

I. Review

- A. In the final chapters of the book of Hebrews, the writer turns to the subject and examples of faith. Faith is the response and posture of the heart required by God that both qualifies us, and sustains us, in our relationship with God through the new covenant. (Heb. 11-13)
- B. The unique thing about the context of the enduring faith that the writer is exhorting the readers to have and maintain is faith in the coming promise of salvation. Biblically, this is the return of Jesus and the bringing of restoration and righteousness that results from His earthly rule. This is the only context for the exhortation for the readers to have enduring hope in the coming promise. (Heb. 10:22-25, 32-36)

II. Verse by Verse (Heb. 11:6 -13)

- A. Without faith it is impossible to please Him - We must be aware that this statement in its context is not simply faith or belief in the promises of God in general. The following list of the faithful, who we are to look to as our example, are listed because they looked for the city of God to be restored to the earth and lived as pilgrims and sojourners. They rested their hope fully on the coming of the Messiah in His fullness and their rewards in that age. (Heb. 11:13-16, 22, 25, 29-30, 35, 39)
 - 1. This one foundational hope drove their actions, paradigms, and priorities. They looked to this one promise, and through faith in it received great circumstantial victory and endured great suffering. All died in confidence of sharing in the promise of the age to come.
 - 2. Adam and Eve received a promise that they would bring forth a seed that would crush the head of the serpent, thus freeing them from the curse of sin and death. Also, the intimacy of dwelling with God in His city, for which they were created, would be restored. They cried out to the Lord to bring the seed about and handed down the great hope to all their children. (Gen. 2:8-9; Rev. 21:2-3,12,22:2,14; Gen. 3:15, 3:24, 4:1, 4:25-26)
- B. By faith Noah - Noah's grandfather, Methuselah, lived with Adam for over 300 years, and Noah's father, Lamech, lived with Adam for 100 years. What do you suppose Adam talked about? What do you suppose the history classes looked like for the children in those days? What of faith and hope? (Gen. 6:17-18)

1. The only context for the covenant that God was going to establish with Noah was the covenant He made with Adam and Eve. The faith that the writer of Hebrews was talking about was Noah believing that God would restore the earth through him or his children. This being the case, Noah had confidence that he would be saved through the flood waters of destruction, so in faith he built the ark and entered it. This action of believing God by faith caused Noah to be righteous in God's sight. (Heb. 11:7; 2 Pet. 2:5)
- C. By faith Abraham - Further context for the correct interpretation of the covenant that God made with Adam and Noah is the covenant to Abraham and how Abraham interpreted it. Abraham interpreted the promise of God to him as the promise that he and his children would live forever in the restored city of God on the earth. The only biblical context for the theme of “blessing” was the “blessing” of the pre-fall, pre-curse creation. The bible is clear that Abraham’s understanding of the “blessing” was the restoration of the blessed conditions of existence with God in His dwelling place. (Gen. 1:28, 5:2; 12:2-3)
1. The book of Jasher is referenced in the bible as a trustworthy historical document in Joshua 10:13, 2 Samuel. 1:18 and 2 Timothy. 3:8. The book of Jasher tells us that Abraham lived with Noah and learned about the interactions and promises of God from Noah and his son, Shem.

6 Abram was in Noah's house thirty-nine years, and Abram knew Yehovah from three years old, and he went in the ways of Yehovah until the day of his death, as Noah and his son Shem had taught him; - (Jasher 9:6)

- D. By faith Sarah - Sarah also interpreted the promise of the covenant that God made with Abraham as the promise to restore creation, the city of God, and destroy sin and death. Because she believed in the promise as her foundation, she also believed that the child would come forth from her womb even in her old age.
- E. These all died in faith not obtaining the promise - Notice it tells us that all of Abraham's descendants believed in the promise of restoration and lived their lives with a hope of the age to come, but never inherited the promise. Up to this point, it is abundantly clear that the writer is not talking about faith or belief in God in general; they are specifically speaking of the promise of God to restore the earth by sending the messiah. The endurance of faith and hope the Hebrews need is the belief in the restoration of all things, which is the same hope that has sustained

and grounded all the heroes of our faith, through the hills and valleys of this age.
(1 Thes. 5:8; 1 Pet. 1:3-13)