

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #19, Chapter 11:32-40

Read Chapter 11 as you prepare to study this final section of the Hebrews Chapter of Faith. Ask the Lord for wisdom and grace to study.

1. After rehearsing the “by faith” deeds of the early heroes of Israel, the author of Hebrews realizes he is going to run out of time if he begins to write about the rest of the heroes of faith. Let’s do a quick study on these men who lived “by faith” upon the promises of God. Summarize each person’s story. Be sure to include how they put their faith in God.
 - a. Gideon—Judges 6:11-8:35.
 - b. Barak—Judges 4:4-22.
 - c. Samson—Judges 13:24-16:31.
 - d. Jephthah—Judges 11:1-12:7.
 - e. We will look at just one episode in the life of David—1 Samuel 17:12-54. (Feel free to search for more episodes of faith from David’s life if you want to study him further.)
 - f. As with David, we will only look at one episode from Samuel’s life—1 Samuel 3:1-21, though you can search for other episodes as well.

2. What were some of the things these men did “by faith” as they put their trust in God? See verses 33-34.

3. What do you learn about the resurrection and Old Testament believers in verse 35?

4. In verses 35-36, the writer switches from the victorious acts of faith to the acts of faith, which in the world’s eyes, were folly. The not-so-happy-ending descriptions reveal another side to the “by faith” people. What do you learn about them? See also 11:1, 13-16, 25.

5. In verses 37-38, we read more ways the “by faith” people responded to their circumstances. How are they described in verse 38?

6. What set these men apart to such a degree that it would be said of them that they were *men of whom the world was not worthy*?

7. What do you learn about another of whom the world was not worthy? Read Is. 53:1-9 to see what the world saw and how it responded.
 - a. How does heaven respond to the same man? See Is. 9:6-7 and Rev. 5:12-14; 19:11-16.

8. Paul was a man of whom the world was not worthy. What mindset did he maintain? See 2 Cor. 4:7-10, 16-18; 5:1-10.

9. What do you need to know about God if you are going to persevere in these kinds of afflictions? See Deut. 4:32-39; 10:12-21; Ps. 30:5; 145:1-21; Lam. 3:19-33, 39-40.

10. How would knowing those character traits about God help you to continue in faith when you find yourself facing *extreme circumstances* like the ones listed here?

11. How would knowing those character traits about God help you to continue in faith when you find yourself facing *circumstances much smaller* in scope?

12. Think about some difficulties you have faced recently or even some inconveniences or unmet expectations you have recently experienced. How did what you know about God's character and His ways help you to persevere with faith? Try to recall the specific ways you were encouraged and comforted.

13. Who does "and all these" refer to (verse 39)? What two things happened to "all these?"

14. Why did those things happen to them according to verse 40?

15. What is unusual about the pronouns used in verse 40 compared with the previous verses?

16. What is the *better thing* that God has provided for us? See Heb. 1:1-4; 7:18-22, 25; 8:6; 9:23-28; 12:24.

17. The second part of verse 40 might present a problem for us to understand, *unless* we remember what God provided for us. First, let's take a look at these verses and record what you learn: Acts 3:18; Rom. 5:6; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Titus 1:1-3.
 - a. Who makes it possible for anyone to be made perfect? See Heb. 10:11-14.

 - b. On the timeline of history, with Christ as the center, when did "all these" and "us" live?

 - c. How is anyone ever able to please God? See 11:6.

 - d. Based on what you have learned, explain what verse 40 means.

18. What is the clever way the author connects "us" to "all these" in verse 40? Why would he make that connection between the two groups? For a clue, look ahead to 12:1.

19. What is the point of Hebrews 11 and the description of persevering faith? See 10:35-39; 11:1-2, 6, 13-16, 39-40; 12:1-2.
20. What have you learned about faith—persevering faith, looking ahead faith, faith which sees that which is unseen? How has this chapter impacted your thinking about how you live your life during this short stay on earth?

Men call the righteous, fools: but one day they shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. They hounded them to death, as not being fit to live. In early ages they laid to the Christians charges of the most terrible character, which I should count it shame to mention. But then they will all be cleared; and those of whom the world was not worthy, who were driven and hunted about and made to dwell in the caves of the earth, they shall come forth as worthy ones, and the world shall know her true aristocracy, earth shall own her true nobility. The men whose names she cast out as evil, shall then be held in great repute, for they shall stand out clear and transparent without spot or blemish. It is well that there should be a trial for the righteous, for the clearing of them, the vindication of them, and that it should be public, defying the cavil and criticism of all mankind. ~Charles Spurgeon¹

¹Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 18*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).