

**Introduction**

1. By faith...
2. What did it do for them?

**Verses 17-19 -Abraham Offered Isaac, By Faith**

**Verse 17**

Tried

-see Gen. 22:1

-the climactic trial - he had already left family, this is after waiting for year after year after year, then failing with Ishmael, now a son

Offered up

-the only begotten

-“only” brings out the pathos of this situation

1) To offer any son is big, this is bigger

2) How can God’s plan be fulfilled if Isaac is dead? - he had received “promises”

3) Isaac was Abraham’s “all”

-the Rich Young Ruler was asked to give up his most prized thing

-the little boy gave all his food to the master to feed the multitude

*So... Abraham met his “trial” by faith*

**Verse 18**

Of whom (Isaac)

-in him your seed

-in this one person, all your seed will derive

**Verse 19**

Why? Or how did he do it?

Accounted God able to raise him up

-did he expect God to do a resurrection?

-he expected to slay Isaac

-“in a figure” - In his heart Isaac was dead (and God reads the heart)

Even from the dead -*faith believes in resurrection*

Why God tries faith it is to give a greater blessing

**Verse 20 - Isaac Lived by Faith (at death - understood)**

Blessed Jacob and Esau

About things to come

*-the faith perspective looks into the future, where no one can see*

**Verse 21 - Jacob Lived by Faith (at death)**

Blessed both the sons of Joseph

And worshiped

**Verse 22 - Joseph Lived by Faith (at death)**

Made mention could be translated “remembered” - the promise God gave to give the land of Canaan to the seed of Abraham

Prophesied their leaving Egypt

*-the faith perspective looked beyond the present time, to a time when they leave Egypt*

Joseph remembered he was not of Egypt

-do you want a coffin in Egypt or a home in glory

**Verse 23 - Moses’ Parents Lived by Faith** (at birth)

Faith of his parents

-hid him

-a “proper” child (fair)

-they were not afraid *-so, faith overcomes fear*

**Verses 24-29 - Moses Lived by Faith** (come to years)

**Verse 23** - His own decision vs his mom and dad

**Verse 24** - Refused to be called Pharaoh’s son *-so, faith makes hard decisions*

**Verse 25** - Choosing rather to suffer *-so, faith is willing to suffer*

-rather the “pleasures of sin”

-the “people of God” - not just his own family

**Verse 26** - Esteem Christ’s reproach better

-Christ in Old Testament?

!!). **Verse 27** - Forsook Egypt

-not fearing the king (as his parents did not) *-so, faith overcomes fear*

-he endured *-how? He saw the invisible*

*That is what faith is... seeing the invisible - 11:1*

**Verse 28** - Kept the Passover

-to “keep” the Passover is more than the ceremony, he refers to the event

-and the sprinkling of blood *-faith, that the death angel would come*

**Verse 29** - Passed through the Red Sea

-“they” - the nation has faith, not just Moses

-as by dry land

-Egyptians drowned *-so, faith passes through obstacles*

**Verse 30 - Jericho Conquered by Faith**

Circling seven days is corporate faith

Walls fell

After seven times *-how did they believe, and circle? Faith*

*-then, how did the walls fall? Faith*

**Verse 31 - Rahab Saved by Faith**

Perished not

Evidence of her faith - received the spies

Her faith:

- 1) A common sinner
- 2) "I know" that Jehovah hath given you the land... - Josh 2:8-11
- 3) She had to turn against her own people
- 4) She believed Jericho would be destroyed - Josh 2:13
- 5) The scarlet cord - the blood of Christ
- 6) She saved her family as well
- 7) Became the mother of Boaz - great grand father of David -how? *She had faith*

### **Verses 32-40 Others Lived by Faith - Hebrews 11:32-40**

1. Continuing the list of the "faithful"
2. Faithful in victory and faithful in defeat
3. Builds to a climax - like a victory song

### **Verse 32 - Early Leadership**

1. What more can I say? - a pause in the movement... then a quick recounting of victories
2. There is not enough time
3. Tell of
  - Gideon (judge) -Barak (judge) -Samson (judge) -Jephthah (judge)
  - David (king) -Samuel (considered a judge and a prophet) -the prophets
  - \*moves through the judges and into the prophets (periods of history)
  - \*these are the major representatives of the period of the judges and early monarchy

### **Verses 33-34 - Who Through Faith...**

1. Begins here nine achievements of Faith - in groups of three
  - A. Attainments
    - 1) Conquered kingdoms - *judges and Samuel*
    - 2) Established justice
    - 3) Inherited promises - *Abraham* already mentioned
  - B. Endured and delivered
    - 1) Stopped mouths of lions (*Daniel*)
    - 2) Quenched fire (*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*)
    - 3) Escaped the sword (*David* escaped Saul's sword, and Goliath's)
  - C. Achievements
    - 1) Won strength (Sarah was made strong, from weakness)
    - 2) Became mighty in war (*Gideon, David*)
    - 3) Put armies to flight (*Joshua*)
2. Intangible victories
  - A. Wrought righteousness (all the *prophets*)
  - B. Obtained promises (*Caleb*)

### **Verse 35 - Life and Death**

1. Women received their dead to life
  - possibly the most outstanding example of faith
  - Elijah* - Kings 17:17ff
  - Elisha* - 2 Kings 4:18ff

2. "And others" - note the framework here - see also in verse 36 - "and others"
  - A. Here begins a catalogue of feats of endurance
  - B. "Tortured" is the Greek word "*tumpanizo*" - to torture with the *tumpanum* - a wheel-shaped instrument of torture. Criminals are stretched as though they were skins, then beaten
  - C. Did not receive "deliverance"
    - at the price of denying their faith
    - implies, they could have escaped
  - D. Why? A "better resurrection"
    - they were looking for a better world

### Verses 35-38 - "Others"

1. "And others" (**verse 36**)
  - A different type of victory by faith - to hang in there without deliverance
  - a trial... of what type?
    - A. Cruel mockings
    - B. Scourging
    - C. Of bonds and imprisonment
2. "They were..." (**verse 37**)
  - stoned
  - sawn asunder (tradition tells us that *Isaiah* was sawn with a wooden saw by Manasseh)
  - tempted
  - slain with the sword - Acts 12 tells of *James* being beheaded
    - \*violent death is mentioned then four examples of prolonged hardship
  - wandered in sheepskins/ goatskins (no other material is available)
  - destitute
  - afflicted
  - tormented
3. Interlude (**verse 38**)
  - Of whom the world is not worthy
  - The world drove them out thinking them not worthy to live with them - in reality it was the other way around
4. Continuing - "they..."
  - wandered in the deserts (outcasts, solitude)
  - wandered in the mountains (outcasts, solitude)
  - in dens (outcasts, solitude)
  - in caves (outcasts, solitude)
  - \*loneliness can be an awful burden, persecution

### Verses 39-40 - They Did NOT Receive the Promise

1. Though they received a "good report" (witness)
  - \*They had a "witness" borne to them - not by them, but to them. God spoke to them and they knew it, they knew of another way. Their hearts were filled with expectancy.
  - They did get a "good report" - they did not get the "promise" - the realization of

the promise

2. Yet, they did not receive the promise - why?
  - like Joseph knew he would be carried to a better land... but did not see it, so we
  - faithful in defeat?
3. God provided some better thing for us
  - because of us, they did not receive the promise?
4. Without us, they would not be perfect/ complete
  - no part of Christianity can be complete without the rest. They had the earthly calling, we the heavenly.
  - and, don't forget the New Testament completes/ fulfills the Old Testament
5. Can you believe in the Second Coming?
  - the final victory over evil?
  - the eternal city?

**Implication... Hebrews 12:1 -**

The end... since they were faithful... “therefore, let us also, seeing we are surrounded by witnesses, lay aside every weight... and run with patience the race set before us. The entire 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter is an encouragement from their lives... to our patience and endurance.