

So far in our study of chapter 11 in the book of Hebrews, we are trying to answer a vital question, which is: “WHAT KIND OF FAITH DOES GOD ACCEPT?”

We have looked at several examples of why faith is necessary to please God, and what that faith truly looks like.

I gave this title to my sermon on chapter 11.

## **WHY FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS COMMENDED**

I SUGGESTED IN THE FIRST SERMON THAT BEFORE WE CAN SEE WHY FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS COMMENDED, WE NEEDED TO:

### **1. DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS LOOKS LIKE:**

#### **IN OUR FIRST SERMON WE LOOKED AT THREE EXAMPLES WHICH WERE:**

- 1.1 **ABEL HAD A SACRIFICE DEFINING FAITH**
  - 1.1.1 **ABEL'S OFFERING POINTED TO A LAMB**
  - 1.1.2 **ABEL OFFERED THE “FIRSTBORN”**
  - 1.1.3 **ABEL OFFERED “The Fat-Portions”**
  - 1.1.4 **ABEL DIED BECAUSE HE SERVED GOD**
- 1.2 **ENOCH HAD AN OBEDIENCE DEFINING FAITH**
  - 1.2.1 **JESUS LEARNED OBEDIENCE**
  - 1.2.2 **THE OBEDIENCE OF JESUS WON OUR SALVATION**
  - 1.2.3 **OBEDIENCE SHOULD CHARACTERIZE CHRISTIANS**
- 1.3 **NOAH HAD A PROPHETIC DEFINING FAITH**
  - 1.3.1 **THE ARK IS A SYMBOL OF CHRIST –**
  - 1.3.2 **THE FLOOD POINTS TO THE COMING JUDGEMENT**

#### **IN OUR SECOND SERMON WE LOOKED AT THE EXAMPLES OF WOMEN WHO'S FAITH WAS IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS**

- 1.4 **SARAH HAD A MIRACLE DEFINING FAITH**
  - 1.4.1 **THE BIRTH OF ISAAC FORESHADOWS THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH OF JESUS –**
  - 1.4.2 **THE BIRTH OF ISAAC FORESHADOWS THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS**
  - 1.4.3 **BOTH SARAH AND MARY HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN HISTORY**
- 1.5 **JOCHEBED HAD A PROTECTING DEFINING FAITH**
  - 1.5.1 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS PROTECTED THEIR CHILDREN IN EGYPT –**
  - 1.5.2 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS RECOGNISED THEIR CHILDREN WERE UNUSUAL**

- 1.5.3 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS WOULD SEE OTHER CHILDREN DIE AND THEIRS BE SAVED**
- 1.6 **RAHAB HAD A TRUST DEFINING FAITH**
  - 1.6.1 **RAHAB TRUSTED IN THE GOD OF THE ISRAELITES –**
  - 1.6.2 **RAHAB TRUSTED IN THE COVERING OF “BLOOD”**
- 1.7 **WOMEN HAD A RESURRECTION DEFINING FAITH**

Women had a pivotal role to play in the resurrection story.

  - 1.7.1 **A WOMEN, MARY, ANNOINTED JESUS IN PREPERATION FOR HIS DEATH –**
  - 1.7.2 **WOMEN WERE AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED**
  - 1.7.3 **WOMEN WERE AT THE TOMB WHEN JESUS WAS BURIED**
  - 1.7.4 **WOMEN WERE THERE WHEN JESUS AROSE**
  - 1.7.5 **A WOMEN WAS THE FIRST TO SEE THE RESURRECTED CHRIST**

## **IN OUR THIRD SERMON WE LOOKED AT THE FAITH OF THE FATHER OF FAITH – ABRAHAM**

- 1.8 **THE FAITH OF THE FATHER OF FAITH**
  - 1.8.1 **ABRAHAM HAD A RESPONSE OBEYING FAITH –**
  - 1.8.2 **ABRAHAM HAD A TRUST GROWING FAITH –**
  - 1.8.3 **ABRAHAM HAD AN INCARNATION MODELLING FAITH**
  - 1.8.4 **ABRAHAM HAD AN ANTICIPATING FAITH –**
  - 1.8.5 **ABRAHAM HAD A NATION CREATING FAITH –**
  - 1.8.6 **ABRAHAM HAD AN EXPERIENCE BUILT FAITH –**

**TODAY I WANT TO LOOK AT THE FAITH OF REST OF THE PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE CHAPTER. I HAD INITIALLY THOUGHT OF SKIPPING OVER THEM, BUT AS I READ THE PASSAGE AGAIN, I DISCOVERED THEY ALSO HAVE A LOT TO TEACH US ABOUT FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS.**

## **HOW THE FAITH OF THE EXAMPLES WAS ALWAYS IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS**

*v20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. v21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. v22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. v23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. v24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. v25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. v26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. v27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. v28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. v29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. v30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched*

around them for seven days. v31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. v32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, v33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, v34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. v35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. v36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. v37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- v38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

*Hebrews 11:20-38*

- 1.9 **THE PATRIARCHS HAD A PROMISE KEEPING FAITH** –  
*v20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. v21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. v22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.*

**When God first called Abraham, God made a promise to him**, that through him all the Nations of the Earth would be blessed. Ultimately the Messiah would come from his life. This promise is the beginning of the outworking of the plan to destroy the work of Satan and redeem his creation that he made in Genesis 3:15.

*Genesis 3:14-15 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. v15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

**Jesus is the FULFILMENT of all those PROMISES.**

**Matthew 1:1** *A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

**2 Corinthians 1:20** *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

**Romans 15:8** *For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs*

**We are the BENEFICIARIES of all those PROMISES.**

*2 Peter 1:1-4 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: v2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our*

*Lord. v3 **His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. v4 **Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

#### 1.10 **MOSES HAD A SACRIFICIAL FAITH** –

*v24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. v25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. v26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. v27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

1. Moses SACRIFICED his POWER – he refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's Daughter
2. Moses SACRIFICED his ADVANTAGES – he refused the comforts of the palace
3. Moses SACRIFICED his WEALTH – v26 “*He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt*”
4. Moses SACRIFICED his PROTECTION – he did not fear the king's anger

#### **JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICE**

***Philippians 2:5-8** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: v6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, v7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. v8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!*

#### 1.11 **THE ISRAELITES HAD A SAVING FAITH**

*v28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. v29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. v30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.*

#### **THE ISRAELITES WERE POINTING TO JESUS.**

1. They were PROTECTED BY THE BLOOD – they trusted in the commands received through Moses
2. They were BAPTISED THROUGH THE WATER – they passed through the water of the Red Sea
3. The POWER OF THE ENEMY FELL DOWN – After they walked around the city of Jericho, the walls fell down

#### **JESUS OFFERS SAVING FAITH.**

1. **WE ARE PROTECTED BY THE BLOOD** –
2. **WE ARE BAPTISED THROUGH THE WATER** –

3. THE POWER OF THE ENEMY FELL DOWN – when Jesus came to earth

*Luke 10:17-18 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." v18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

### 1.12 **OTHERS HAD A LIVING ACTIVE FAITH** –

*v32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, v33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, v34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. v35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. v36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. v37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- v38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.*

As we read about the others mentioned in the passage, I am astounded by the wonderful picture of REAL FAITH we see. I want to mention just three things about all the others mentioned in this passage

1. **They were all just ordinary people.** We all think that you must be some super-human to achieve what they did. Each of these mentioned in this passage had doubts, weaknesses, and failures.
2. **They all faced opposition.** *v36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. v37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated*
3. **They all HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD.** Friends – we believe in a God that is Sovereign.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **William Carey**

William Carey was the father of modern missions. Carey, a British missionary, marked a milestone in the history of Christian missions. He established the Serampore Mission near Calcutta on January 10, 1800—the first modern Protestant mission in the non-English-speaking world. He laboured from this base for 41 years to spread the gospel throughout Southeast Asia.

As a pastor in Britain at the end of the 1700s, Carey stepped out and became a missionary when there was conventional indifference toward missions in the West. There were no missionary societies or missionary interest in the Western church during his time.

At a pastors' meeting, when Carey challenged his fellow pastors to launch missions to the world, his older friend Dr. Ryland shouted, "Young man, sit down! You are an enthusiast. When God pleases to convert the heathen, He'll do it without consulting you or me."

Carey's achievements were enormous. His accomplishments were almost impossible to summarize succinctly. This English pastor singlehandedly changed a negative attitude toward reaching the lost and became "the father of modern missions."

Carey's epoch message, preached May 30, 1792, launched the Baptist Missionary Society and modern missions. The title was:

**"Expect Great Things from God,  
Attempt Great Things for God,"**