

HEBREWS 11b THE HALL OF FAITH

We've been looking at the members of the Hall of Faith and we ended last time with Abraham. Let's pick up the account in Verse 8...

ABRAHAM

8 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.

AFTER A 450 MILE WALK

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents (**Nomads**) with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

SARAH

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, (**90**) because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

- Hey CCSV, was Sarah's faith perfect? What were her faults that we KNOW about?
 - Doubt, fear, laughing at God's promise, Suggesting short cuts, BUT...
 - Here she is in the Hall of Faith. WHY? Her **FAITH!**

MORE ABOUT ABRAHAM

12 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. **HOW MANY SONS OF ABRAHAM HAVE BEEN BORN?**

ABEL, ENOCH, NOAH, ABRAHAM & SARAH

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, (**Salvation through Jesus**) but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- By FAITH, they all confessed that their home was in heaven, NOT in this world...
 - We sang as children that "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through." I hope we all feel this way too...

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 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.

- Think of it... Abraham and Sarah had some REALLY tough years... Besides being barren for 90% of her life, Sarah was kidnapped, **WITH HER HUSBAND'S CONSENT...** She was made to call Abraham her brother... AND... She NEVER had a house to live in!
 - Poor Abraham was afraid that everywhere they went, the local Kings would see his beautiful wife and have him murdered to get her in their harem.
 - Abraham thought that his inheritance would go to his servants...
 - He was 100 years old and was waiting for Sarah to conceive... AND **THEY NEVER... ASKED TO JUST GO BACK HOME!** Not once!

THEN IT GETS HARDER

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED," 19 concluding that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- This account is in Genesis 22 and it bears reading...

Genesis 22:1 Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 Then He said, "Take now your son, **your only son Isaac**, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, **and we will come back to you.**"

6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

HEY POPS, AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?

7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?"

8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

- **Two Thousand years later, on THAT mountain, God DID provide the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!**

So the two of them went together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; **Jehovahjireh** as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

- Such amazing faith by this man that God called "His Friend." How MUCH trust the Lord had in Abraham, right?
 - I think though, that Isaac never went camping again with his Dad after that.

ISAAC GENESIS 27

20 By faith Isaac (**Was alive to**) blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

- Isaac was in tune with the Lord to be able to prophesy over his two sons that future of Israel was going to come through them...
 - Both positively AND negatively...

JACOB GENESIS 48,49

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff. (**Crutches**)

- Jacob's life was a long, peril-filled story of deceit, danger, deception, duplicity, disloyalty, AND dishonesty! At the end of his life, **he is NOT home**, but is dying in a foreign land that he knows will soon turn on his family and try to destroy them...
 - BUT... By faith, he listens to the Lord and delivers tough-love and accurate prophecies to his 12 boys and 2 Grandkids.
- And even when his favorite son, Joseph, tries to intervene and correct his old Dad, Jacob has to say, "Listen to me as I listen to the Lord..."
 - How did Jacob hear the Lord? **BY FAITH!**

JOSEPH GENESIS 37-47

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

- The life of Joseph is a miraculous story of hero to zero, rags to riches,

suspense story with almost unbelievable turns and twists... He is the obvious favorite son – which makes his vengeful brothers jealous. So, at around 17 years of age they human traffic him out of their lives and sell him into slavery in a foreign country, Egypt.

- Joseph arrives in a land not knowing the language or customs, but God blesses him and he rises to an important position working in the house of an important man... Whose wife is attracted to this handsome young Joseph. But Joseph refuses to sin with her so she sets him up and falsely accuses him.
 - He is imprisoned... where God uses him again. He begins to interpret dreams and years later is called before Pharaoh to interpret another dream.
- He gets promoted to vice-Pharaoh... Saves Egypt... Saves his own family... And is reunited with his 11 brothers... His tests of them are hilarious... He moves them all to Egypt and sets them all up, but... they will live there for 400 years.
- THINK OF IT... When Joseph dies the COI are STILL in Egypt. Joseph makes the family that God used him to save, PROMISE that they will get out of Egypt and take his bones with them when they leave.

MOSES

23 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. 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the **reproach of Christ** greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he **endured as seeing Him who is invisible.**

- **Smith** – This was NOT blind faith... The people of faith sees much more than those who doubt the Lord!
 - **Moses was SO humble**... He was so close to his Lord, that he heard His voice as if it were audible... THAT... is impressive, right?

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he

who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

- **GUZIK** - It took faith to believe that the blood of a lamb on the doorpost would save a household from the terror of the angel of death. But Moses had that faith and led the nation in observing the Passover.
- BTW, If you put blood over the door and on either side, like they were instructed, you have blood in the shape of the cross...

CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting *to do so*, were drowned.

- **COURSON** - Not only did Moses keep the ordinance of Passover, but he kept the ordinance of baptism. You see, according to 1 Cor. 10:2, the parting of the Red Sea was a picture of baptism. The same waters that parted for the Israelites buried the Egyptians. So, too, by entering the waters of baptism, we say, "Bury the Egypt in me, Lord. Drown out the old, the flesh, the world. I'm headed for a new land and a new way of living."

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. **JOSHUA 6**

DURING THAT SEIGE OF JERICHO JOSHUA 2

31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

- The Commentator, John Gill, defends Rahab's reputation by suggesting that the word used to describe her is a word also used for a restaurateur... He suggests that the spies stopped in for a bite to eat. The fact that she married a Prince of the tribe of Judah, Salmon, also suggests that she was a righteous woman. WE WILL HAVE TO ASK HER SOME DAY.

THE JUDGES

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of

Gideon

(To whom the angel said, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!" - JUDGES 6)

and **Barak**

(Who agreed to fight for the Lord **ONLY** if a certain woman would fight along side of him. Her name?) JUDGES 4

and **Samson**

(GILL - who was a child of promise, and devoted to the Lord; he was famous for his great strength; he had his infirmities, but was, without doubt, a good man: the last act of his life seems to be a great instance of faith; he did it with calling upon the Lord;)

and **Jephthah,**

(Who was known as a great warrior, but a horrible vow maker!) JUDGES 11

KING DAVID AND THE PROPHETS

also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 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.

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

36 Still others had trial of mocking's, and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, **(to death)** they were sawn in two, **(Probably Isaiah)** were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

Interesting.... That in this forever memorialized **Hall of Faith** are men and women who were victorious over the enemies of the Lord... As well as men and women who suffered greatly at the hands of the enemies of the Lord.

- We WANT to say, "That is not fair!" But don't do it...
- Which takes greater faith? Victory, or suffering?
- Courson says sometimes we get victory **OVER** our circumstances...
Sometimes we receive victory **IN** our circumstances...
 - God gets the victory in us **IF** we remain faithful to Him in either case.

THESE SUFFERING SAINTS...

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth.*

- They weren't cave men... They were hiding in caves!

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

- The promise of what? The promises of their Messiah... 351 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled when the Little Town of Bethlehem welcomed the Baby Jesus on that first Christmas morning!
- www.newtestamentchristians.com/bible-study-resources/351-old-testament-prophecies-fulfilled-in-jesus-christ/

40 God having provided something better for us, **JESUS!** that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

COURSON - The heroes of faith who preceded us didn't experience the perfection or the maturity we enjoy in the New Covenant. How do you receive this New Covenant? By faith, saying, "Lord, I, too, am looking for a better country. And by faith, I'll see greater things than even these heroes and heroines did because, although they saw awesome events externally, I've experienced Your miraculous grace internally, the promise of Your kingdom ultimately, and the promise of Your presence eternally."