

The Superior Covenant

Examples Of Enduring Faith (Heb. 11:1-40)

Introduction

The author has just illustrated the importance of those who live under the superior 2nd covenant needing to abide in faith so as to not suffer the consequences of apostasy (10:26-31). When trying to persuade others toward a certain goal or understanding, it is always helpful if one can present examples of the very truths he espouses. This the author does in what may be the most recognized chapter in the entire epistle...Hebrews 11.

Many have come to call this chapter "*Faith's Hall Of Fame.*" As we walk through this "hall," we can view some of the great Biblical legends who exhibited the kind of faith God wants to see in His people. Being "enshrined in this hall" doesn't suggest they were perfect. It does, however, testify to the depth of their faith and how God was well pleased with their convictions. As we leave this "hall," this same kind of faith should be instilled in each of us today – an obedient faith.

Faith Explained (Heb. 11:1-2)

1. Be able to define "assurance" [NASV] or "substance" [NKJV] as well as "conviction" [NASV] or "evidence" [NKJV]. (v. 1) Relate this "substance" to hope, and this "evidence" to the things not seen. Is this "definition of faith" only academic, or is it active, real? How does the author prove its realness? (v. 2)

Faith Emphasized (Heb. 11:6)

2. Just how important is faith? (v. 6) What must one initially believe? What must one also never doubt? Thought question: what is involved in "seeking" God? (Supply other N.T. verses that offer help in understanding this concept).

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Faith Exhibited (*Heb. 11:3-5, 7-38*)

3. In the spaces provided below, comment on the characteristics of faith that are listed with each Biblical character or event. Supply other passages of Scripture to support your answer(s).

a) Creation (v. 3) _____

b) Abel (v. 4) _____

c) Enoch (v. 5) _____

d) Noah (v. 7) _____

e) Abraham (vv. 8-10, 17-19) _____

f) Sarah (vv. 11-12) _____

g) Servants mentioned so far (vv. 13-16) _____

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h) Isaac (v. 20) _____

i) Jacob (v. 21) _____

j) Joseph (v. 22) _____

k) Moses (vv. 23-28) _____

l) Israelites at the Red Sea (v. 29) _____

m) Israelites at Jericho (v. 30) _____

n) Rahab (v. 31) _____

o) Other named servants (vv. 32-34) _____

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p) Other anonymous servants (vv. 35-38) _____

Faith Encouraged (*Heb. 11:39-40*)

4. Despite the "faithfulness" of these ancient servants, of what truth about them does the author remind us? (v. 39) Why did their "journey of faith" work out the way it did? (v. 40) Thought question: how do you suppose these concluding words would hopefully exhort the author's readers (and us, too)?