

TEXT- Heb. 11:35-38

INTRO – Faith’s power to suffer for God. A contrast is made between the conquering group and the suffering group. **Kai is the conjunction**

connecting a sentence of two thoughts. Here the Greek word is δὲ A primary particle showing contrast - *but, and, also, moreover, now.*

The former group through faith conquered her there is no mention of faith. Simply “others were tortured.”

These suffered on account of their faith toward God!

Of these “The world was not worthy”

Heb. 11:38 (*Of whom the world was not worthy:*)

Heb 11:35 . . . and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

The torture and sufferings which they endured were all on account of man’s enmity toward God and His Word.

Tortured – Beat on like a drum – Put on a stretcher and beaten.

Their hope was in the resurrection which was better than apostasy and life on earth.

Acts 24:15 *And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*

Moses

Heb. 11:25-26 *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt:*

They had hope in the resurrection

Abraham offered Isaac hoping for a resurrection

Heb 11:36 *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

Received trial of mockings -

Jeremiah Jer. 20:7 . . . I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

History tells us that Jeremiah was stoned to death.

Micaiah 1Ki 22:24-27 *But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the . . .*

2 Ch 36:16 *But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

Israel stoned and killed the prophets

Mat 21:33 *Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:*

Mat 21:35-39 *And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.*

Paul breathed out threatening and slaughter.

Act 8:3 *As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.*

Act 9:1-2 *And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.*

Bonds and imprisonment vs. 36

Micaiah, Hannini, Jeremiah

Paul and Silas

Religion condemns and sheds blood

The Spanish Inquisition

Muslim holy wars

No name is given of these courageous men and women.

Heb 11:37 *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

They were stoned -

Naboth, Zechariah, Stephen, Paul

- Naboth had faith in God and obeyed the Law.

- Zechariah – A faithful priest

2 Ch 24:20 *And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.*

2 Ch 24:21 *And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.*

2 Pe 1:1 *Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:*

Suffer for Christ's sake

Php. 1:29 *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

They were sawn asunder

Tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn asunder

These others seem to be more numerous than those that conquered through faith.

Modernist cut up the Word of God

Were tempted – to abandon their faith

To test or scrutinize

Slain with the sword

Vs. 34 some escaped the edge of the sword but these were slain by the sword.

Mat 23:37 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*

They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins

These men resorted to crude garments while be hunted by oppressors.

Being destitute, afflicted, tormented

David and Elijah both similar consequences

Of whom the world was not worthy

Great men and women of faith

They wandered in deserts, and in mountains and in dens, caves of the earth.

The place of 1000 caves – actually 10,000 caves have been uncovered.

These men were running for their lives, hiding from their enemies.

CONCL – In view of these great believers we must stand firm and steadfast.

1 Co 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Here is the testimony written by a young African pastor and found among his papers in Zimbabwe after he was martyred for his faith.

“I’m a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I’m a disciple of His, and I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed. My present makes sense.

“My future is secure. I’m done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I don’t have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by His patience, lift by prayer and labor by Holy Spirit power.

“My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary.

“I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won’t give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus.

“I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He’ll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!”