

## I. Review

- A. The writer is stirring up the reader to contend for enduring faith in, and hope for, the promise of God as to the restoration of all things. It is this faith that will cause them to live without fear and give them the ability to press through the trouble and persecution of this age they are facing.
  - 1. The embracing of the suffering of this age is inextricably linked to the receiving of inheritance and reward in the age to come.
- B. The author is placing before the reader the faithful, who endured all the various pulls of this age and pressed in faith to set their eyes and hearts on the promised age to come which the faithful will inherit. They all looked for the promise of restoration of the earth and heaven and the elimination of the curse which would be brought about through the promised one. Adam - Abel - Enoch - Noah - Abraham - Sarah - Isaac - Jacob - Joseph
- C. They declare and seek a homeland, They desire better , Therefore God is not ashamed to be their God, He has prepared a city for them. (Heb. 11:16)

## II. Verse-By-Verse

- A. Moses - Moses is possibly the most well known figure in the Old Testament. We all have seen movies portraying his leadership in the exodus from Egypt. Although entertaining, these movies all paint a very unbiblical picture of his childhood and transition from Egyptian prince to Hebrew deliverer, and fiction becomes truth in our minds. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Moses was very much in touch with his ethnicity and, along with his parents, believed he was the promised seed who would restore all things.
  - 1. Beautiful Child - The original Greek literally means, “fair; like a city”, and it's used as a contrasting word to the plain or ordinary. The NIV translates it as, “no ordinary child”. In the context of this chapter, the faithful were awaiting the seed who would restore the city of God to earth again and destroy the curse of sin and death. The writer is saying that Moses' parents believed Moses was the promised child, so they were not afraid of the King's command. This is consistent with Jewish historians such as Josephus who concur with the writer of Hebrews.

2. By Faith Moses forsook Egypt - Not only did Moses' parents believe he was the promised seed, but Moses himself clearly believed he was the seed who would restore all things. He forsook Egypt because he was looking unto the promise. (Acts 7:1-3, 17-25)
  3. Moses was so sure that they were going out of Egypt to the promised land, and there the restoration would take place, that he ordered Joseph's bones be brought with them so that Joseph would be resurrected to his inheritance. (Gen. 50:24-25; Heb. 11:8-10; Ex 13:19)
- B. By Faith Jericho Fell - Joshua had far more in mind than clearing out the land of Canaan. At the very beginning of the testimony of his leadership, he charged the people to believe and fight with him for the promise of restoration that was made to their forefathers. (Josh 1:13-15)
- C. By Faith Rahab - The spies who stayed with Rahab told her of the promise of God to bring forth the seed of a woman who would destroy the curse and restore all that was lost. They were looking for the city of God just as Abraham was and Rahab believed that God was going to give it to them along with the city she lived in. (Josh 2:1; Mat. 1:5),
- D. By Faith Many Obtained Miracles of Victory and Breakthrough (Heb. 11:33-35a)- We take great encouragement when we read of these miraculous events; they cause us to continue to intercede and believe for victory and breakthrough in our own lives. What we often miss when we read this particular portion of Hebrews 11 is the context. The promise they had faith in, and lived from, was the promise of the restoration of all things. In this light, we understand that the foundation or source of their faith for temporary breakthrough came from the foundation of the eternal. Then, with the temporary breakthrough came, it only pointed to and shored up their faith in the eternal promise.
- E. By Faith Many Endured Great Suffering, Torture, and Martyrdom (Heb. 11:35b-38) - The same foundational and eternal hope and promise that positioned individuals to receive circumstantial miracles that increased their comforts, was the exact same promise and faith that positioned them to endure seasons and even lifestyles of intense pain, torment, and death.
- F. All of these obtained a good testimony through faith - The author refers back to the statement he made at the start of this progression on faith. These heroes we are to look to have a good testimony before the Lord. (Heb. 11:2)

1. They believed in the promise of restoration and ultimate salvation and lived their entire lives from this foundational place. In order to obtain a good testimony of faith concerning receiving the promise of salvation, it must weather both the circumstantial blessings and miracles that can cause us to settle for less than the fullness of salvation, and the trials and tribulations that can cause us to be offended. Both of these dynamics of our life with God test and purify our faith, and when responded to wrongly, will cause our faith to diminish; when responded to rightly, will cause our faith to flourish. (Lk. 8:13-15)
  
- G. All of these did not obtain the promise - Hebrews 11 has been championed as the pinnacle chapter in the Bible concerning faith by thousands of bible teachers and scholars, and rightly so. However, the part most faith teachers leave out is that all of these heroes never obtained the promise in this age. In fact, they still wait for it.
  
- H. God provided something better for us - The “something better” that we have that these heroes of our faith did not have was the knowledge of the Son of God in the person of Jesus and His substitutionary death and resurrection. We have so much greater evidence and consolation to have faith in the coming salvation that all our heroes believed for.
  
- I. That they should not be made perfect apart from us - The original word translated “perfect” carries a very strong implication of completeness. There is a maturity or completeness of your faith that will be forged unto perfection in this age. (1 Pet. 1:3-13)