

Faith Conquering Through God – David, Samuel and the prophets

TEXT- Heb 11:32-35 *And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

INTRO – Faith enables us to conquer through God's help and when necessary He enables us to suffer for God with His help.

We have read of the faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses (and his parents) Joshua, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David and Samuel. These are the last of those named and they conquer through faith. They are equally connected to God by faith as was Abel, Enoch and Noah.

I. Subdued Kingdoms

A. Joshua's conquest of Canaan

B. David's victories over Syria, Moab, Ammon, Amalek, Edom and the Philistines

Their battles were with concern for the character of God and the truth of God. Every battle was an act of faith to fight for right. Each was an act of faith obey the Word of God.

They wrestled against the coming apostasy, and the encroachments of kings, the worship of God and the liberties of the people; they stood up for the weak from the strong and the right from the wrong.

Michaiah was smitten in the face

Jeremiah to prison

Some martyred for their faith

II. Wrought Righteousness

Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord and the life of Elijah.

He slew the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel

The Man of God spoke to King Jeroboam denouncing his sin.

1 Ki 13:8 *And the man of God said unto the king. If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:*

III. Obtained Promises

A. The Abrahamic Covenant – A people and a land

B. The Davidic covenant – A seed and a kingdom

Satan always tries to stop the work of God but by faith we can continue.

IV. Stopped the Mouths of Lions

Samson, David and Daniel all faced a lion and by faith subdues the lion.

Samson - Jdg 14:4-6 *But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel. 5 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.*

David – 1 Sa 17:34-36 *And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.*

Daniel - Dan 6:16 *Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.*

V. Quenched the Violence of Fire

Dan 3:20-30 *And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, . . .*

VI. Escaped the Edge of the Sword

A. Rahab – Jos 6:21 *And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.*

B. David - Psa 144:10 *It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.*

David escaped the Sword of Goliath and the spear of Saul. He saw a greater purpose

C. Elijah – 1 Ki 19:2 *Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.*

D. Jeremiah - escaped Jehoiakim's sword- Jer 36:26 *But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD hid them.*

Zedekiah's princes - Jer 38:6 *Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.*

VII. Out of Weakness Were Made Strong

A. Abraham in his old age - Heb 11:12 *Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

B. Moses - Exo 3:11 *And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?*

C. Paul – 2 Co 12:10 *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

Php 3:3 . . . *have no confidence in the flesh.*

Rom 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

1 Co 1:27-29 *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

VIII. Waxed Valiant in Fight – Put to Flight the Armies of the Aliens

We are in a spiritual battle

Paul states, 2 Ti 4:7 *I have fought a good fight . . .*

He asks us to wage a good warfare.

Possessing the Promised Land was filled with many battles

David fought many battles

IX. Women Received Their Dead Raised To Life Again

A. The woman of Zarephath, whose child was restored to life by Elijah, 1Ki 17:19-24;

The son of the Shunamite woman whose child was restored to life by Elisha; 2 Kings 4:18-37.

CONCL – There may be other examples of great faith not mentioned here in Hebrews 11. However faith is the key element. By faith the Christian can go forth by obedience to the Word of God.