

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 9

Hebrews 11:1-16: Faith in the Future

*...they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland.
That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.
– Hebrews 11:16 ESV*

- **Faith in the future**

- This entire letter is filled with references to **things to come**

*Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are **to inherit salvation**? – Hebrews 1:13 ESV*

*...how shall we escape if we neglect such a **great salvation [to come]**? – Hebrews 2:3 ESV*

*For it was not to angels that God subjected **the world to come**, of which we are speaking.
– Hebrews 2:5 ESV*

*...we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our **boasting in our hope**. –
Hebrews 3:6 ESV*

*For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original **confidence firm to the end**. – Hebrews 3:14 ESV*

*So then, **there remains a Sabbath rest** for the people of God... – Hebrews 4:9 ESV*

*And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have **the full assurance of hope until the end**... – Hebrews 6:11 ESV*

...so that...we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. – Hebrews 6:18 ESV

*Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called **may receive the promised eternal inheritance...** – Hebrews 9:15 ESV*

*...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.** – Hebrews 9:28 ESV*

*But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **waiting from that time** until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. – Hebrews 10:12-13 ESV*

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...encouraging one another, and all the more as you **see the Day drawing near.** – Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV*

*Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which **has a great reward.** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God **you may receive what is promised.** – Hebrews 10:34-35 ESV*

- **The heart of the matter** – Hebrews 10:32-38

- “The righteous shall live by his faith”
- A quote from Habakkuk 2:3-4

*For the vision is yet for a time, and it shall shoot forth at the end, and not in vain: though he should tarry, wait for him; for **he will surely come, and will not tarry.** If he should draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him: **but the just shall live by my faith(fulness).** – Habakkuk 2:3-4 Greek Septuagint*

- The prophet recorded these words in the late seventh century B.C.
- The kingdom of Judah has become wicked
- Habakkuk is sick of it all and has demanded that God mete out justice
- He has grown impatient

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity and why do you idly look at wrong? – Habakkuk 1:2-3 ESV

- But God calls Habakkuk to be patient

*This vision is for a future time.
It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled.
If it seems slow in coming, **wait patiently,
for it will surely take place.
It will not be delayed.** – Habakkuk 2:3 NLT*

- The author of Hebrews is calling his readers to wait patiently

But we are...those who have faith and preserve their souls. – Hebrews 10:38 ESV

- They were a people of faith
- And they were in good company

- **Faith defined and demonstrated**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. – Hebrews 11:1 ESV

- They had it but didn't realize it
- They failed to recognize it
- Because they didn't fully understand it
- Their own faith was a mystery to them

Faith is...

...the assurance of **things hoped for**

...the conviction of **things not seen**

- Faith is closely associated with **hope**
 - It deals with the **future**
 - The as-yet **unrealized** and **unfulfilled**
 - But it is NOT **wishful thinking**
 - It is based on **assurance** not **speculation**

*...we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as **a foretaste of future glory**, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, **wait with eager hope for the day** when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. **(If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)** – Romans 8:23-25 NLT*

Faith concerns...

...unseen spiritual realities

...things as they are in God's sight

...things we can't see with our eyes

...things we do not yet possess

...things promised but as yet unfulfilled

- The author uses two words:
assurance – *hypostasis*
 - Full confidence, certainty
 - Substance, that which has actual existence
 - Foundation, pillar of support
 - Guarantee, title deed

conviction – *elegchos*

- Evidence, proof
- That by which a thing is proved or tested

*You love him **even though you have never seen him**. Though you do not see him now, you trust him...* – 1 Peter 1:8 NLT

“True faith is neither brainless nor a sentimental feeling. It is a solid conviction resting of God’s words that makes the future present and the invisible seen. Faith has at its core a massive sense of certainty.” – R. Kent Hughes, *Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*

- Because faith is rooted in truth
 - The truth of God
 - God **is** truth
 - He is incapable of **untruth**

*So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because **it is impossible for God to lie**. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.* – Hebrews 6:18 NLT

*“**God is not a man, so he does not lie**. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?”* – Numbers 23:19 NLT

- **Faith must be actualized or activated**

- The truth of God’s word must be **trusted**
- Our faith in God’s promises must be **lived out** in real life
- Our faith should be **visible** and **tangible** even if the promise is not

By faith

- This phrase appears 20x in this chapter
- It is applied to 20+ Old Testament saints
- Its presence in their lives explains their presence in this “Great Hall of Faith”

*For by it [faith] the people of old **received their commendation**.* – Hebrews 11:3 ESV

commendation – *martyreō*

- a good report
- God’s testimony to their faith

- **Abel** wasn’t commended for **generosity**
- **Enoch** wasn’t commended for his **morality**
- **Noah** wasn’t commended for **boatbuilding**
- **Abraham** wasn’t commended for **obedience**

- **Sarah** wasn't commended for giving **birth**

THIS WAS **THE EVIDENCE** OF THEIR FAITH

*...it is impossible to please God **without faith**.* – Hebrews 11:6 ESV

...**morality** promotes pridefulness
...**sacrifice** seeks recognition
...**generosity** becomes all about self-promotion
...**obedience** expects something in return
...**waiting** comes with an expectation of reward

- These people were commended for their **faith**, not their **actions**

For by it [faith] the people of old received their commendation. – Hebrews 11:2 ESV

35 verses later...

*...all these, though commended **through their faith**, did not receive what was promised...* – Hebrews 11:39 ESV

- They never received the promise
 - ~ Abel got redeemed through death
 - ~ Enoch got spared from death
 - ~ Noah got preserved from death
 - ~ Abraham got many descendants
 - ~ Sarah got to bear a child

- **Future-focused faith**

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth....But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. – Hebrews 11:13, 16 ESV

- They lived with the end in mind
- They couldn't see it
- They didn't fully understand it
- They never got to see it
- But they never stopped believing in it

*Faith shows **the reality of what we hope for**; it is **the evidence of things we cannot see.*** – Hebrews 11:1 NLT

None of them...

...saw Israel become a nation

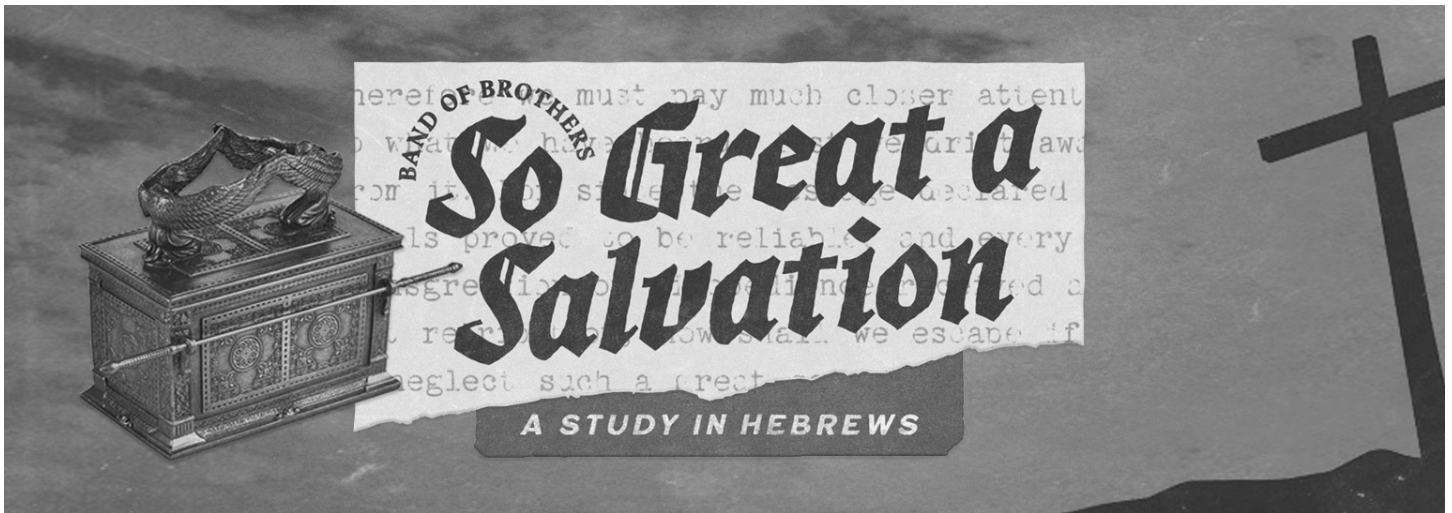
...enjoyed life in the earthly kingdom
...witnessed the coming of Christ
...lived to see the birth of the Church
...or saw the Kingdom come

- **Discussion questions**

Why is faith in the Kingdom to come so vital to living with hope in the kingdoms of men?

The people listed in chapter 11 revealed their faith tangible, visible forms; what are some examples from our own lives?

What are some ways we can encourage one another to live by faith(fulness) as we wait?



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SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 10 HOMEWORK

WEEK 10 – Hebrews 11:17-40: Faith Focused on Something Far Better

This week's lesson continues our focus on what has come to be known as "The Great Hall of Faith." Chapter 11 of Hebrews is a powerful reminder of the centrality of faith in God's grand redemptive plan. The concept of faith did not arrive on the scene with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. God had always expected His people to live according to faith. The examples of Old Testament saints are meant to encourage us but we should refrain from making them models for living. A better name for this chapter might be "The Great Call of Faith." Their lives are not provided as exemplary or superior models of faith and faithfulness. They are fallen people whom God called and who tried to live out that calling faithfully – despite trials, setbacks, and disappointments of all kind. The one thing they shared in common was their faith in God.

- Read Hebrews 11:17-40.
- Over the week, read pages 93-142 of Ken's Devotionalary™ on Hebrews.
- This week, we're going to make the homework simpler but probably not easier. What I would like you to do is to look back at all the Old Testament characters mentioned in this chapter and see if you can find discover the following answers for each of them. What were each of them recognized for? What kind of promises (if any) did God make to them? What did each of them fail to receive from God in the way of promises? You will need to look back at verses 1-16 for a list of all the characters.

Abel

Noah

Abraham

Sarah

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph

Moses

The Israelites

Rahab

- According to verses 32-38, what did all the others, both named and unnamed, experience in place of the fulfillment of the promise of God?
- What are some of the positive things that happened to some of these same people?
- Their lives were marked by tragedy and triumph, joy and sorrow, victory and defeat. What can we learn from this and apply to our own lives as we wait for the “something better” that God has in store for us?