

Hebrews 11:21-40

Topic: This is one of the most neglected books of the bible. We don't know who the author is, but we do know it was written for the instruction of the temple before 70 A.D. **The book of Hebrews tells the whole life of Jesus Christ.** It is to the Jews what the book of Romans is to the Gentiles. Hebrews tells of sacrifices and rituals and exalts the sovereignty of Christ. It tells of Christ's relation to Moses and Abraham and all their people. This is why the Book of Hebrews is so great. The message of Hebrews is this: go on to spiritual maturity. Don't sit back on your laurels; get up and do something for the Lord, spread the word, help someone who doesn't ask but you see the need. Jesus Christ is our mediator to God. If you read only one book of the entire bible, this should be the one.

Chapter 10 is the Warning Chapter, and it is devoted to warning God's people to not go back to their old ways, nor add or take away anything from the New Testament, the New Laws after the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God will take the life of a mature Christian, the sin of death, who tries to change the ways.

Chapter 11 is the Faith Chapter, and it is full of encouragement, a register of the heroes of the Old Testament. This chapter shows us how to succeed and grow and gain the victory of our faith. The heroes are examples to us, how to battle and have victory at the end of our lives. There is no victory without a battle. Verses 1 & 3 give the definition of faith. Verse 4-32 give examples of faith. Verse 33-38 gives us the price of victory. Verse 39-40 is the reward through victorious faith.

God's Heroes Hall of Fame

Today's lesson is about great people of faith who overcame problems in their life and are now examples to us of VICTORY. They were people just like us, imperfect with everyday problems, doing the best they could, day by day. Even though we're not perfect, God can use us to his glory.

Heb 11:20-22: this is going in chronological order. First by faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. Then by faith Jacob, on his deathbed, blessed both sons of Joseph. By faith Joseph, on his deathbed, revealed that someday the Jews would leave Israel, and they were to take his bones with them. Take his body out of there with them. And they did when the time came.

Vs23: Moses was a beautiful and unique child. There was something special about him, and his parents knew it. They knew even though he was first born, he would not be killed.

Vs24: By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, thereby giving up the Pharaohship of Egypt.

Vs25: Moses, when he got of a certain age, found out he was a Hebrew, not Egyptian, and he chose the outcast life of a Hebrew rather than the rich and privileged life of a pharaoh.

Vs26: Moses looked way beyond in time and history and kept his eye upon the return of Christ when Moses would get great rewards.



Vs27: By faith Moses turned his back on Egypt, not fearing the king, but followed the invisible one: Jesus Christ.

Vs28: Through faith Moses kept the Passover as God ordered him to, and he sprinkled blood and saved the firstborn. They were spared the wrath of God by the sprinkling of blood.

Vs29: By faith Moses lead the Hebrews through the Red Sea as by dry land and the Egyptians believed the Hebrews had drowned.

Vs30: By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after marching around the city for seven days. Moses just obeyed without knowing what was going to happen. He just believed God blindly and obeyed without question. Do or die, as they say in the military.

Vs31: By faith the harlot Rahab did not die with the others in Jericho. She hid the spies lest the soldiers kill them. So she sheltered Christ's army in return for being spared when they killed all the inhabitants of Jericho. Now she's part of the ancestry. Judas never denied Christ. He told the guards he's going to run up and kiss Christ and show them which one He is.

Vs32: Look, there are so many other people I could tell you about, but I don't have time. But here's a couple: there was Gedeon, and Barak –defeated the Canaanite army but his weakness was a woman named Deborah who was a prophetess, who showed Barak where to go and she gave him courage to do it. God uses women just like men. Then there was Samson. If there ever was a failure in history, it was Samson. He just played around with God's program. But he did one thing in the end, when they had him blinded and tied to the table in the pagan temple, he believed in God and asked to be able to strike one more time, and he did. There was Jephthae, and he said the first thing that comes out of his house would be a sacrifice if he survived and won the war, and he did. So his daughter came dancing out to greet dad upon his return, and she had to be the sacrifice to God because Jephthae promised. What he really did, we don't really know, but be careful of the vows you make. You must keep them. There was David, Samuel, and many more. All their stories of weakness and triumph are in the Old Testament. God can use anyone to do his will. All we have to do is listen and obey. Mary was just a simple peasant girl, and Joseph wasn't much more. And look how God used them!

Vs33: Stopped the mouths of lions: that would be Daniel

Vs34: the armies of aliens are the army of Israel.

Vs35: There are stories of people being raised from the dead and of being tortured, and all were persecuted in some way or another. There was infighting in their families among other problems.

Vs36: they'd put you in a cage and drag you through the city to be mocked and abused.

Vs37: they'd throw rocks at you till you died, and they still do that today. They would put you in a hollow log and saw you in half. The world does not like what Jesus Christ has to say. It never has. God lets this happen. He could've stopped it all. But his is all God's will. Our physical death is not the end of they whole plan for us. It will happen if it's God's will. If something will interfere with God's plan, it's not going to happen. Nothing will change or interfere with God's program. It will be fulfilled no matter what man does. Iran can build 100 nuclear weapons, but with the sovereignty of God, it doesn't matter. God's program will be fulfilled, so don't worry about it.

Vs38: God's people were destitute, had no belongings or clothes. They had to live in the wild and live off the land and wear animal skins for clothes.

Vs39: God's people have still not received their reward.

Vs40: Although they went through all these things, they have still not received their rewards because they are waiting on us.

