter 1:7-9

"The genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."

- Noah believed what God had spoken being warned of things not seen yet. (v.7)
- Abraham believed what God had spoken and went out not knowing where he was going. (v.8)
- Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Jesus and saw it (John 8:56) but he saw it by faith through the promise spoken to him and saw it "afar off". (v.13)
- Others were assured of the promises of God and saw them beyond their grasp but walked with God anyway. (v. 13)
- Moses believed God and refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter instead suffered affliction "as seeing Him Who is invisible". (v.27)

The Elder's Testimony

- The elders had faith therefore obtained a good testimony.
- The elders "obtained" the good testimony.
- They were not doing the talking but were listening to something said to them.
- What they were listening to was the "good" testimony.
- Jesus said that, "no one is good but One, *that is, God*". (Matt. 19:17) thus the testimony was given to them by God and through faith they believed what was said to them.

Romans 15:4

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

1 Peter 1:10-12

"Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into."

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

The Creation

- The word for "worlds" in the original text is "aión" which means "the ages" or "worlds" or "universe"
- The word for "framed" in the original text is "katartízo" which means "to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust".
- Not only did God create the universe out of nothing but also put in order the universe from the very beginning to the end to accomplish His purposes and through faith we understand that He created and is at work arranging things according to His will even though we don't see Him.

PSALM 33:6&9

"**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth..... For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.**"

The Nature Of History

- Most of the world starts from the foundation that God plays no part in the movement of history. In fact most are driven to diminish or eliminate God's role in history.
- This is in direct conflict with a Biblical worldview that begins with God who is involved in all of history not just religious history but all of secular and sacred movements in time.

Our Understanding

- 1 Peter 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"
- The word for defense is "apologian" which means "from the word".
- All our reasoning is built from the living "logos", i.e. Jesus, revealed to us through the word of God.
- The Fall created a blindness in our understanding.
- Revelation is needed to take the covering from our eyes to see the living "logos".

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

The Difference Between The Two Offerings

- The writer to the Hebrews makes it plain why the offering of Abel was accepted and the offering of Cain was not: “by faith Abel offered up a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...” (Hebrews 11:4). Cain’s offering was the effort of his own works (dead religion), while Abel’s offering was made in faith, in a desire to worship God in spirit and truth.

- God would have told Cain and Abel the process of animal sacrifice
- Rom. 10:17 says, “...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” And Hebrews 11:6 says. ...”Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)...”
- Belief in what God has said is the same for man today, God’s ways have not changed
- Cain brought to God an offering of the ground which was cursed
- "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it"-- Gen 3:17
- Works verses Faith

“Hearing by the word of God...”--Rom. 10:17

- *Logos* = creative living word (Jn. Chapter one)
- *Rhema*= revealed word, something God has told, or uttered to man.
- Hearing does not mean the sense of hearing, or the act of hearing
- It is the substance of God’s word that produces faith.!

Genesis 3:1-5

- “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Eve Fell By Not Believing God's Word

- 3:1: “Has God indeed said,” the devil omitted (Genesis 2:16) the word “freely”
- 3:3: “...Nor shall you touch it”, Eve added to God's word.
- 3:4: “You will not surely die...”, the devil altered God's word.
- 3:5: “For God knows...”, the devil planted the seed of doubting God's integrity.
- 3:5: The result: “be like God knowing good And evil”

The Two Ways Back To God

- We are told “...Cain brought.....Abel also brought.”
- Two ways to God with two very different outcomes.
- Genesis Four is not a myth or old wives tale but history made for our learning and in this case it is the first example of worship.
- Cain's offering is built upon fantasy while Abel's is built upon faith.

ABEL'S WAY	CAIN'S WAY
SACRIFICE BY DEATH	SACRIFICE OF MERIT
BLOOD	SWEAT—WITHOUT BLOOD
FAITH	NO FAITH
PROVISION OF GOD	WORKS OF SELF

RELIGION KILLED ABEL; RELIGION KILLED CHRIST; BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST SPEAKS OF THINGS GREATER THAN THE BLOOD OF ABEL. (HEB. 12:24)

THESE ARE THE TWO WAYS OF ACCESS TO GOD, EITHER WE ARE TRUSTING IN SOMETHING INSTEAD OF CHRIST, OR IN SOMETHING IN ADDITION TO CHRIST; OR WE ARE TRUSTING IN THE MERITS OF THE ONE SUBSTITUTE—JESUS CHRIST AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US.

God Placed The Tree In The Garden To Test Man's Obedience To Him

- MAN'S CONDITION WAS INNOCENT IN A PERFECT ENVIRONMENT.
- THE TEST WAS PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD
- THE FAILURE WAS DISOBEDIENCE IN BELIEVING GOD'S WORD
- THE JUDGMENT WAS SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL DEATH.
- WAY OF SALVATION WAS THROUGH SLAYING OF A LAMB OR SOME ANIMAL

The Same Is True For Us Today

- THE CONDITION IS THAT MAN IS TO BELIEVE ALL HAVE SINNED.
- THE TEST IS TO ACCEPT CHRIST AS SAVIOUR.
- THE FAILURE IS UNBELIEF RESULTING IN REJECTING CHRIST.
- THE JUDGMENT IS SPIRITUAL DEATH, THE GREAT TRIBULATION, AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.
- THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION IS THROUGH JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS BY FAITH.

Ignorance To Our Righteousness

- Ignorance to our righteousness in Christ leads ultimately to immaturity
- "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption"-1 Cor. 1:30
- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"-2 Cor. 5:21
- Ignorance to our righteous position in Christ has through the centuries caused people to try to earn their righteousness through works

- "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." - Rom. 10:3
- Ignorance to our righteousness in Christ invariably produces a form of legalism which tries to earn "brownie points" with God to gain his acceptance.
- It also will take away our joy and we will attempt to take away the joy of others by imposing our view of righteousness upon them.

A Religion Of Our Own Making

- "What value does the engraved image have, that its maker has engraved it; the molten image, even the teacher of lies, that he who fashions its form trusts in it, to make mute idols?"-**Habakkuk 2:18**
- The lesson that that Hebrew writer is conveying is that we need to be concerned with a relationship with Jesus built upon the foundation of faith and study of his word.
- It is too easy to fashion a belief system after our own making and feel safe but be lost to God!.
- God in a box is not God but our own self interest god. A god who is concerned with what I want not what He wants.

Hebrews 11:5-6

"By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*"

Enoch's Name Means Teaching

- Enoch teaches us through his life that we must first believe that God exists.
- Enoch teaches us through his life that God rewards those who believe in Him.
- Enoch teaches us through his life to believe in the promises of God and prophecies of God.
- Enoch teaches us through his life that to believe in God is to walk with Him.
- Enoch teaches us through his life that it is impossible, not difficult, to please God without faith.

We As Believers Are Complete In Him

- "...and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."- Col 2:10
- ""Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.""- John 6:28-29
- ""And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.""- John 6:40

Enoch was Taken Away

- The word for “taken away” in the original text is “metatethame” which means, “translate, remove, change”.
- Enoch through his faith in God had been translated into the presence of God.
- Do we believe what God has told us about our own translation?
- Enoch serves as an example to all who believe in what God has told them about His coming judgment even in the midst of all the corruption and confusion of the present day.
- Those who walk with God are not appointed for the day of wrath but salvation through faith in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:11

“Now **all these things happened** to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

Enoch's Prophecy In Jude

- 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”--- Jude 14-15

FOUR FACTS EMPHASIZED BY ENOCH'S PROPHECY (JUDE 14,15):

- We know the Lord's coming is sure.
- We know who will accompany the Lord at His Return.
- We know the purpose of His coming.
- We know the result of the Lord's coming.

WALKING WITH GOD

- Walking signifies the whole round of the activities of the individual life before God that results in God being pleased with the walk of the believer useful for the purposes of God.
- The believer's walk is a relationship with God through faith.
- Enoch walked with God three hundred years before God took him-- Gen 5:22

THE BELIEVER IS TO WALK:

- IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE---ROM. 6:4
- WITH THE SPIRIT---ROM. 8:4
- BY FAITH---II COR. 5:7
- IN GOOD WORKS---EPH 2:10
- IN LOVE---EPH 5:2
- IN WISDOM---COL. 4:5
- IN TRUTH---II JOHN 4
- IN THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD---V.6

THE BELIEVER IS NOT TO WALK:

- AFTER THE FLESH---ROM. 8:4
- AFTER THE MANNER OF MEN---I COR. 3:3
- IN CRAFTINESS---II COR. 4:2
- NOT BY SIGHT---II COR. 5:7
- IN EMPTY MINDENESS---EPH 4:17
- NOT DISORDERLY---II THESS. 3:6-15

ENOCH'S FIRST PROPHECY WAS THROUGH THE NAME OF HIS SON.

- METHUSELAH'S NAME MEANS "HIS DEATH SHALL BRING"
- FROM THE ROOT *MUTH* = "TO DIE"
- AND *SHALAK* = "TO SEND FORTH"; "BRING ABOUT" (60X: "SEND JUDGEMENT ON THE EARTH", PLAGUES OF EGYPT, FAMINE, FIRE, ETC.

THE YEAR METHUSELAH DIED THE FLOOD CAME

- Methuselah lived 782 years after he had Lamech
- Lamech was 182 years old when he had Noah
- Noah was 600 yrs old when the flood came (Gen 7:6)
- $600 + 182 = 782$, the year Methuselah died
- Methuselah's long life was no accident. It was because of the grace of God. When Methuselah died, the flood came. God kept him alive longer than anybody to give people as long as possible to repent.

God Rewards Those Who Seek Him

- These two elements seem most simple, but, alas, how many professing Christians act as if God were not living; and how many others, though seeking after Him, are not *expecting from Him* as Rewarder!"-Newell
- We must believe that God is there and that He will reveal Himself to the seeking heart.
- Faith is the one gift that when used will please God because we acknowledge Him in relationship to us!
- It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. —Proverbs 25:2

Hebrews 11:7

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

God Grieved Deeply In Noah's Time

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."—Genesis. 6:5-6

- God is involved with man and knows when man does wicked works
- We are told that during the time of Noah every thought of man was “evil continually”.
- This generation wanted nothing to do with the Lord God.
- “It repented the Lord”: literally to sigh deeply
- We know that it affects God when man turns from Him.

The Earth Was Filled Violence

- The earth was corrupt “before God”-Genesis 6:11-13
- It was in this corrupt world that Noah walked by faith.
- What man had corrupted was “his way”
- "He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him."--- Prov 14:2
- There is a way that seems right to man but in the end leads to death.

A World That Has Lost Its Way

- Jesus said, "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."--Matt 24:12
- A world without God at its center is a world that will literally become non-human with violence reigning supreme.
- Survival of the fittest!
- The vileness of man has no end!
- It is an act of divine mercy for God to intervene and save man from himself.

They Ignored God’s Word

- The culture during the time of Noah was evil because they ignored God’s word.
- "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. 10 This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing."'--Jer. 13:8-10
- If the believer does not keep the word of God he'll lose his bearing point.
- The word of God not only tells us about the character of God it centers our life in a dark world

A person is blessed if he or she is a person of the word

Ps 119:9-16

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."-- Gen 6:8

- Noah found grace. Noah did nothing to earn God's grace it is same for man today
- When sin abounded grace abounded more. (Rom. 5:20)
- If you have 20 pounds of sin, it is trumped by 21 pounds of grace.
- God's grace always wins against sin if man will receive it.
- Jesus is full of grace and truth- John. 1:14

- "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."--John 1:10-13
- "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."--John 1:16

"Noah was a just man...."

- Noah is our example of faith in a corrupt world.
- The nature of Noah's faith: 2 Pet 2:5—only eight people were saved from this world that had a population of at least 7 billion people.
- Noah's faith demonstrates to us that it is possible to walk with God even in the darkest of days.
- God would not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if there were 10 righteous people.

Noah Was Divinely Warned

- Noah was warned, literally "to be divinely instructed"
- Noah was simply instructed by God to build an ark.
- "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." -- Gen 6:22
- Noah built the ark by faith. He heard from God but "did not see" it, nor could he comprehend the extent of God's judgment that was coming.

- If Noah would have walked by sight it would have appeared as though things were moving upward and onward progress and technology; but the word of God told him that things were not getting better but worse.
- The same is today for those who are divinely instructed by the word of God.
- What a privilege to be divinely instructed concerning "the things not yet seen".

Noah was, "a preacher of righteousness..." --2Peter 2:5

- Preacher : *kerux*, in Greek means a herald, one who makes a proclamation
- For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." -- Rom 1:16-18

Suppressing The Truth

- The truth is a Person, i.e., Jesus
- "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." -- John 14:6
- It is an act of the will against the word of God.
- "For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old..." --2 Pet. 3:5
- To reject God's word is to reject God Himself
- "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." -- John 12:48

Noah was a preacher of righteousness for approximately 100 years as he built the ark. During that time Noah was proclaiming the word of God to the people to repent and enter into obedience to God's word, but they rejected God's word, thus rejecting God Himself

The Bible Presents Noah As A Great Hero Of The Faith

- He was an outstanding example of righteousness (Ez 14:14)
- A preacher of righteousness (1 Pet. 2:5)
- Noah condemned the world by offering salvation in the ark that the whole world rejected (Hebrews 11:7)
- The same is for the people of today and our ark is Jesus and to reject His message of salvation will result in condemnation

John 3:17-18

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

Godly Fear

- The Hebrew writer says that Noah was moved with a Godly fear.
- The word used for "moved with fear" is *eulabeomai* which means "to reverence, stand in awe of".
- Noah was moved by the awe of what God had said to him about what He was about to perform.
- "Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the *LORD* for His goodness, And for His **wonderful** works to the children of men!"-Psalm 107:8
- Faith develops within man a natural sense of awe and wonder.

Things Not Yet Seen By Noah

- The things that are about to happen upon the earth Noah and his family had never seen before:
- "Rain"--7:4
- "Flood"--7:10
- "fountains of the great deep were broken up"-- 7:11
- "the windows of heaven were opened"-- 7:11
- "Wind"--8:1
- The eating of meat and fear of the animals--9:1-2

A Loss Of Wonder

"Once we begin to see ourselves as our own makers, our horizons are sharply reduced. We lose our sense of mystery; awe and wonder disappear, and ultimately there is no one to turn to in gratitude for the blessings of life and the beauties of the physical world. We also lose touch with the spiritual help which we associate with a loving creator God." ---James Huston, The Heart's Desire

God Shut The Door

- God shut the door not Noah
- The ark was salvation for Noah and his family, but condemnation for all outside of it.
- There were no second chances for those left outside of the ark.
- God kept the door open until the last possible minute, but there came a time when the door had to be shut. When the door is open, it is open, but when it is shut, it is shut. Jesus is He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens (Revelation 3:7).

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham was called out of Ur



- The city of Abraham
- They excavated a ziggurat, commercial buildings, 2 story homes with court yards, fireplaces, sanitary systems, chapels, school buildings with clay books which they taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and history.
- It evidences ziggurats that were built, and the one in ur was called “ the mountain of heaven ”.

Abraham's Relatives Worshipped Idols

- “And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Your fathers, *including* Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.”- Joshua 24:2
- “Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father’s”-Genesis 31:19

The City Of Abraham

- They excavated a ziggurat, commercial buildings, 2 story homes with court yards, fireplaces, sanitary systems, chapels, school buildings with clay books which they taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and history.
- It evidences ziggurats that were built, and the one in Ur was called “ the mountain of heaven ”.
- “They dug up the remains of a house in which was a clay tablet which had been unfinished, an on that tablet, whoever had been using it, was working out of a problem in trigonometry, which problem they are still working out at Oxford and Cambridge”.-G. Campbell Morgan

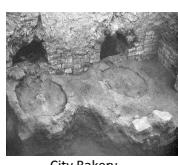
Excavation Of The City of Ur



Chapel for Nanna the moon god



City streets



City Bakery



Flood deposit layer

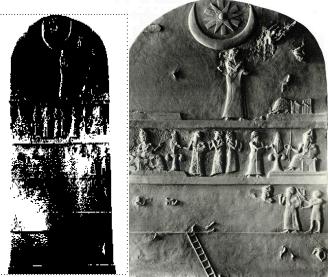
Ur-Nammu

- Ur-Nammu was king of Ur from 2112-2095 B.C., which was during the time of Abraham's call to go out from God.



Stele Of Ur-Nammu

Ur-Nammu the restored stele of Ur-Nammu from Ur, c. 2090-1955 B.C., shows the Ur-Nammu Law Code was produced by the founder of the third dynasty of Ur and builder of the best preserved ziggurat in Mesopotamia. He ruled from 2112 to 2095 B.C. Twenty-nine laws are extant, and by way of Eshunna Code 1950 B.C., then the Lipit-Ishtar Code the fifth ruler of the dynasty of Ur in 1864-1854 B.C., which leads to the Hammurabi Code in 1728 to 1686 with 282 laws after receiving them from the god Shamash seen later in this chapter. To the right is the obverse view of the Ur-Nammu stele, the top register shows a king standing before a deity seated on a throne. Two scenes in the second register each show the king offering libations to a deity. What remains of the third and fourth registers show the king carrying a basket and surveying and building instruments; part of a ladder and bricks (at the lower right of fourth register) built into a wall suggest that the subject was the building of a ziggurat.



Idols Have No Voice Or Power

- A Jewish legend teaches that Abraham's father owned an idol shop. One day, while his father was away and Abraham was in charge of the store, he smashed all the idols but the biggest with an ax, and then put the ax in the remaining idol's hand. To his outraged father's question as to what had happened, Abraham explained that the large idol became upset at the other idols and destroyed them. "You know these idols can't move," Terah shouted. "If they can't save themselves." Abraham Answered, "then we are superior to them. So why do we worship them?" -Rabbi Telushkin, Jewish Literacy

Abraham Called To Go Out Of Ur

- Abraham obeyed God when he heard the voice of God and packed up his family and left Ur behind forever.
- “And he [Stephen] said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: **The God of glory** appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, ‘**Get out of your country and from your relatives**, and come to a land that I will show you.’”-Acts 7:2-3
- The emphasis on “the God of glory” is in contrast to the idols worshipped in the city of Ur.

Abraham Went Out Not Knowing

- God didn’t tell him until later that he was going to Canaan.
- There wasn’t a map given to Abraham.
- Abraham was not given information about the land he was going.
- There wasn’t a house waiting for him when he got there.
- There was probably deep frustration within his marriage and with his father about Abraham’s decision he was making at this point in his life.
- “He had to leave his culture, his familiar way of life in Ur and later in Haran, his friends, his family, and his earthly inheritance.”-Cole

Abraham Stood Alone

- We are told in scripture that God spoke to Abraham.
- We are not told if God spoke to any of Abraham’s relatives or his wife.
- “Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.””-Genesis 12:1
- God’s call often results in difficulties. It can often result in rejection and persecution and sometimes can be inconvenient and difficult.

Faith Means Total Surrender

- Abraham had to walk by faith into an uncertain future.
- The future is in God’s hands and sometimes what we see is an easier path to walk.
- The way of faith means that we put our total trust in God’s Word with complete surrender to what He has promised.
- Many changes will come to us and the world around us as we walk in the path of faith but what never changes is God and His Word.

Faith Trusts In God

- Abraham had to trust in God to supply all his needs along the way to Canaan.
- Faith is the opposite of walking by our own understanding.
- Faith is perpetual dependence upon the Lord. A moment-by-moment reliance of our trust in God and Him alone.
- A person can be a believer without ever trusting in the Lord.
- In Hebrew there is not a word for "faith" the closest word for faith that they have is "emunah" which is **active trust in the goodness of Lord which then expresses itself in loyalty to His will.**

Tests Of Faith

- Abraham was tested in faith as is every person who chooses to walk the path of faith.
- All believers will be sooner or later be brought to a crisis of faith which will exhaust every human resource available to him.
- It is this crisis that teaches us to truly trust upon the Lord.
- If we base our lives upon God's Word we will be able to stand in the midst of the test, but if we rely upon what we see or what we understand we will falter and move deeper into the abyss of darkness created by our own lack of trust.

Psalm One

"Blessed is the man who **walks not in the counsel** of the ungodly, **nor stands in the path** of sinners, **nor sits in** the seat of the scornful"

Walking, Standing, Sitting

- It starts by a person listening to the advice from an ungodly person which influences how a person thinks.
- How a person thinks influences behavior.
- How a person thinks and behaves becomes a part of their being.

Sit, Walk, and Stand in Christ

- "**Sit**" = Believers position in Christ--Eph 1:20,2:6 (sit in Christ, not with the mocker)
- "**Walk**" = Believers life in this world--Eph 4:17,5:1,5:15 (walk away from ungodly counsel in obedience to God's call)
- "**Stand**"= Believers attitude towards this world's systems (stand in the truth of the calling)

Abraham Had The Protection Of God's Promise

Like an astronaut who needs the protection of his space suit to guard him from the elements and give him clean air so that he can walk in space, the believer needs the word of God to guard his path while he walks in this world!



Many Disciples Leave Jesus

- "Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it? When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? *What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?* It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."--John 6:60-69

"...[We] must decide whether or not to leave behind the life that is gone forever. We can do that only if we believe in the ongoing creativity of God, who brings light and beauty to that dark chaos of our losses in life."

M. Craig Barnes, When God Interrupts: Finding New Life Through Unwanted Change

- “Into our lives will come opportunities to serve God. God is going to call us to obedience, each in different ways. There were two brothers who lived in England, the Taylor brothers. One of them said, “I will have my own life. I will rise to prominence in Parliament; I will make a name for myself.” and so he did. The other brother Hudson Taylor, was called of God to go to China. Hudson said, “I will lose myself, as far as the world is concerned, to obey.” When we read the account in the encyclopedia, the brother who went to Parliament is listed as the brother of Hudson.” -Fjordbak

Abraham Obeyed God

- Abraham acted in obedience to the call that God had placed upon his life.
- Abraham was not following his own dream of moving to Canaan but was answering God’s call upon his life.
- The call of God is primary to Abraham. Abraham’s response is obedience to what he heard.
- Faith must rest on God’s revelation in Scripture.
- Christianity is not a faith based on the religious speculations or philosophies of men but rather on God’s revelation recorded in Scripture.

Obedience Is The Response Of Faith

- “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began”.-2 Timothy 1:9
- “Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”-Romans 8:30
- “...as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...”-2 Peter 1:3
- “Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.”-Romans 1:5;16:26

Different kinds of Obedience

- Some people obey out of fear of not being good enough.
- Some people obey out of a sense of duty to the church.
- Some people obey out of pressure from the culture they live.
- Some people obey out of the need to please those in their church or family.
- None of these mentioned above are faith driven to obedience.

Obedience From Faith

- Biblical obedience or works are a product of a living faith in relationship with the Lord.
- There are three types of works in the the New Testament:
 - 1. Wicked works** - "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled"-Col. 1:21
 - 2. Dead works** - "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to a perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God," -Hebrews 6:1
 - 3. Good works** - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." -Eph. 2:10

- Living faith produces good works that are a direct result of the new nature born into the believer through faith in Jesus.
- Good works are prepared beforehand by God for the believer to walk in through a living faith.
- The only works that God prepared for the believer to walk in are "good works" all other works are dead and are forced as a result from the old nature not the Spirit of God.
- Dead works may appear to be good works and some people may even see and call them as good but God views them as dead because they did not come from a living faith in relationship with God.
- Romans 14:25, says "whatever is not from faith is sin."

God-Breathed Faith

- Living-Faith is a faith that God breathes life into the works that are prepared for the believer as Paul said in Colossians 2:12 "...faith in the working of God, who raised Jesus from the dead".
- "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." -James 2:26
- "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?" -James 2:21-22
- Abraham believed God and His word spoken to him which produced in Abraham God directed action of obedience to the will of God.

Abraham Chosen By Grace

- "You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram, and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, and gave him the name Abraham". -Nehemiah 9:7
- "Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac." -Joshua 24:3
- Abraham was called by God's grace and he was obedient to the voice that he heard from God.

Abraham Believed God

- "... just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."- Gal 3:6
- This must be the experience of all believers to "believe God" and not man and his traditions.
- Jesus said,[the Jewish leaders were] "making the word of God of no effect through your tradition...".
- The question is not "what you believe? But "whom do you believe?"
- Do we believe God?

Abraham Dwelt In Canaan

- When God called Abraham He didn't at first tell Abraham where he was going.
- "Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.""-Genesis 12:1
- "Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land."-Genesis 12:6
- Abraham dwelt in the land of Canaan as "*in a foreign country*".



Irish Giant



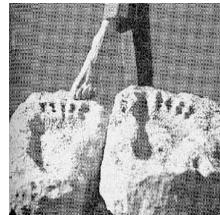
- It was 12 ft 2 in (3.71 m) tall, weighed 2 tons, and had 6 toes on its right foot.

Giant Human Femur



- Giant human femur reportedly found in Turkey)

Giant Human Footprints



- Giant human footprints compared to present day footprint from the Paluxy River Bed in Texas. Giant human footprints are also found in Arizona, New Mexico and California!!

The Grasshopper Complex

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:31-33)

Israel Refuses To Enter Canaan

So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." - Num. 14:1-4

Days Of Israel's Rebellion

- Israel refused to believe God and enter the Promised Land given to them by God
- The reason for their rebellion was simple they chose fear over trusting in God
- They had witnessed the works of God for forty years but when confronted with the giants in the land of Canaan they rebelled
- Instead of moving forward and receiving the promise of God Israel retreated in fear and wandered another thirty-eight years in defeat
- Israel was an eleven day journey to victory (Deut. 1:2)

Shedding The Grasshopper Complex

- Trust God for something only He can Do
- Plan to go forward with the promise of God refusing defeat
- Don't plan on failing plan on God coming through with His promise
- Depend on God not yourself
- Choose a particular difficulty in your life and let God conquer it
- Trust God and refuse to worry
- Let God be God and take the next step forward

Abraham's Faith

- Abraham's faith rested on the word of God and his thoughts were occupied with His relationship with God.
- Abraham was not focused on the Canaanites who were living around him because he trusted by faith in God Who could protect him.
- This was opposite of the Israelites who walked by sight and feared the Canaanites.
- "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**" -Colossians 3:1-2

The secret of Hudson Taylor

Hudson Taylor learned over many years of frustration and struggle to abide in Christ in all the things. To abide in Christ makes all things in this life more dim in the light of the incredible presence of God in Jesus!

Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret



They Dwelt In Tents

- Abraham along with Isaac and Jacob Dwelt in the land of Canaan in tents.
- Tents are highlighted to express that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in Canaan as temporary citizens.
- Isaac and Jacob were heirs of the promise.
- Even though it was a temporary situation for them they learned to abide in the promise that God had given to them.
- I am sure that Abraham like the Israelites after him could of complained that it was better living in Ur where it was comfortable.

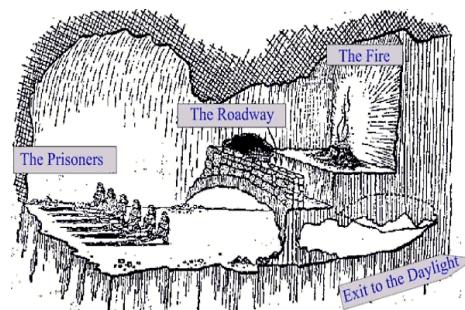
Abraham Waited For The City Of God

- “*ekdechomai*” is the word used for “waited” it literally means to “look for” or “expect” the event to happen.
- This is a word that conveys to us that Abraham was ready to take hold of the expected promise that God had given to him.
- This was the key to their ability to endure and wait in a temporary situation.

2 Peter 3:11-13

- “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Plato's Cave



Job 15:31

Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, For futility will be his reward.

Joshua

- Joshua name means: "The Lord is salvation"
- Hebrew version of Jesus' Greek name.
- God is the One in the book of Joshua Who brings the victory.
- **God kept His promise He made to Abraham**
- Gen 17:8: "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Hebrews 11:11-12

"By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and shed bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude— innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."

Sarah's Faith

- Sarah at first was a bad example of faith.
- We are told that Sarah upon hearing that she was going bear a child "laughed within herself" and then denied to the Lord that she had laughed.-**Genesis 18:12-15**
- It should be noted that Abraham "fell on his face and laughed". His laughter was accompanied with a deep act of reverence.-**Genesis 17:17**
- Abraham's laughter was gladness for Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."-**John 8:56**

Sarah Received Strength

- Sarah's faith grew strong over time and she in her old age was able to bear a child.
- Sarah like Abraham "was strengthened in faith" (Romans 4:20) and recognized that God had authority and is faithful to fulfill what He has promised.
- This is why the scriptures are "written for our learning" so that through them we may find "comfort" and have "hope". -**Romans 15:4**
- It is by the same faith our strength comes from our believing in Him Who proclaimed to Sarah the faith-inspired words, "Is anything too hard for the Lord? -**Genesis 18:14**

Sarah Conceived

- The word used for "conceived" is interesting in that it is the word "katabole" which literally means "**foundation**".
- It is the same word used in 1 Peter 1:20, "He indeed was foreordained before the **foundation** of the world".
- The Hebrew writer is pointing us to Jesus Who is the foundation and promised seed of our faith.
- "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ."-**Galatians 3:16**

Isaac Was Born

- The birth of Isaac introduced a new situation in the house of Abraham and Sarah.
- There wasn't any conflict in the house of Abraham until Isaac was born.
- "But he who was of the bondwoman (Hagar) was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman (Sarah) through promise,".... "But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now."-**Galatians 4:23,29**

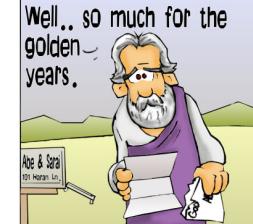
New Nature Verses Old Nature

- Paul says, "Even so it is now" meaning there is a conflict within the believer between the old nature and the new nature.
- A person has no conflict within their life but once they are born again the new nature has conflict with the old nature.
- "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."-**Romans 8:7**
- "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."-**Galatians 5:17**

Sarah Judged God Faithful

- The word for “judged” literally means “to have authority over”.
- Sarah realized that God is faithful and has the authority to bring that which He promised to pass.
- The promises that we have from God are some of the most important realities we have in the realm of faith.
- Faith comes down to the believer being fully convinced that God is faithful and able to keep His promises.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



and so at age 75, Abraham receives word from the boss that retirement will be delayed. [Genesis 12:1-4](#)

"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to **life** and **godliness**, through the **knowledge** of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and **PRECIOUS PROMISES**, that through these you may be **PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE**, having escaped the **corruption** that is in the world through **lust.**"
2 Peter 1:1-4

SOME PROMISES OF GOD AS APPLIED TO:

SECURITY

- John 6:37
"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."
- Jude 24
"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,"

- John 10:28
"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."
- 2 Tim 1:12
"....am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- 1 John 1:7-9
"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- Ps 103:12
"As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us."

- Mic 7:19
"You will cast all our sins
Into the depths of the sea."
- Isa 38:17
"For You have cast all my sins behind Your back."
- Isaiah 1:18
"Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the LORD,
Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool."

ETERNAL LIFE

- John 5:24
"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."
- GOD IS FAITHFUL
- Isaiah 41:10
"Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."
- Joshua 1:9
"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

HE WILL NEVER LEAVE NOR FORSAKE US

- Hebrews 13:5-6

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" So we may boldly say:
*"The LORD is my helper;
 I will not fear.
 What can man do to me?"*

PEACE OF MIND

- Philippians 4:6-7

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

GOD WILL GUIDE US

- Psalm 32:8-9

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *Which* have no understanding, *Which* must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you."

GOD IS OUR REST

- Matthew 11:28

"Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

GOD WILL COMPLETE THE WORK

- Phil 1:5-6

"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.."

Multitude Of Descendants

- The Jewish people are the biological descendants of Abraham and Sarah but also are the multitude of believers who acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- "Therefore it is of faith that it (the promise) might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all "-Romans 4:16

Abraham's Life Of Faith

- What did Abraham get in this life for his life of faith?
- He was uprooted from family and friends.
- He left a house in the city of Ur only to dwell in a tent in the dessert moving from place to place.
- He lived to see the son of the promise Isaac born.
- He lived 15 years into the life of Jacob but he never saw his grandsons or the multitude of descendants promised to him.
- When he died the only part of Canaan that he owned was a burial plot, a considerably smaller portion than what was promised to him.
- Abraham died not having received the promises because he was focused on the things above not upon the things of this world.

Hebrews 11:13-16

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.”

“And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

They All Died In Faith

- The only thing that these witnesses had to their name in the end is their faith.
- The promise of the Messiah was made to Abraham and Sarah, and they believed the promise. Yet they **died** having never received it only seeing it **in faith**.
- “The Lord has a sovereign right to do what He pleases with His own. As sinners, we have no right, and as believing sinners we have no reason, to complain; for all our concerns are in the hand and care of our best Friend, who has promised that all things shall work together for His glory and our final benefit.”-John Newton on his death bed

Psalm 90:1-2

- God is eternal
- God is man's refuge in all generations
- God is faithful from generation to generation because He is the God of the living not the dead
- Moses knew that God was the God of the living because God had told him, that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Mark 12:26-27

"26 But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses , in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken."

Life Is Vanity:

- VANITY IN STRIVING AFTER PLEASURE
- VANITY IN STRIVING AFTER WISDOM
- VANITY IN SUCCESS
- VANITY IN HARD WORK
- VANITY IN RELIGION
- VANITY IN CHILDREN
- WHAT IS HIS CONCLUSION?

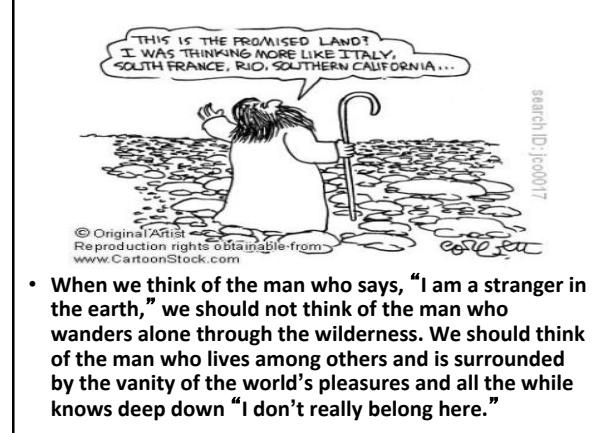
WHEN WE LIVE IN CHRIST WE HAVE THE VICTORY!

1 John 5:3-5

"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

A Stranger Here On Earth

- The Psalmist stated: “Open my eyes, that I may see.... [for] I am a stranger in the earth....”-**Psalm 119:18,19**
- We know that reality as we know it is not in this world.
- It begins in this world but we are just passing through as strangers and pilgrims.
- The Psalmist knows because he is a stranger in this world **that his eyes need to be opened so that he may see the true source of life.**



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- When we think of the man who says, “I am a stranger in the earth,” we should not think of the man who wanders alone through the wilderness. We should think of the man who lives among others and is surrounded by the vanity of the world’s pleasures and all the while knows deep down “I don’t really belong here.”

They Desired A Better Country

- Our citizenship is in a better country right now with our membership in heaven.
- “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—**who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”**-**Php. 3:18-20**

There Are Two Options

- We can focus on the good life here and now or on the promised joys of heaven.
- Unfortunately many that profess Christ as Savior live with their minds on the things on earth rather than setting their minds on the things above.
- Our focus is on what Christ can do for us here and now. Heaven is a nice extra but it does not govern how we live day to day.

Managing Our Behavior

- OUR CULTURE BELIEVES THAT WE CAN BE THE OBJECTS OF OUR OWN CREATION. WHEN WE FAIL AT MANAGING OUR BEHAVIOR WE FEEL FAILURE

- “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”-Col. 3:1-3
- The Patriarchs of our faith, “...truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better....”-Vs. 15

Long For The Promise

- Having seen God’s promises, the patriarchs embraced them with open arms.
- They persuaded their minds and lived by their convictions in the wake of unfulfilled promises but were encouraged by the faithfulness of God Who had promised a better country.
- They brought God’s promises into their lives as gladly as they welcomed guests into their tents.

2 Peter 3:11-13

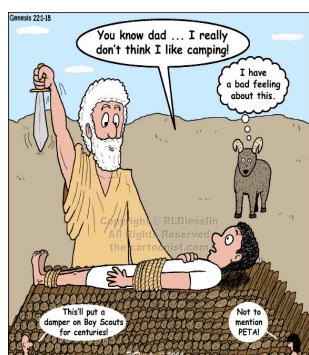
- “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

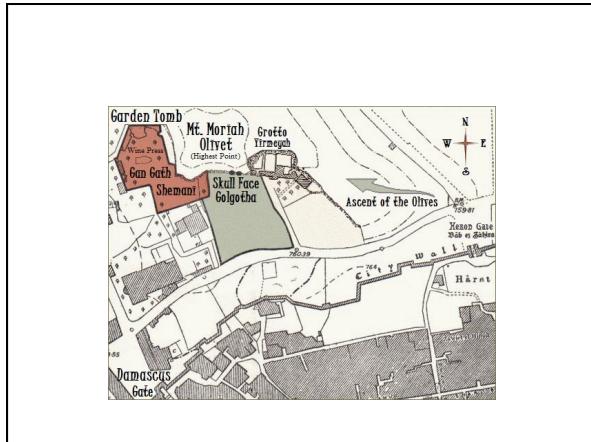
Hebrews 11:17

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,”

Abraham's offering of Isaac in Genesis 22

- “Only son” (v. 2 an intentional mistake by the Holy Spirit)
- Abraham told his servants that, “we will come back to you” v. 5
- Mount Moriah literally means “ the Lord will provide”
- “God will provide for Himself a lamb....” v. 8
- Wood was placed on Isaac to walk up the Mount.
- Mount Moriah is where the temple is and Jesus 2000 years later was crucified for our deliverance





The Test Of Faith

- God will test our faith but not beyond what we can bear.
- “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- Temptation comes from the same Greek word “tested” used in Hebrews 11:17 and James 1:13-15

God Placed The Tree In The Garden To Test Man's Obedience To Him

- Man's condition was innocent in a perfect environment.
- The test was perfect obedience.
- The failure was disobedience in believing God's Word.
- The judgment was spiritual and physical death.
- The way of salvation was the slaying of a lamb, or some animal

THE SAME IS TRUE FOR US TODAY

- The condition today is that man is to believe all have sinned.
- The test is to accept Christ as Savior
- The failure is unbelief resulting in rejecting Christ
- The judgment is spiritual death, the great tribulation, and eternal punishment
- The way of salvation is through Jesus' death on the cross, God's sacrificial Lamb, and is received by faith

- Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. **-James 1:12-15**
- God tests us and every testing is potentially a *temptation* if we yield to our lusts.
- Temptation does not come from God but from our sinful lusts.
- If we sin under testing we cannot blame God because He provides the way of escape for us in every testing.
- He knows how much we can handle.

- If we fail the test we shouldn't blame God for our sin but we should learn from it.
- So many get angry at God for their sinful behaviors when in reality they should be praising Him for His grace.
- "The foolishness of man ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord." **-Proverbs 19:3**
- God tests our faith to demonstrate man's short comings but never beyond what we can bear and provides a way out.
- The way out is to live in His grace.
- "For it is good that the heart be established by grace,"- **Hebrews 13:9**

Hebrews 11:18-19

"of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense."

The Only Time In History

- This is the one and only time in history that God has ever given such a command either before Abraham or after him.
- Abraham did not have the Bible as we know it today as the complete revelation from God but we must assume that Abraham was in direct communication with God through an audible voice that he clearly recognized.
- Today, God rarely if ever, speaks to us in an audible voice and never contradicts His written word.
- When a demented person says that a voice told him or her to kill someone, it is not God, but Satan, who is speaking!

Abraham Surrendered To God

- Abraham believed God could raise Isaac back from the dead.
- The way of faith means that we put our total trust in God's Word with complete surrender to what He has promised.
- Faith is the opposite of walking by our own understanding.
- Faith is perpetual dependence upon the Lord. A moment-by-moment reliance of our trust in God and Him alone.
- A person can be a believer without ever trusting in the Lord.
- In Hebrew there is not a word for "faith" the closest word for faith that they have is "emunah" which is active trust in the goodness of the Lord which then expresses itself in loyalty to His will.

Submission

- In the Christian journey there are so many things that are hard to comprehend and I am sure that Abraham was wrestling in his mind and emotions to the horrific command that was given to him by God.
- There are some difficult truths in Scripture that cannot be solved through logic or arguments.
- Many stumble in their faith because in their minds they cannot reconcile what they perceive to be contradictions in God's Word.
- There are some difficult truths in God's Word that require submission not debate or understanding if we want to grow in faith.

- "...Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." -**2 Peter 3:15-16**
- "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes" -Proverbs 3:5-7

Abraham Concluded

- The word used for “concluded” in the original language is “*logizomai*” which means “to take into account based on the the facts at hand”.
- Abraham did not take a blind leap of faith.
- Abraham calculated God’s attributes and accounted to His character.
- God is loving, just, and mighty.
- God never deceives us.
- God is faithful to keep His covenant promises.

Negative Thought Patterns

- "God is not going to come through this time"
- "Where is God when I really need Him"
- "God does not understand or care about my circumstances"
- "I've failed so many times I might as well give up"

- At times it does not feel like it but the promise is that he will accomplish what he started in us.
- We must persuade our minds to think this way.
- We must persuade are minds, that it is Christ in me, that is my hope and glory (Col.1:27) not my behaviors.
- We must persuade our minds in realizing that it is a journey and the promise is that some day, in the day of Christ, it will be over.

Think On These Things

- “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and †the God of peace will be with you.”- **Philippians-3:8-9**

Remind Ourselves About God

- We often need to remind ourselves about the truth of Who God is and what it means to us:
- Jesus died for our sins!
- Jesus was raised to life!
- Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us!
- God is Good!
- God is merciful!
- God is faithful!
- God will never, ever let us down!

Hebrews 11:20-22

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”

Isaac Blessed Jacob

- If you are like me you might ask the question: How did Isaac act in faith when he was deceived into blessing the wrong child?
- Originally Isaac was operating on his own carnal desires to box God into his own ideas and give Esau the blessing because he liked the wild game he brought home.
- After blessing Jacob Isaac acted in faith by not revoking the blessing but stated, “I have blessed him and indeed he shall be blessed”.
- God always intended for the “older to serve the younger.”(Genesis 25:23)

Jacob Was The Promised

- Isaac was acting in the faith that God would fulfill the prophetic aspects of the blessing in the future.
- In spite of all of our shortcomings and failures God's purpose will be fulfilled.
- At the end of the day we have to realize by faith that God is sovereign and will work everything out according to His plan.
- He used Rebekah's and Jacob's deception to fulfill His purpose.
- “for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls” -Romans 9:11

Jacob's Dying Blessing

- Jacob was dying in Egypt and had not received the promise yet at his death he still believed and passed that promise down.
- Jacob blessed or spoke of the future of all of his sons in Genesis 49
- Joseph's sons Ephriam and Manasseh are singled out because they were born of an Egyptian mother. Jacob says, "Ephriam and Manasseh will be mine." (Gen. 48:5)
- Even when all the events surrounding Jacob seem to contradict the promise made to his grandfather Abraham, Jacob still pronounces a blessing on his heirs.

Jacob Worshipped

- In the middle of bleak circumstances Jacob worshipped God.
- We see this truth over and over again in Scripture that the people of faith praise God in the midst of dire circumstances and trials.
- Jacob had no reason to worship but for the fact that he knew God and His reputation and fame for bringing His promises to completion.

Joseph's Dying Words

- Joseph with all his success in Egypt didn't count it worthy of the promise for the Israelites to dwell in the land of Canaan.
- He was disassociating himself from all of his success in Egypt and associating himself with God's people and God's promises. He didn't want a grand tomb in Egypt where future generations of Egyptians could pay homage to the man who had saved their country from ruin. Instead, he wanted his final resting place to be in the land of God's promise.
- He is an example for us today not to trust in the comforts of this world but to long for the place God has promised for us in heaven.

Joseph Looked To The Future

- Joseph had power and prestige yet, "made mention of the departure of the children of Israel."
- The Israelites at this time hadn't even been enslaved yet Joseph in faith foretold of a promised exodus from the land of Egypt.
- **The writer to the Hebrews brings this truth home that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob looked to the future.**
- Joseph looked away from the success he had in Egypt to hold to the promises of his fathers that would be fulfilled in the future, "...and gave instructions concerning his bones."

Hebrews 11:23-26

“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command. By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,

choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

The Faith Of Moses’ Parents

- The Pharaoh of Egypt stated: “Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we”.-**Exodus 1:8-9**
- “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”-**Exodus 1:22**
- Moses’ parents were driven by a faith that produced a powerful conviction that defied the orders of Pharaoh
- They looked at Moses and saw something exceptional that gave them the drive to put Moses in the river but trusted God to save him.

God’s Plans Cannot Be Stopped

- “The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.”-**Psalm 33:10-11**
- The Pharaoh had a plan but God used Moses’ parents to accomplish His purposes through their faith.
- It looks like recklessness but was obedient faith in the face of fear against the king’s command.

Moses Faith Caused Suffering

- Moses choice to live in faith was not an easy decision and caused him and others to suffer in four ways:
 1. Moses chose to suffer the pain of alienation and misunderstanding from his adoptive family.
 2. Moses chose to suffer the loss of the world's honors, pleasures, and wealth.
 3. Moses chose to suffer by being identified with a despised bunch of slaves.
 4. Moses chose to suffer the world's abuse.

Moses Was A Humble Man

- "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth."
—**Numbers 12:3**
- Moses refused royalty to be identified with God's people.
- Moses was raised with Kings for 40 years.
- Moses was broken down and wandering in the desert for 40 years.
- Moses was humbled to be made a great leader for 40 years.

Humility

- What humility is not: Self-abasement, self destruction, putting ourselves down
- What is humility?:
- John Stott: "Humility is honesty, acknowledging the truth about ourselves, that as creatures we depend on our Creator's power and as sinners on our Savior's grace."
- True humility comes from a direct encounter with the Living God!
- This meeting with God demonstrates to us our need for and dependence on Him.

Job 22:29

**"When you are cast down,
you will speak with
confidence
And the humble person He
will save."**

Boasting In The Cross

- Moses probably didn't know it at the time but this persecution he suffered put him in the company of Jesus who suffered to set men free.
- The boasting that comes from a humble man is a conscious choosing of dependence on God.
- "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." - **Galatians 6:14**

Moses Looked To An Eternal Reward

- Moses is a man of faith like Joseph who had it all but turned his back on the sinful pleasures of this world for the eternal reward waiting for him.
- Moses was looking for "...Him who is invisible." (v.27)
- The pleasures themselves were of a brief duration only for a season.
- Moses' faith allowed him to see God bigger than Pharaoh the most powerful person alive.

SEE GOD BIG!

"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" —Jer. 32:27



Whatever we may call an impossibility or a struggle place it in this question and see God big!

Do Not Love The World

- Social position
- Pursuit of wealth
- World's treasures
- Personal righteousness
- Pride
- "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." - **1 John 2:15-17**

People In The Church

- “J. C. Ryle lamented that there were so many worldly and ungodly persons in the church. They go through the rituals and they say that they believe, but in practice, they daily prefer the world to God. He asks why they live as they do. His answer is, *“They do not believe.... They have no faith.”* He explains further “In short they do not put implicit confidence in the words that God has written and spoken, and so do not act upon them. They do not thoroughly believe in hell, and so do not flee from it; nor heaven, and so do not seek it; nor the guilt of sin, and so do not turn from it; nor the holiness of God, and so do not fear Him; nor their need of Christ, and so do not trust in Him, nor love Him. They do not feel confidence in God, and so venture nothing for Him.”—J.C. Ryle, 19th century pastor (from Steven Cole commentary)

Hebrews 11:27-29

“By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.”

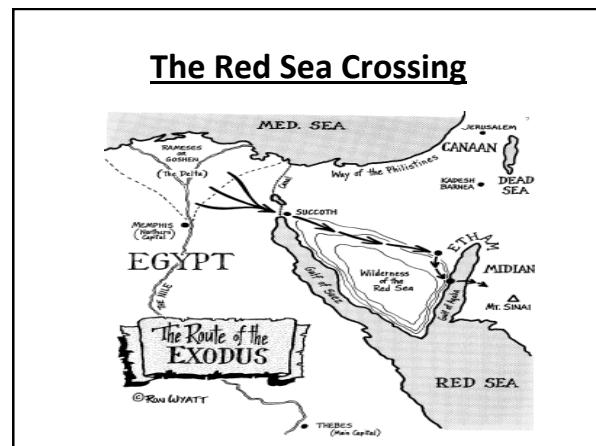
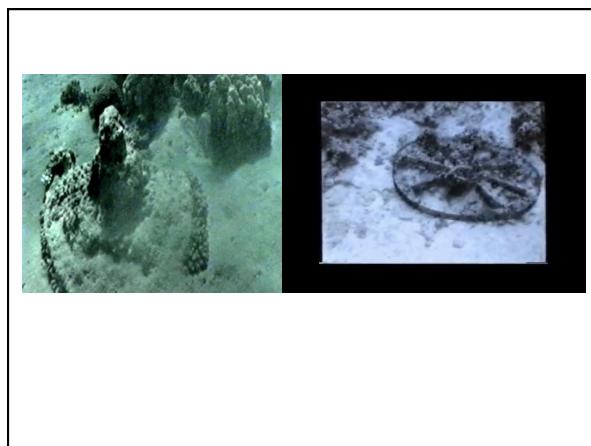
Moses Forsook Egypt

- Moses knew the power of the Pharaoh of Egypt but he did fear his wrath.
- He endured through faith seeing Him Who is invisible.
- This is the definition of faith, i.e. “...the conviction of things not see”.
- The word in the original language for “forsook” means to “leave behind and cease to care.”
- Moses put Egypt in his review mirror never to look back again but put his eye on the prize before him.

God Protected Israel

- When God judged the Egyptians for their bondage of the Israelites He judged them according to the false gods they worshipped in order to demonstrate His superiority over the false system of the Egyptians.
- “For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; **and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.**”—Exodus 12:12
- “Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; **for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them.**”—Exodus 18:11
- While God was judging the gods the Egyptians worshipped He was protecting the Israelites from all the plagues that were executed upon the land of Egypt.
- Moses knew the gods of the Egyptians but faith in God to protect him and his people.

The Plagues And The Gods Of Egypt		
Plagues	Reference	Egyptian God
Nile Turned To Blood	Exodus 7:14-25	Khnum, guardian of the Nile; Osiris, lifeblood is the Nile
Frogs	Exodus 8:1-15	Heqet, goddess of birth with a frog head
Lice	Exodus 8:16-19	Geb, god of the earth
Flies	Exodus 8:20-32	Uatchit, manifest himself as a fly
Death of livestock	Exodus 9:1-7	Hathor, goddess with a cow head
Boils	Exodus 9:8-12	Sekhmet, goddess with power over disease; Isis goddess of healing
Hail	Exodus 9:13-35	Nut, the sky goddess; Set god of storms
Locusts	Exodus 10:1-20	Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris god of crops
Darkness	Exodus 10:21-29	Re, the sun god; Horus the sun god
Death of first born	Exodus 11:1-12:30	Isis, goddess who protected children; Osiris, the giver of life; the Pharaoh's diety



Lessons For The Believer

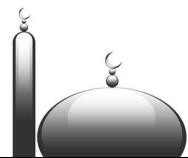
- We must go forward as the Israelites not looking at the difficulties ahead nor going back to what we had living off past victories.
- Walk each step by faith and look not at the things seen but look unto Him Who is invisible and Who is the deliverer.
- Place no confidence in the flesh as the Egyptians did by arrogantly following the Israelites into the Red Sea.

Hebrews 11:30-31

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”

Jericho

- Jericho: *Bet Yerah*--“**The house of the moon**”
- Jericho's inhabitants worshiped the moon god.
- Ancient Jericho was the Canaanite center for moon worship.
- Today Jericho is the capital of the Palestinian Liberation Authority.
- The crescent moon is on every mosque.



Conquering Jericho

- The Israelites were obedient to the Word of God therefore they marched as God had said to do and after seven days the walls came down.
- Human wisdom would probably come up with an alternate plan other than marching around the city like maybe starving the inhabitants of Jericho into submission.
- Faith does not overcome the world, flesh, and the devil through human devices.
- **“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,”** -2 Corinthians 10:4

The Faith Of Rahab

- Rahab must of heard because we know that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- The fact is she did hear which produced her faith: "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. And as soon as **we heard** these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."-**Joshua 2:10-11**

Hebrews 11:32

"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:"

The Time Of The Judges

- Israel is having difficulty rising above the cultures around them
- The Judges were leaders God raised up to deliver Israel from their evil practices
- In the Book of Judges God is able to accomplish His purposes through flawed individuals
- There was lack of leadership during the time of the Judges: "**In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes .**"- Judges 17:6

Flawed Men Of Faith

- **Gideon**: He destroyed idols and was used by God to destroy a much larger army of the Midianites (Judges 6-7) and yet he doubted God's Word and repeatedly ask for confirmation.
- **Barak**: He led the Israelites in victory over the Canaanites (Judges 4) yet refused to fight until Deborah encouraged him to go.
- **Samson**: He was used mightily of the Lord to defeat the Philistines. Yet he never lived up to his potential and had a tragic ending to his life after being enticed by Delilah (Judges 13-16).

- **Jephthah:** He was used by God to defeat the Ammonites but he made a rash vow to sacrifice his daughter and stubbornly kept it (Judges 11).
- **David:** The promised king of Israel was a remarkable man of faith. Yet he also failed with Bathsheba and with his own children.
- **Samuel:** He was used by God during a time of great unrest with the people of Israel. He is considered to be the last of the Judges and first of the Prophets. His children were extremely rebellious.
- Each one of these were men of faith yet had areas of failure in their life. This shows that weak faith is better than unbelief and you don't have to be perfect to make it into God's "Hall of Faith."

The Prophets

- In the Old Testament the great men are not the kings or the priests but the prophets because they were always calling the people to repentance and revealing God's will to man.
- When you compare all of history and its writings there is nothing that compares to the writings of the prophets of Israel.
- These were not perfect men and sometimes far from it but were chosen by God for a specific purpose by His grace.
- They were faithful men standing for God in stormy weather. The Hebrew believers would do well to remember their endurance and learn from it.

Hebrews 11:33-35

"who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection."

Unexplained Things Of Faith

- The next list of things that were accomplished by faith are miraculous and have no explanation outside of the power of God.
- The only two items in the list that seem normal are "worked righteousness" and "obtained promises".
- In order to "subdue kingdoms....stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again" would require the working of God's hand to accomplish.

Weakness Made Strong

- What God was able to accomplish though these men and women was brought about out of their weaknesses. (vs.34)
- The Apostle Paul confessed: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God".-**2 Corinthians 3:5**
- Paul also stated: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."-**2 Corinthians 4:7**

OUR BEHAVIORS MAKE US AWARE OF OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR!

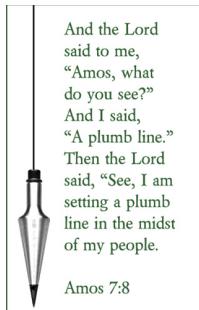
I NEED JESUS!

John 14:1

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God...."

Grace is God's Plumb Line

- We are all companions in God's grace.
- Grace is God's plum line for the believer.
- It does not matter who we are or what we have done **we are all saved by grace.**



Faith's Accomplishment

- Faith sees beyond this world into the next.
- Faith puts us in a position to trust God and His plan for our lives no matter the consequences.
- Faith brings meaning and context to this world and all its trials and tribulations.
- Faith is to hope in God's grace to heal us and take us home to heaven.
- Faith is confidence and assurance that we are not saved by our behaviors but His work upon the cross.

Hebrews 11:36-38

“Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”

Faith To Endure

- The Hebrew writer tells of some horrible events that happened in the lives of the previous people of faith.
- The Hebrew writer is hoping to convey to the early Hebrew believers of the faith that if these people can endure terrible circumstances and persecutions for their faith surely they can endure having now been fully enlightened through the coming of Jesus.
- In our lives whether delivered from dire circumstances or not delivered we should be willing to remain true to Jesus.
- The people of faith who endured unto death the world is not worthy!

What Do People Want In Life

- Having love in their lives
- Being healthy
- Having high paying jobs
- Looking better
- Losing weight and toning their bodies
- Learning new things
- Living longer with their families
- Being safe from perceived and real hurt, harm, and danger
- Being comfortable
- Having more pleasure to satisfy their appetite and desires

Thompkins, Life lesson: Top Ten Things That Most People Want

“A span of life is nothing, but the man who lives that span, he is something. He can fill that tiny span with meaning, so its quality is immeasurable though its quantity may be insignificant.”— Chaim Potok quote in, The Chosen

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus says the LORD:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited."

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

John 15:4-5

"Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."

TEV

Fruit Has A Season

- The fruit comes naturally from the tree, because it is planted by the waters. **Fruit has a season** and we must be patient as we wait for the fruit to be ready for the harvest in our lives.
- The life of the believer is one of dependence upon the unfailing sources of supply from the Word of God like a tree drawing its life from the rivers of water.
- This dependence upon God leads to a fruitful life which He desires to accomplish within the believer's life.

Hebrews 11:39-40

“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.”

Eternal Rewards

- The Hebrew writer’s point is that if the Old Testament saints were faithful through all of these trials, even though they didn’t receive the promise of Christ in the flesh, how much more should we be faithful since we have Christ!
- As Martin Luther put it (“A Mighty Fortress”), “Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.”
- The saints of old could not be made complete until the work of Jesus. They looked forward to Jesus and to His work, we look at it from behind and enjoy the fruit of His work.