

INTRODUCTION

1. Life of faith can look common-place [1Th 4:11] - yet a battle.
12. Life of faith can look extreme - Spurgeon, Sermon "Faith Omnipotent"
3. Faith & risk-taking in reliance on providence. Dan 11:32b - look reckless, even dangerous - Rom 14:8.
4. Hb 11:32-38 those who suffered also succeed - by faith.

1st: The Sufferings of the Faithful - 11:35b-38

1. *others were tortured...* Maccabeans. FF Bruce p337-8 - hope for *a better resurrection*.
12. *others exp'd mockings...* Jer 20:7-8; *chains & imprisonment* - Jer; Hanani [2Chr 10]; Micaiah [1Kg 22:26-27] - Maccabean martyrs [2Mac 12:2]
3. *stoned*: Jeremiah - Mt 23:37; Lk 11:49-51 entire OT; Stephen - A 7:58-59
4. *sawn in two*: Isaiah
5. *tempted*, tested, tried - tempted to recant & apostatize or face death.
6. *put to death with the sword* - Elijah (1 Kgs 19:10) yet v34
 - i. Jer 26:7-8 Jeremiah spared from death
 - ii. v20-24 Uriah - *Jehoiakim slew him w/ a sword*.
7. *in sheepskins, in goatskins* [Elijah 2Kgs 1:8 also JnB] *being destitute...*
 - i. *wandering* - recalls Hb 11:13 *strangers & exiles on the earth*
 - a. Persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes in 2nd c BC
 - b. Massada
 - ii. *men of whom the world was not worthy*: Ps 16:3; Rv 1:6; 1 C 6:2a, 3a
 - a. not deserve = corresponding weights on scales - 2Cor 4:17-18.

Applic #1: We Must Embrace Our Father's Providence and Live by Faith

1. Humbling - different callings, same faith. Jeremiah & Uriah; Peter & John; James & Peter. Chinese & Americans.
2. Readers of Hbs - facing prospect of persecution.
3. Embrace your place - *by faith*

Applic #2: The Life of Faith Entails Some Measure of Suffering

1. Hb 11:35-38 pertains to all Xns.
2. Identify w/ those who suffer Hb 12:4 *not yet* but cld be & probably will be
 - i. Readers exp'd some persecution in past - Hb 10:32-35
 - ii. knew some presently in prison - Hb 13:3.
 - iii. Warned of greed - 13:5 they had enough \$ to be tempted by love of \$.
3. Discipleship & maintaining worship & living for honor of Jesus' name is always costs the things of this age.
4. We are facing times of intensified opposition - *for to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake* [Phil 1:29]. Let's finish our race - *by faith*.