Hall of Faith

[Faith of Jacob (Heb. 11:21)]

I. The Occasion of Jacob’s Faith

v. 21a: *“By faith Jacob, as he was dying…”*

-Not a moment, but a period of time (Gen. 47:29; 48:1; 49:1, 33)

II. The Operation of Jacob’s Faith

-The Blessing of Joseph’s Sons

v. 21b: *“By faith Jacob…blessed each of the sons of Joseph…”* (Gen. 48:1-22; 1 Chron. 5:1)

-Jacob’s prophetic blessing was a divine revelation; the Abrahamic promises were incorporated into

it (vs. 4, 15, 16, 19); Jacob recognized all the temporal and spiritual mercies and blessings he had

enjoyed because of the Abrahamic Covenant (vs. 15, 16); adopted Joseph’s sons; recognized the

supremacy of God’s will over human will and tradition (vs. 14, 19).

-The Bowing after Joseph’s Oath

v. 21c: *“By faith Jacob…worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.”*(Gen. 47:29-31)

-worshiping or leaning?

-bed or staff?

-Jacob wished to be buried in Canaan (Gen. 23; 50:13) to show himself to be in union with Abraham

and Isaac in the covenant; to express his faith in the promises of God regarding Canaan; to

discourage his descendants from remaining in Egypt.

→Those who don’t lay hold of the promised blessings in faith cannot be the true descendants of those

who did (Gal. 3:7; Heb. 6:12).

-2-

Practical Lessons

1) Take care to set your house in order as death approaches.

2) Live and act in ways that demonstrate faith in the promises of God.

3) One neither lives well nor dies well apart from union with Christ by faith.