

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD

10 April 2022

Chapter 11:23-40

Verse of the Day:

He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11:26)

Review: Who, What, When, Where, & Why?

What's Going On Here

Hebrews 11 is one of the more exciting chapters in the Bible. The heroes of Scripture are gathered here in the “Hall of Faith.” We are introduced to the “greats” of the Old Testament, who remind us to remain strong in faith in Jesus Christ. But, lest we begin to think that only the “greats” of history are included in this hall, we



are also introduced to those who remain anonymous. They are included because they endured all things through their trust in God, who had called them into the faith. ...

Faith is the chief characteristic of the people of God. They live on the promises of God and apply them to their lives in order to know stability and grow to maturity. Heroes don't arrive on the scene full-grown either. They grow up and mature as they exercise their faith. All of their lives are based on their belief in the existence of God, the attributes of God, and His unfailing promises. You can count on this. You, too, are that special person whom God is preparing to enter into that great hall of heaven, where He gathers all those who have believed in Him and have rested on the hope He gives. ¹

²³ **By faith** Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ **By faith** Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

v23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, & 31: “By faith” → could also be translated “by means of faith” or “with faith” – c.f. v33

v23: c.f. Exodus 2:1–4

v24-27: c.f. Exodus 2:11–15

v26: c.f. Mark 10:28–31: What is the greater wealth & reward promised by Christ in this life? And in the next life?

¹ Kramin, Howard (1997). *God's Word for Today: Hebrews* (p. 82-83). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only.

²⁷ **By faith** he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ **By faith** he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹ **By faith** the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ **By faith** the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ **By faith** Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who **through faith** conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

v28: c.f. Exodus 12:21–23 & 29-32

v29: c.f. Exodus 14:21–31

v30-31: c.f. Joshua 2:8–13 & 6:20–25

v33-37: What stories can you identify out of these examples?

v37: sawn in two – reference to the form of execution assigned, by tradition, to Isaiah

v39-40: Taken together, the author intends these verses for our comfort, how is this similar to Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18?