

The writer of the book of Hebrews just told us about the faith of Rahab, the whore; but now, he is hurried to conclude this chapter of faith. He says...

³² And what more can I say? for the time is too short for me to tell of Gideon / in the Book of Judges: who moves from fearful... to fearless Gideon and his band of 300 mighty men,

and of Barak / who with Deborah, the prophetess and 10,000 men won the victory.

and of Samson / who seemed to have more muscles than brains... but came to his senses and destroyed the enemy,



and of Jephthah / mighty Jephthah, his father was a warrior; and his mother, the local whore; and he was called every name under the sun... until they needed him. All these folks are not the exemplary congregation most people would find acceptable to worship with now days, are they?! Yet they are honored in God's book! God seems to be a little different than us, don't you think?

of David also / a man after God's own heart... who killed his 10,000s. What's that all about?

and Samuel / faithful... from his childhood... through all his days,

and of the prophets / he's in a hurry! He doesn't even have time to mention any of them; from Abel to Zacharias... not the major prophets; not the minor prophets... many murdered at the hands of religious Pharisees who always twisted the truth, who love their manmade traditions having departed from the clear Word of God, sweeter than honey, more to be desired than fine gold -- now days most of the church ignores the fact that these faithful men and women even lived:

who through faith / in Greek: pistis. This whole chapter 11 is the only chapter in scripture written to honor men and women of faith. And what is faith?

Dr. Gene Scott titled that answer: **The A, B, C's of FAITH.** Faith = 97% Action, based on Belief in God's Word, sustained by our Confidence in God who stands by His Word; to make it happen in the lives of those who will trust Him. This chapter 11 begins saying: Without faith it is impossible to please God. Jesus asked: When He returns will He find faith? Does He sound hopeful?

who through faith, conquered kingdoms, worked true justice / they were not banging heads with God. In other words, they were doing what was right.



through faith they obtained promises / in every generation, God speaks assurances to individuals; Paul wrote: All the promises of God, in Jesus Christ are YES, and AMEN and bring glory to God the Father -- 2 Corinthians 1; Peter said, the same thing: God has given to us great and incredibly valuable promises: that by them, we might be partakers of His divine nature.

through faith they stopped the mouths of lions / not just Daniel; others did through the ages.

through faith they ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire / standing faithful to their God... like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego of old, others were rescued from the flames,

through faith they escaped the edge of the sword / fleeing for their own safety,

through faith out of weakness they were made strong / this word, often translated: infirmities. Matthew 8 says of Jesus, He took to Himself... our infirmities; and picked up and carried away our diseases,

through faith they grew valiant in fight, and turned to flight the armies of the aliens / and the hordes of invading foreigners; they got their enemies running in retreat.

through faith

Women received their dead raised to life again: and through faith... others were tortured, not accepting deliverance / acting with confidence in God's Word of promise... trusting Him, who said: I will never leave you; nor forsake you. I am with you to the end of the age. not renouncing, not denying their faith for deliverance; which would quickly come if they only denied their faith, and their Lord;

that they might obtain a better resurrection: / most church people in the West, can't make sense out of the Psalms which declare: **God is my Strength... A mighty Fortress...** my Shield... my Refuge... my Defense... especially after all the hectic holiday shopping, party invitations, and the holiday bowl games,

- ³⁶ and others endured mockings, and scourgings yes, also chains and incarceration / their faith brought them to public spectacles, with verbal invectives of contempt and ridicule and humiliation hurled at them; cruel, inhumane; brutal beatings:
- they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword / and left for dead, brutally, limb by limb they were cut to pieces; being tested to the maximum; In 2013, the man who beheaded 3 Christian girls of high school age. In his own words: he took the heads to their headquarters as: a gift, to celebrate the end of their fasting holiday. And he was allowed to go to visit his ill wife; being left unguarded for hours he escaped! Anyone read about this in the American news? Anybody hear about it in your gathering? In 2014, the children of Mosel, Iraq, of Nigeria, of Kenya, and many other places... children were beheaded, because of their faith in the Lord Jesus:



they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins being destitute, being afflicted and tormented / every day govts and their locals single out people as crazy! often made homeless, many times at gun point, Read the reports! Even in countries getting tax payer dollars from the USA! Physically and mentally harassing and torturing in the 21st century where Jesus Christ is still building His church.

Visit: Richard Wurmbrand's organization: Voices of the Martyrs. Go to: China Soul for Christ Foundation.

Word search: persecuted for Christ... the Bible League: and start doing something.

In 1952, the Chinese Communist Party officials imprisoned Watchman Nee for speaking out for Christ. Yet in prison, they could not silence him, so they cut out his tongue. Still, he continued to encourage one another to stand for Jesus Christ... through written messages. So, they cut off his hands; and he mysteriously died months before he was supposed to be released... in 1972.

men and women of whom the world was not worthy: wandering in deserts, and in mountains and in dens and caves of the earth / they still wander in deserts... and in mountains... while we double checked... our happy holiday's favorites list... and recipes... and fabulously festive decorations, while we wonder: what's for dinner? Or what's on TV tonight?

the promise / young and old, these men and women of faith whom the world was not worthy. They were willing to endanger themselves, to put their lives on the line, not counting the cost yet giving their lives to Jesus: their mighty Fortress... their Shield... their Rock... and Defense... and whatever happens, their lives are in His hands; they did not receive The Promise / it is a definite promise; what is this specific promise?

God providing something better / this word is a comparative... meaning: stronger... more excellent. used 13 times in this book; about something better: better than the angels; better than Moses; better than the high priests; better than the sacrifices; better than any future hope; better than any promise.

God providing something better, that they without us should not be perfected /

Without us? We lovers of self; rather than lovers of God? Without us complainers? We touchy, impatient temperamental critics? We lukewarm, faithless ones? Without us? NO! God can do without all that stuff; He is still looking for men and women of faith; courageous faith; living faith. That is what chapter 11 is all about. We in the West will be fortunate to clean toilets for the saints in eternity. without us who are supposed to be learning to die daily to self... which we do when we live daily for Christ. Or as C.S. Lewis says, At least when we start pretending like a child... to dress up, to grow up and start to be more like our Father in heaven.

and what is that something better for us? It is God's place of grace and peace: the new and better way, the living way: **Christ Jesus**. He is the something better for us.



May we remember and not forget: Jesus said, What we did to the least... we did to Him He takes it personal. I think I heard someone respond: But I didn't do anything to them! Well, our own words will condemn us! The prophet wrote: as he cried for help, and you would not hear; so you cried for help, and I would not hear, says the LORD of Hosts -- Zechariah 7. For those whom the world is not worthy, Pray for them, and do something; for those God sends our way, those He includes in His family of faith, that Jesus Christ is still building today!

Check out: Voice of Martyrs Bible League Intl
Canada FEBC and Open Doors

The Mountain of Moses - Sinai in Arabia

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.

Where Your Heart Is

Israeli Band : Psalm 150

Check out our messianic brothers in the Lord: great sons of Judah,

ONE FOR ISRAEL | LEON MAZIN - TIKUN | ISRAELI NEWS LIVE | MESSIAH OF ISRAEL | BEHOLD ISRAEL

<u>Dr James Tour</u> a world leading expert on nanotechnology <u>Dr James Tour: his testimony</u>

Steve Olin's testimony: a Jewish billionaire Jesus Christ and Nanotechnology

3 Days are still on His Calendar