



HEROES OF THE BIBLE



A STUDY OF MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH
Based on HEBREWS 11

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REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

HEROES OF THE BIBLE

A STUDY OF MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH
Based on Hebrews 11

PREPARED BY JEAN MANNING

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Heroes of the Faith

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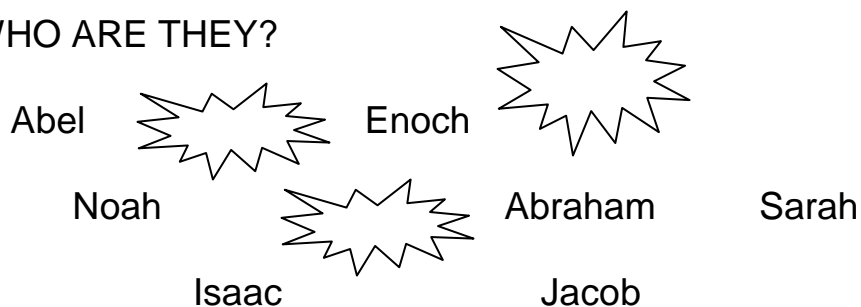
FAITH FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

Hebrews 11 teaches about great men and women of the Bible. Their life stories tell of heroic things they have done.

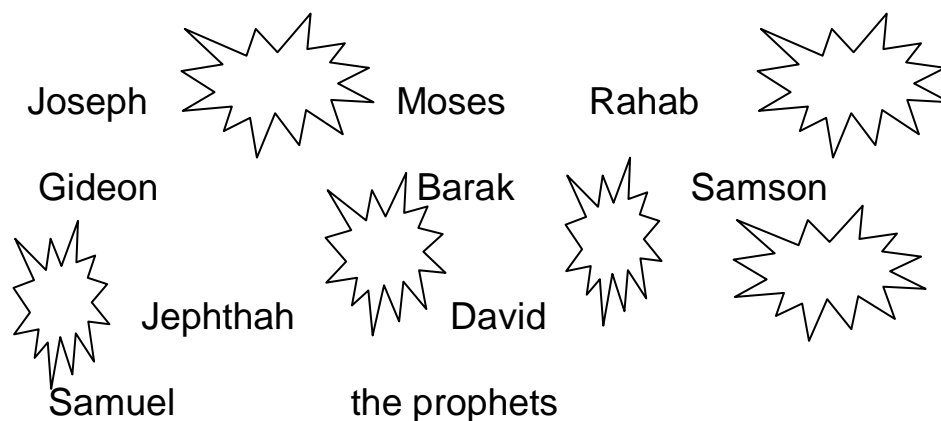
We read of them:

- ✓ defeating their enemies
- ✓ rescuing whole nations
- ✓ being saved from the mouths of lions
- ✓ walking out of fiery furnaces without being harmed
- ✓ miraculously being fed in the desert
- ✓ being raised from the dead
- ✓ receiving spies into their homes
- ✓ saving their families and animals from the floods

WHO ARE THEY?



THEY ARE CALLED HEROES OF THE BIBLE



What is a hero?

He is:

- ✓ a man or woman of superhuman qualities
- ✓ someone admired for great deeds

We can admire all the men and woman written about in Hebrews 11 for their great deeds and for the superhuman ways they have acted.

But they are remembered here for their faith.

Heroes of the Faith

God had given each of them a promise and they believed Him and trusted Him to fulfill the promise.

Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 7:9

All of these heroes died before they received the promises in full, but they believed what God had told them.

Hebrews 11:13

i
They died all in faith

ii

They all had their eyes fixed on their heavenly home v.16

iii

They knew that this earthly life is only temporary – that we are simply on a journey here

iv

They were sure that God would keep His promises

WHAT IS FAITH?

Very simply, faith is trusting God to do what He says He will do.

In the New Testament the word faith means:

- to have inward confidence
- assurance
- trust
- reliance in God and all that He says.
- It is this confidence, this assurance, this trust and this reliance in God and all that He says that makes men heroes in His eyes.

**Faith is the substance
of things hoped for,
the evidence
of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1**

Hebrews 11:6

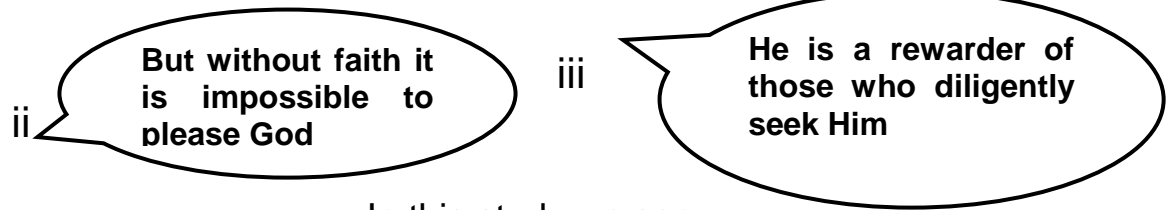
We cannot come to God unless we believe He exists.

i

He who comes to God must believe that He is

Heroes of the Faith

We cannot please God without faith. We know that He rewards those who seriously seek Him.



In this study we see:

- Abel believing God's word and offering the acceptable sacrifice
- Enoch walking in relationship with God without any separation
- Noah obeying God's instructions and receiving salvation and new life for himself and his family
- Abraham obeying God without knowing where he was going and receiving seemingly impossible promises
- Isaac and Jacob trusting God to fulfill the promises given to Abraham
- Sarah trusting God and receiving His promise
- Joseph holding on to the prophetic dreams from God in the face of overwhelming circumstances
- Moses choosing to belong to the chosen people of God
- Barak depending upon the prophetic voice of God to lead him into battle
- Joshua trusting God to fight his battles with him
- Rahab trusting the One who led His people with such great power
- Gideon proving the might of God
- Samson calling on the might of God to save His people
- Jephtah claiming the rightful inheritance of God's people
- David honouring God's anointed in the face of persecution
- Samuel and the prophets hearing the voice of God and speaking to the nation of Israel

**And all of these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.
Hebrews 11:39-40**

EACH IS HONoured FOR WALKING BY FAITH IN THE REVELATION WHICH THEY HAD.
THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE NEW COVENANT GIVEN THROUGH JESUS CHRIST – THE PERFECTION OF GOD

ABEL



- Second son of Adam and Eve
- A keeper of sheep
- Killed by his brother, Cain
- Abel was one of those who “did not love their lives to the death” Revelation 12:11

THE LORD RESPECTED ABEL AND HIS OFFERING

ABEL WAS A MAN WHO OBEYED GOD.

We read his story in Genesis 4:1-10

Abel made an offering to God that pleased God.

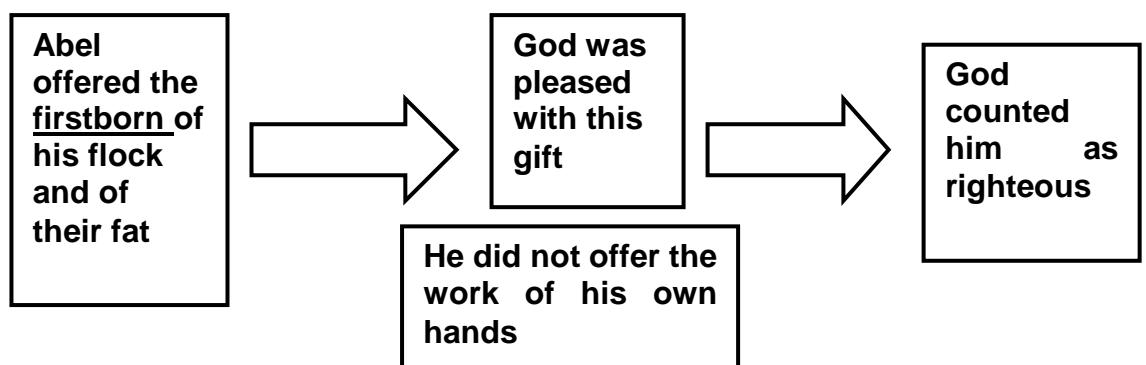
Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering. Genesis 4:4

His offering was a blood sacrifice. Abel had learnt from his father, Adam, that this sacrifice was acceptable to God.

In Genesis 3:21 God had killed an animal and made tunics of skin to clothe Adam and Eve after they had sinned, teaching them that “without the shedding of blood there is no remission” of sin. (Hebrews 9:22)

This was prophetically pointing to the sacrifice that Jesus made for all mankind on the cross, and to the only acceptable way to approach God.

In offering the firstborn and the fat, Abel was giving God the best he had.



By comparison, his brother, Cain, offered the fruit of the ground. This was the work of his own hands.

God did not respect Cain or this offering (v.5). He spoke to Cain reminding him of the way to please God.

If you do well, will you not be accepted? Genesis 4:6

Heroes of the Faith

Abel was became a martyr because of his obedience. Obedience to the will of God cost him his life. v.8

YET THIS MAKES HIM AN OVERCOMER.



And they did not love their own lives to the death. Revelation 12:11

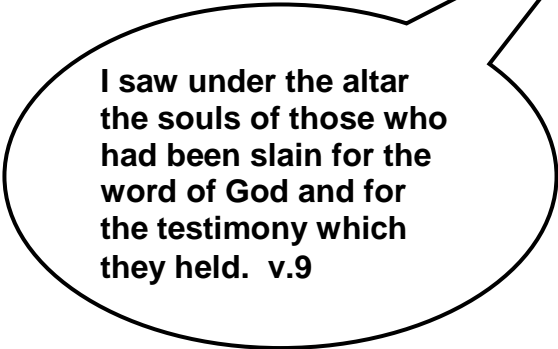
Nothing is hidden from God. He spoke to Cain:



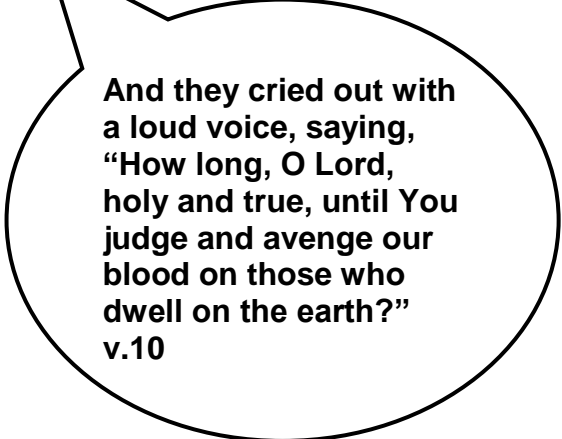
The voice of your brother's blood

Abel's blood speaks of revenge.

In Revelation 6:9-10 the martyrs cry out to the Lord asking Him to avenge their death.



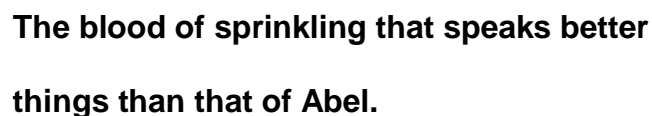
I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. v.9



And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" v.10

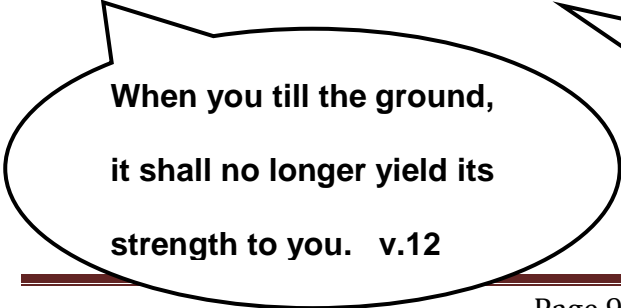
The blood of Jesus Christ speaks of forgiveness.

It is:

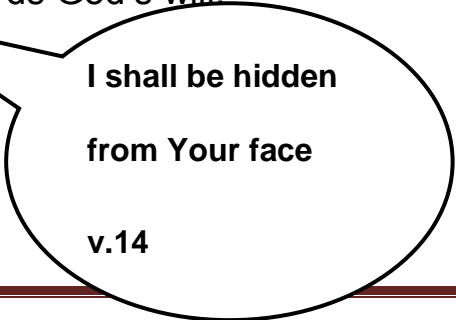


The blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Cain was cursed and exiled i.e. sent from the presence of the Lord for his disobedience and rebellion towards God's will



When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. v.12



I shall be hidden from Your face

v.14

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ABEL?

- We can only please God by coming to Him through the blood offering that Jesus has made for us.
- God wants obedience rather than the work we try to do to please Him.
- It is better to be clothed in Christ rather than our own works.
- Obedience to God sometimes will cost us our lives.
- Abel's name means "something transitory", and we are to remember that our earthly or flesh life is transitory i.e. a passing thing.

God has something better in mind for us.

We are:

Strangers and pilgrims on the earth Hebrews 11:13

We desire a better, i.e. a heavenly country Hebrews 11:16

We are to:

Set your mind on things above, not on things of the earth Colossians 3:2

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them Hebrews 11:16

ABEL POINTS TO THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO PLEASE GOD.

- The surrendering of our will to the will of God
- The way of the cross – through the blood of Jesus Christ

SUGGESTION:

Write a prayer to God offering him yourself and asking for grace to obey His word.

ENOCK

A picture of the church of
Jesus Christ

- walking in perfect
communion with God
- and speaking
prophetically to the
world

ENOCH PLEASED GOD.

His story is in Genesis 5:21-24

If we trace Enoch's family tree, we discover that he was descended from the godly line from Adam through Seth – i.e. “created in the likeness of God” (Genesis 5:1) and commissioned to have dominion on the earth.

And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. Genesis 5:3

Fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Genesis 1:28

Jude 14 confirms Enoch's family:

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam

What is the significance of being the seventh from Adam?

Scripture reveals

- a completion
- a rest

that is associated with the “seventh”

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Genesis 2:2

So there is something in Enoch that signifies a completeness from God's point of view, a quality in Enoch that shows us how to enter into the rest from all works, an entry into God's rest, that is, into the fullness of what God has already done.

Enoch is remembered as the father of Methuselah, the oldest man who ever lived. But this does not make him a hero of faith.

Enoch's name means: initiated. (*Strong's Concordance 2585*)

: to initiate or discipline:- dedicate, train up

(*Strong's Concordance 2596*)

Enoch, son of Jared, was trained up, initiated and disciplined in the ways of God.

[By comparison, Enoch, son of Cain, was initiated in the ways of man. His story is in Genesis 4:16-18. Cain built and named a city after him; but we have already seen that Cain was exiled from the presence of God. So this city is a city after the flesh.]

Genesis 5:24

**And Enoch walked with God,
and he was not for God took
him. Genesis 5:24**

Enoch's mortal or human body did not experience death. He walked with God. Walking with God refers to his earthly lifestyle. This means that in his earthly life he was in a very close relationship with God.

- ✓ GOD TOOK HIM BECAUSE HE PLEASED GOD. Hebrews 11:5

Intimacy with God is a relationship that will last forever.

- ✓ ENOCH'S MORTAL OR HUMAN BODY DID NOT EXPERIENCE DEATH.

**By faith he was taken away so that he did not see
death Hebrews 11:5**

Enoch simply passed from this earthly life into eternal life without experiencing death.

Jesus rose again from the dead, showing us that death cannot hold those who trust in Him.

If we **Walk in the Spirit Galatians 5:25** we too will pass from this earthly life into eternal life. Death will not be able to hold us.

The picture we have of Enoch shows us the perfection of man and the spotless church – the bride of Christ- with no barriers between heaven and earth.

**THIS IS THE MAN AND THE CHURCH THAT WALKS IN
PERFECT COMMUNION WITH THE LORD.**

ENOCH – THE PROPHET
Enoch.

Jude records the prophecy of

**Now, Enoch, the seventh from Adam,
prophesied about these men v.14**

Heroes of the Faith

Intimacy with God leads to prophecy, the prophetic voice speaking the words of God.

- To guide the people
- To tell or warn of future events

Jesus speaks of the relationship that we have with Him as “friends”.



I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

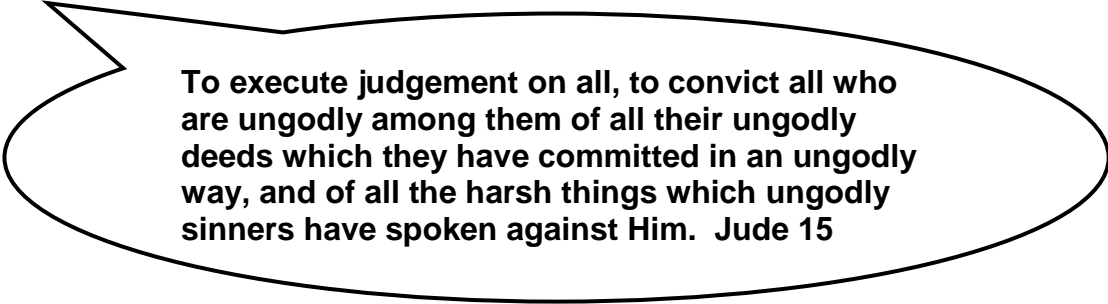
Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

God reveals the second coming of Jesus to Enoch



Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints Jude 14

and the judgement He will execute at that time.



To execute judgement on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him. Jude 15

The apostle Paul confirms these prophecies in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ENOCH?

- He was trained up in the ways of God
- He was intimate with God – he walked with God
- Intimacy with God led to his by-passing death and entering straight into God’s presence
- Walking with God revealed the secrets of God – leading to prophecy

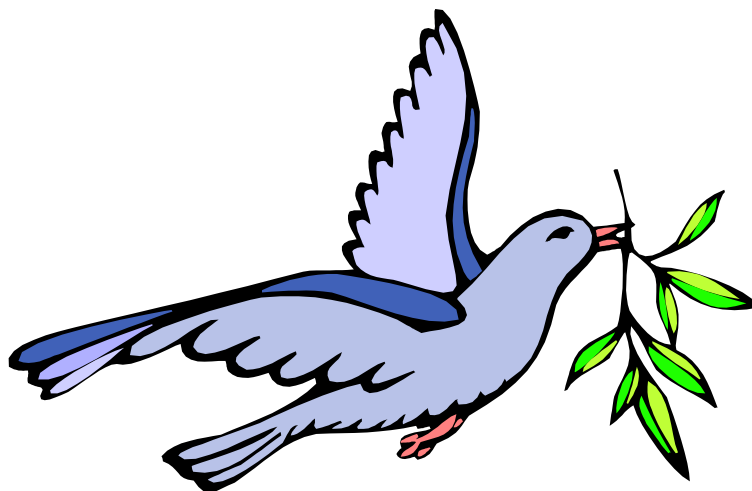
ENOCH REVEALS: A PICTURE OF THE PERFECT CHURCH
WALKING IN COMMUNION WITH THE LORD AND DECLARING
HIS PURPOSES TO THE EARTH.

NOAH

FOUND SALVATION BY OBEYING GOD



NEW LIFE BY WAITING ON GOD



HE AND HIS FAMILY RECEIVED THE COVENANT
PROMISE OF GOD

NOAH'S story is in Genesis 6:8 – Genesis 9:29
IT IS THE STORY OF NOAH'S OBEDIENCE AND GOD'S SALVATION

Noah lived at a time when men were behaving wickedly.

And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. Genesis 6:6

So the LORD said:

I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. Genesis 6:7

BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD. V.8

Read v.9 to see how Noah pleased God?

i

Noah was a just man

ii

Noah was perfect or blameless. He was without sin.

iii

Noah walked with God.

So God spoke to Noah.

He was divinely warned of things not yet seen Hebrews 11:7

God's instructions to Noah are written in Genesis 6:13-21.

Noah obeyed God even though he could not understand what was about to happen.

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did. V.22

Noah

i

moved with godly fear Hebrews 11:7

ii

prepared an ark for the saving of his household Hebrews 11:7

iii

became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith Hebrews 11:7

Heroes of the Faith

God saved Noah and all those in his care because he was righteous.

Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. Genesis 7:1

God gave Noah more instructions which Noah obeyed.
Read Genesis 7:1-16.
Then God shut the door on the ark to keep them safe.

So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. Genesis 7:16

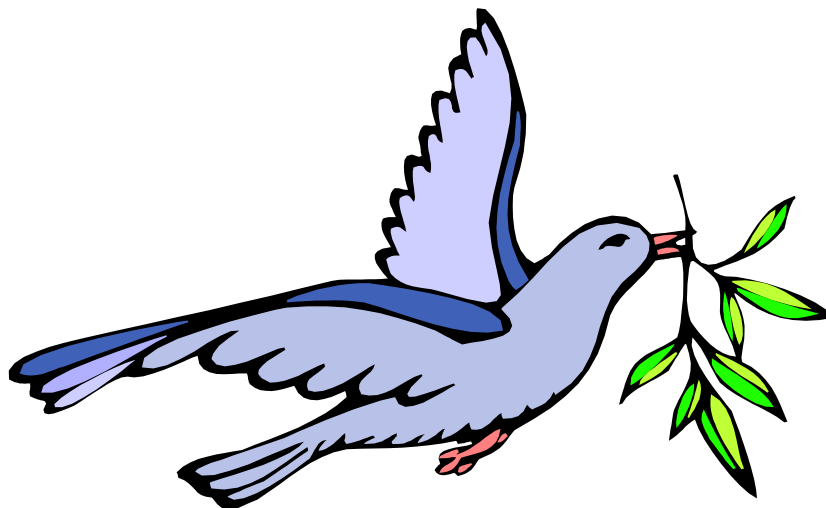
IN THE SAME WAY, GOD SEALS US IN A PLACE OF SAFETY IN HIMSELF WHEN WE TRUST AND OBEY HIM.

Noah's name means "rest". Because he was obedient, Noah and his family entered into the rest of God – i.e. a place of security from the destruction of the flood waters.

THE ARK BECAME A PLACE OF SALVATION.

God gave Noah a sign of new life when the dove returned to him with an olive leaf in her mouth.

Genesis 8:11



There is new life – resurrection life for all who rest in the promises of God.

When the flood waters went down Noah was able to release the animals from the ark. He then left the ark himself, built an altar and worshipped God.

Heroes of the Faith

God smelled the aroma of the sacrifice that Noah offered and this pleased God.

I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every thing as I have done. Genesis 8:21

God rewarded Noah by blessing him and then giving him more responsibility.

Jesus spoke to His disciples about more being given to those who heed what they have heard.

Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given. Mark 4:24-25

God gave Noah a similar commission to that which He had given to the first sinless man, Adam.

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. Genesis 9:1

It has always been God's intention that those in right standing with God should have dominion on the earth.

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast on the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Genesis 2:9

God made a covenant promise to Noah and to his descendants forever.

We read this promise in Genesis 9:8-17

- ✓ The covenant is with Noah and his descendants
- ✓ And with every living creature
- ✓ Never again will God cut off all flesh by flood waters, nor will He destroy the earth by flood

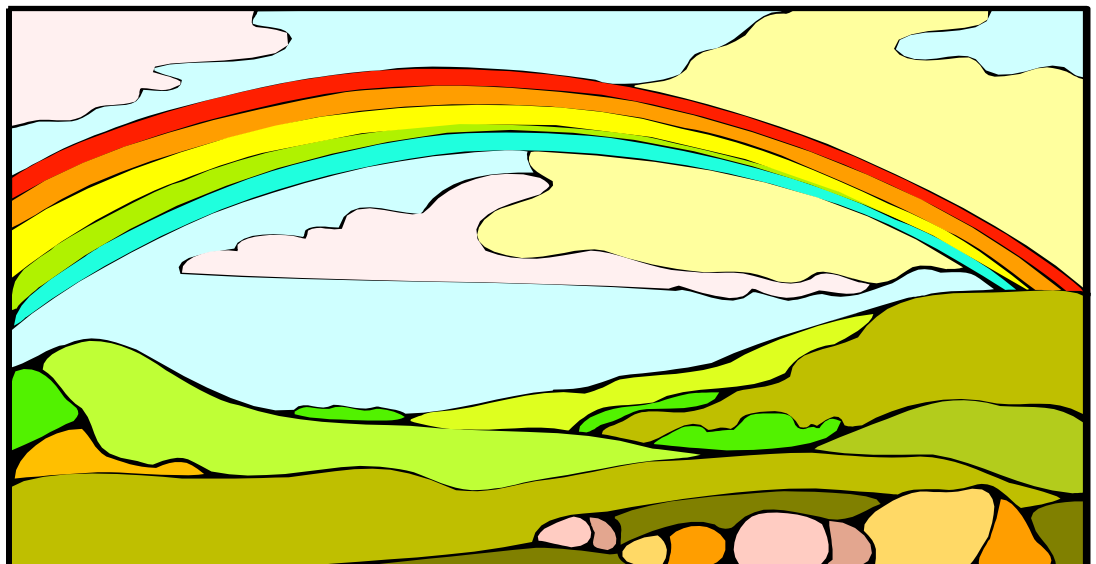
- ✓ God promises a sign to show that He will keep His covenant for ever and ever

The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. v.16

I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. v.13

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM NOAH?

- Those who obey God find a place of salvation
- God is a covenant-giving and covenant-keeping God
- God's covenants extend to the children of those who obey Him
- There is resurrection life for those who trust and wait upon God
- Those who receive salvation and new life are commissioned to establish God's rule and dominion on the earth
- Those who obey God's directions and guidance, are rewarded with more directions and guidance



ABRAHAM

Father of many nations

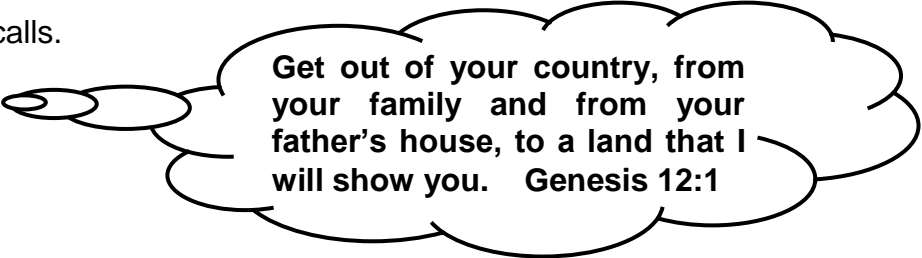


- the father of all who believe
- by faith he went where God led him
- by faith he dwelt in an unknown land
- by faith he received a son in his old age
- by faith he offered up this son believing God would raise him from the dead

ABRAHAM - FATHER OF OUR FAITH - FATHER OF MANY NATIONS

Abram, son of Terah, was a descendant of Noah's son, Shem. God changed his name to Abraham which means "father of a multitude". His story begins in Genesis 11:6 with his birth and genealogy.

Then God calls.



Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. Genesis 12:1

GOD MAKES PROMISES TO ABRAM Genesis 12:2-3

- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you
- And make your name great
- And you shall be a blessing
- I will bless those who bless you
- And I will curse him who curses you
- And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

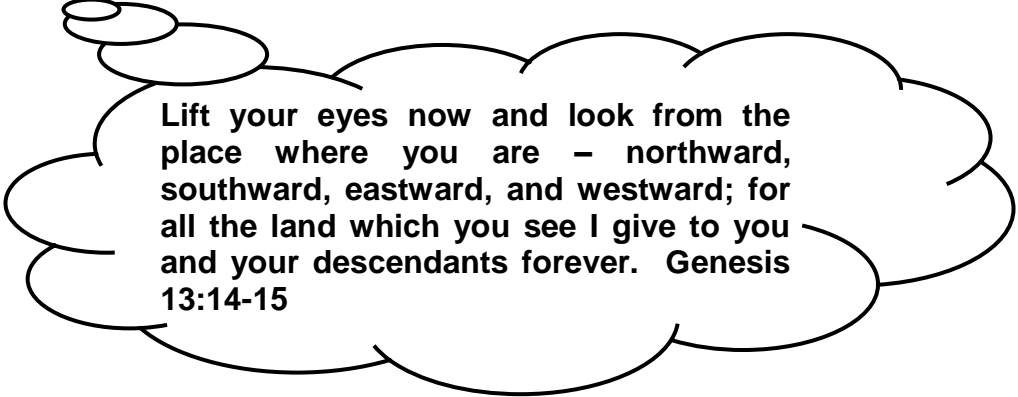
"So Abraham departed as the Lord had spoken to him." Genesis 12:4

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:8

Abraham was not given a permanent home in the land God promised.

"By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:9-10

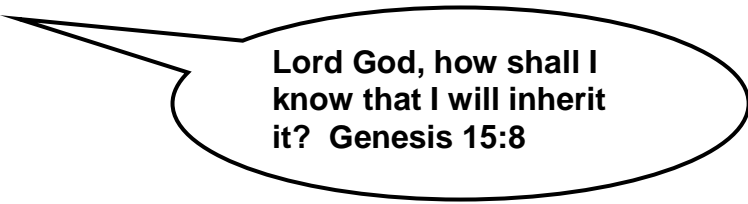
➤ GOD PROMISES LAND



Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are – northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. Genesis 13:14-15

Abram asked:

So God made a covenant with him.

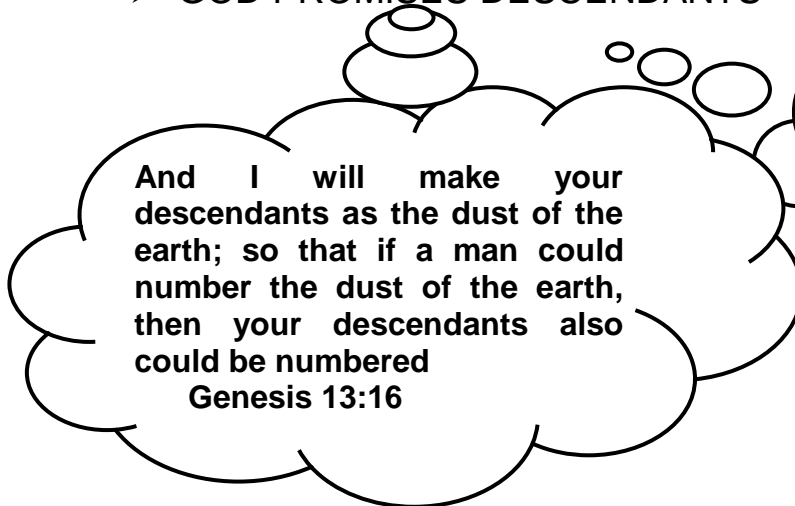


Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it? Genesis 15:8

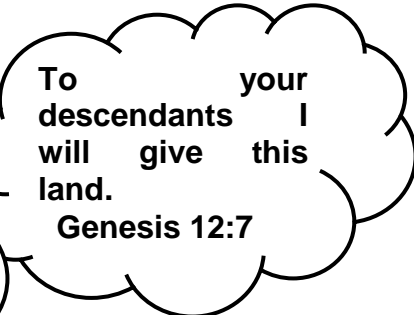
Genesis 15:18-21

By faith Abram travelled through the land of Canaan.

➤ GOD PROMISES DESCENDANTS

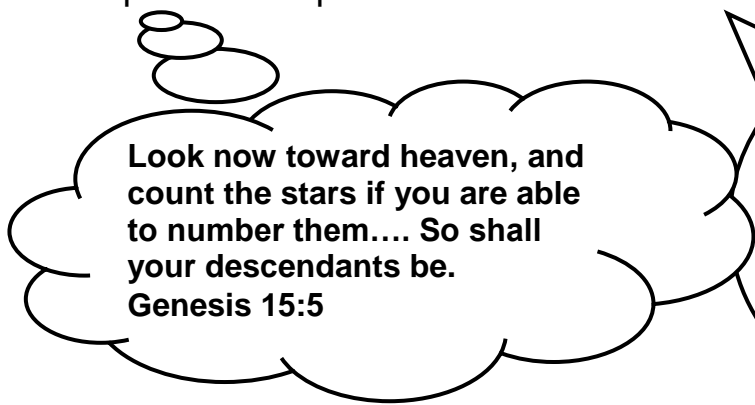


**And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered
Genesis 13:16**

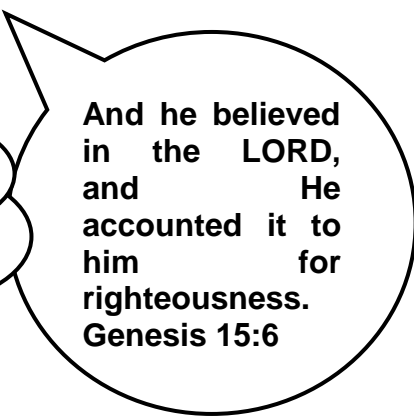


**To your descendants I will give this land.
Genesis 12:7**

God repeated this promise and Abram believed Him.



**Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.... So shall your descendants be.
Genesis 15:5**



**And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.
Genesis 15:6**

Abraham and Sarai waited; then thinking they had to assist God to fulfill this promise, Sarai gave her maid, Hagar, to Abram. She conceived and bore him a son, Ishmael. He was not the son of promise through whom God would establish His covenant. Sarah would bear that son. (Genesis 17:1-16)

God sealed this promise with a covenant – the covenant of circumcision, and Abram was given a new name, Abraham. (Genesis 17:5)

➤ THROUGH FAITH THE SON OF PROMISE IS BORN

Read:

- Genesis 18:1-15
- Genesis 21:1-7
- Romans 4:16-22 Here we see Abraham who,

Contrary to hope,
in hope believed
v.18

So that he
became the
father of many
nations v.18

According to what
was spoken, "So shall
your descendants
be." v.18

And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body,
already dead (since he was about a hundred years old) and the
deadness of Sarah's womb. v.19

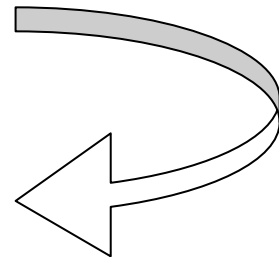
He did not
waver at the
promise of
God through
unbelief v.20

But was strengthened in

giving glory to
God, v.20

And being fully convinced
that what He had promised
He was also able to perform.
v.21

And therefore



"It was accounted to him for righteousness." v.22

➤ ABRAHAM'S FAITH IS TESTED

"By faith Abraham when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense." Hebrews 11:17-19

Read Genesis 22:1-19

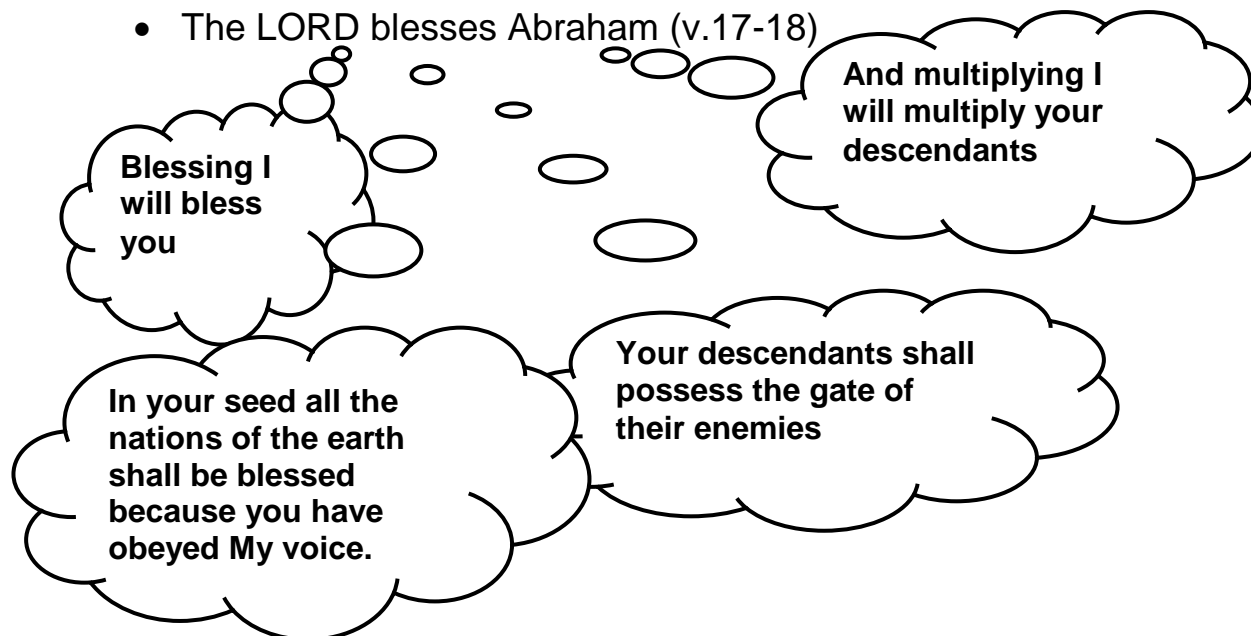
- God asked Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice (v.1-2)
- Abraham was obedient (v.3-6)

Heroes of the Faith

- Abraham reveals faith and trusts God for the resurrection of the son of His promise (v.5)
- Again Abraham expresses faith that God will provide the sacrifice (v.7-8)
- Abraham receives a visitation from the Angel of the LORD and a confirmation of his faith (v.11-12)
- Abraham acknowledges the character of the Lord (v.14)

The - LORD – Will – Provide
(Jehovah Jireh)

- The LORD blesses Abraham (v.17-18)



In his lifetime Abraham:

- ✓ became a great nation as the numbers of his household and his flocks and herds increased
- ✓ was blessed by God (e.g. in his encounter with Melchizedec in Genesis 14:18-20) and also as he received his promised son
- ✓ saw his name become great as he won battles against surrounding tribes
- ✓ was a blessing (e.g. He pleaded with God to save his nephew, Lot)
- ✓ saw God curse those who opposed him (Genesis 12:17)

He did not see all the families of the earth being blessed.
(Genesis 12:1-3)

However, Abraham believed and trusted God who "calls those things which do not exist as though they did" (Romans 4:17), and "waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God". (Hebrews 11:10)

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE?

- God directs and guides us as we obey His commands.

- God is faithful and keeps His promises.

**He who calls you is faithful,
who also will do it.
1Thessalonians 5:24**

- We are to hold fast to the vision God gives us, knowing "the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." Habakkuk 2:2-3

- We are saved by faith through grace, not by obedience to the law. Romans 4:13-16

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

- We are to trust the one who is THE- LORD – WILL – PROVIDE. He has provided Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb as the sacrifice for our sins, and made a way for us to receive resurrection life.

- We are justified by faith, not by works.

Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:6

- He is "the father of all those who believe that righteousness might be imputed to them also". Romans 4:11

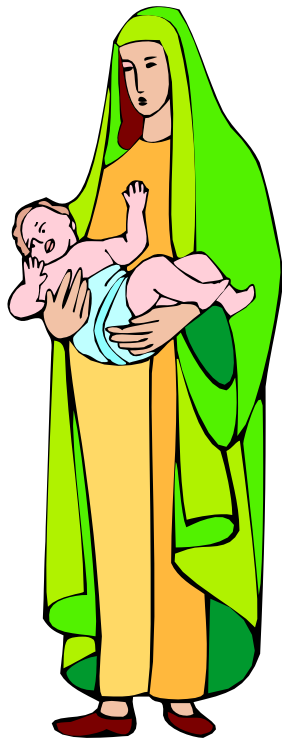
Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, Romans 4:23

but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. Romans 4:24

- As spiritual descendants of Abraham we are to possess the gate of our enemies. Jesus has said that the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church He will build. Matthew 16:18

SARAH

A mother of nations



“Kings of peoples shall be from her.”
Genesis 17:16

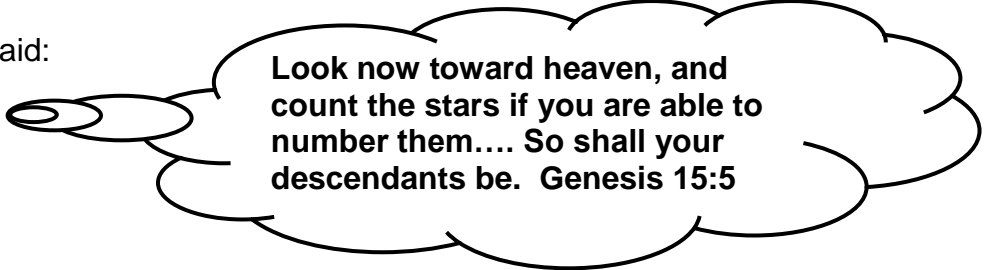
SARAH – A MOTHER OF NATIONS

“By faith Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.” Hebrews 11:11

Sarai, wife of Abram, had experienced God faithfully fulfilling His promises to Abraham.

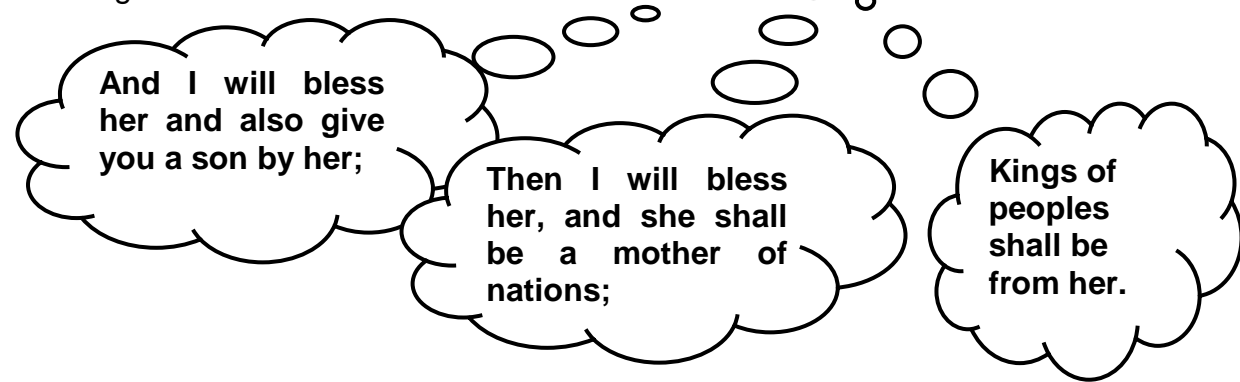
She had heard the promise that they would bear a son and through this son they would have innumerable descendants.

God had said:



Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.... So shall your descendants be. Genesis 15:5

After making a covenant of circumcision with Abraham, God renamed Sarai, calling her Sarah. And He blessed her. Genesis 17:16



And I will bless her and also give you a son by her;

Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations;

Kings of peoples shall be from her.

Abraham reported this conversation to Sarah when she had given up hope of receiving the promised son. Yet God keeps His promises and we read the names of kings in the genealogy of Abraham and Sarah.

SARAH WAS NINETY YEARS OLD!

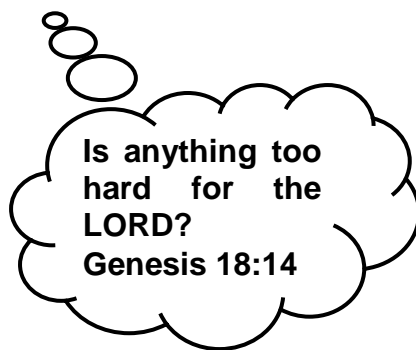
The Angel of the LORD then appeared to Abraham and Sarah together by the terebinth trees of Mamre. (Genesis 18:1) This time Sarah heard the promise herself.

“Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.” Genesis 18:11

When Sarah laughed (v.12), the Angel of the LORD heard and knew her doubts. (v.13) Nothing is hidden from God. He knows what is in the heart of man.

Heroes of the Faith

His reply was faith-building and instilled fear in Sarah. (v.15)



And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. Genesis 21:1

Isaac means “laughter”, for the son of promise brought great joy.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM SARAH ?

- The prophetic word is to be heard and obeyed. We are to wait with expectation for God to fulfill his word to us.
- The fulfilled promises of God bring great reward and joy. We are to rejoice in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the promised Son of God.
- We are to have a holy fear of God that will lead us to obey.

“IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?”

For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. Genesis 21:2

And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him – whom Sarah bore to him – Isaac. Genesis 21:3

ISAAC



SON
of
PROMISE

ISAAC'S story reminds us of the life of Jesus.

He was the:

- PROMISED SON born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age.

Read Genesis 18:1-15

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. v.11

- MIRACLE SON

Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Genesis 18:14

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. Genesis 21:1

- SON OF COVENANT

Read Genesis 13:14-16 and Genesis 15:5.

God had promised Abraham many descendants and also a land for them to possess.

- ✓ God promised that nations and kings would be descended from Abraham. Genesis 17:6
- ✓ God promised to be their God forever. Genesis 17:7
- ✓ God promised them they would possess land as an everlasting covenant. Genesis 17:9
- ✓ God gave Abraham and his descendants the sign of circumcision as a covenant sign. Genesis 17:12

ISAAC GREW UP KNOWING THESE THINGS

- He had been promised by God
- He would have many descendants
- He would have possession in the land
- God had promised to be with him forever
- Isaac himself was living proof that God keeps His promises.

- ISAAC WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT

- Many descendants
- Authority over his enemies

- Blessings

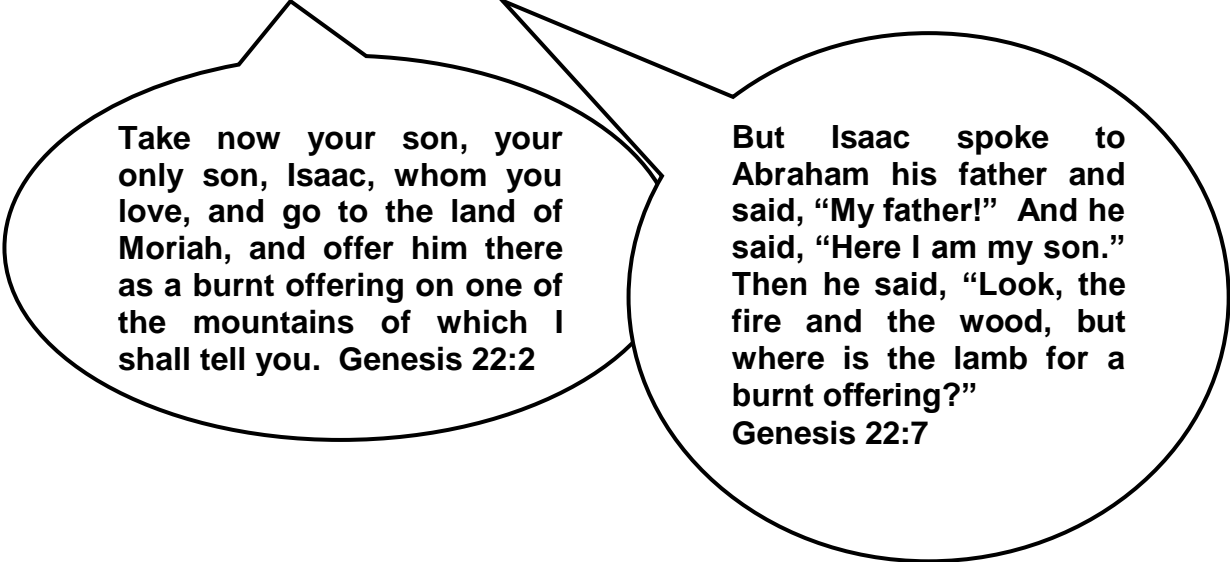
Isaac knew he would inherit all that God had promised to Abraham.

➤ GOD PROVIDES A LAMB FOR THE SACRIFICE

Read Genesis 22:2-19

Both father and son were obedient to God and prepared to make the sacrifice.

God tested Abraham and Isaac was part of that test.



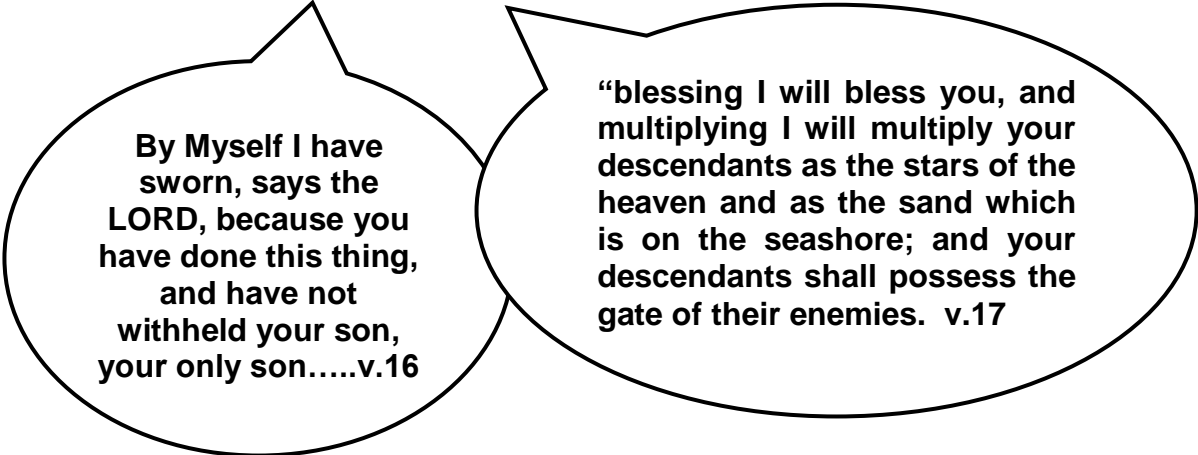
Take now your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you. Genesis 22:2

But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Genesis 22:7

v.8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

Through faith in God, Isaac received life and Abraham received his son alive. We see the promise of resurrection life that was fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

As a result God made more promises to them both.



By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son.....v.16

"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. v.17

v.16 reveals that Isaac will have authority over his enemies.

v.18 reveals that “all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

➤ **ISAAC IS PROVIDED FOR BY HIS FATHER**

Read Genesis 24:1-67

Abraham sent his servant to choose a bride for his son.

You shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son. Genesis 24:4

In his adult life Isaac benefited from the fruit of his father's labour. Genesis 26 records how Isaac repeatedly reopened the wells that his father had dug and took back the territory that his father had gained. When other herdsmen argued with him over the water, God spoke to him promising to bless him.

I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake. Genesis 26:24

➤ **ISAAC IS REWARDED FOR HIS OBEDIENCE**

Read Genesis 26:1-5

Isaac obeyed and the LORD rewarded him.

Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundred-fold ; and the LORD blessed him. Genesis 26:12

The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. Genesis 26:13-14

➤ **BY FAITH ISAAC BLESSES HIS SONS**

Read Genesis 27:1-40

Isaac prophesies over his sons, Jacob and Esau, and future history reveals the truths of his words.

ISAAC PRESENTS TO US A FORETASTE OF JESUS

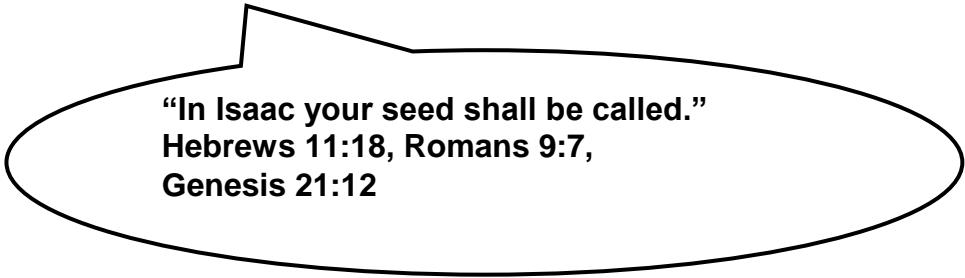
- a promised son
- a miraculous birth

- offered as a sacrifice yet did not taste death
- living in the inheritance of his father
- obedient to God
- presented with a bride of his father's choice

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM ISAAC'S LIFE?

(i) We are to walk in the inheritance that our heavenly Father has provided for us. (Philippians 4:19) This means that we must know the things that God has promised to us.

(ii) We are seed of Abraham and thus are entitled to the blessings of God.



**"In Isaac your seed shall be called."
Hebrews 11:18, Romans 9:7,
Genesis 21:12**

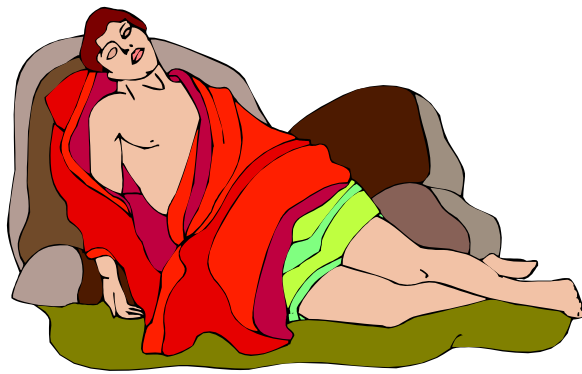
(iii) Jesus is the only sacrifice that is necessary to please God. Through Him we have resurrection life.

(iv) When we are obedient to God, we become overcomers and are given authority over our enemies. (1 John 5:4)

(v) God the Father is preparing a bride for His Son (Revelation 21:2). Christ gave Himself for His bride – a church that is holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

JACOB

“I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.” Genesis 28:13

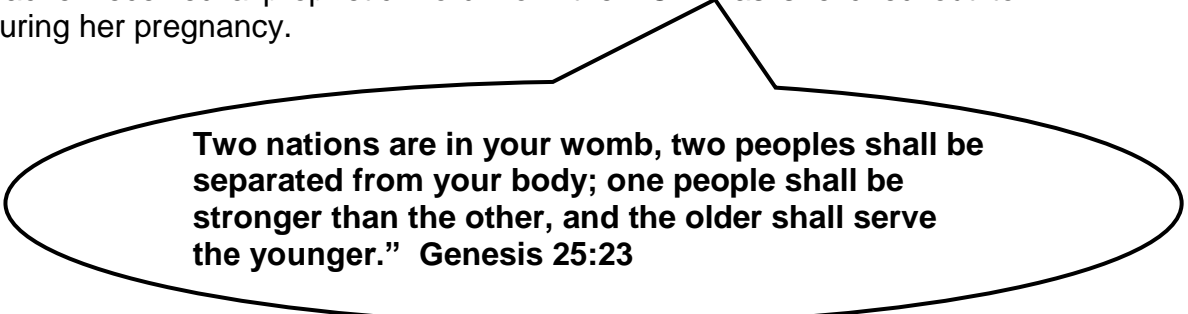


“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.” Genesis 32:28

JACOB'S birth is recorded in Genesis 25:20-26.

He was the younger son of twins born to Isaac and his wife, Rachel. Because he was holding his brother Esau's heel as he was being born, he was called Jacob, which means: "Supplanter or Deceitful, literally, One Who Takes the Heel."

Rachel received a prophetic word from the LORD as she cried out to Him during her pregnancy.



Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger." Genesis 25:23

This word was fulfilled during Jacob's lifetime and is recorded as a historical fact in the history of the nation of Israel.

Read Genesis 25:27-28 to see how the two brothers were so different.

Now both these young men grew up knowing the covenant promises God had given to Abraham (Genesis 13:14-16, and Genesis 22:16-18), and to Isaac (Genesis 26:4) and knew the value of their inheritance.

Read Genesis 25:29-34

When Esau asks for a meal from Jacob, Jacob bargains for the birthright that belonged to Esau who was the older son.

"And Esau sold his birthright to Jacob." Genesis 25:33

RACHEL AND JACOB PLOT TO DECEIVE ISAAC.

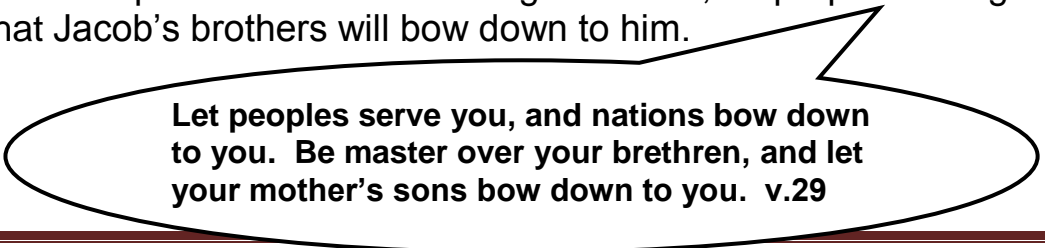
Read Genesis 27:5-12

In v.12, Jacob expresses a fear that he might bring a curse upon himself by this deception but his mother says she will bear the curse. Later on in this story of Jacob we see that she does bear the curse for she has to send Jacob away from her and she dies before he returns.

Read v.14-29.

Jacob lives up to his name of "Deceiver" as he lies to his father. (v.18, 24)

As Isaac pronounces the blessing on Jacob, he prophesies again that Jacob's brothers will bow down to him.



Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother's sons bow down to you. v.29

When Esau discovers the deceit, he cries out in despair.

Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing! Genesis 27:36

Because of Esau's threat to kill Jacob, the family becomes divided. Read Genesis 28:1-9 This time Jacob honours his parents and obeys them. v.5 and v.7, while Esau dishonours his parents. v.8-9 The prophecies are being fulfilled that there will be two nations from these two brothers.

Later as Jacob returns to meet his brother (Genesis 32) he is afraid, no doubt remembering the prophetic words that have been spoken about the division between the two people groups.

GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH JACOB.

Read Genesis 28:10-22

As Jacob dreams and sees visions of angels, God repeats the covenant that He had made with Abraham and Isaac.

I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. v.13

Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west, and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. v.14

Read v.15

God promised:

- I am with you
- and will keep you
- and will bring you back
- I will not leave you
- until I have done what I have spoken to you

Read v.16-19

Jacob recognizes:

- Surely the Lord is in this place
- This is none other than the house of God
- This is the gate of heaven

Read v.18-22

Jacob:

- Worships
- Names the place “House of God” – Bethel
- Vows that if God keeps His promises to him “then the LORD shall be my God
- Promises to tithe

JACOB IS CHEATED

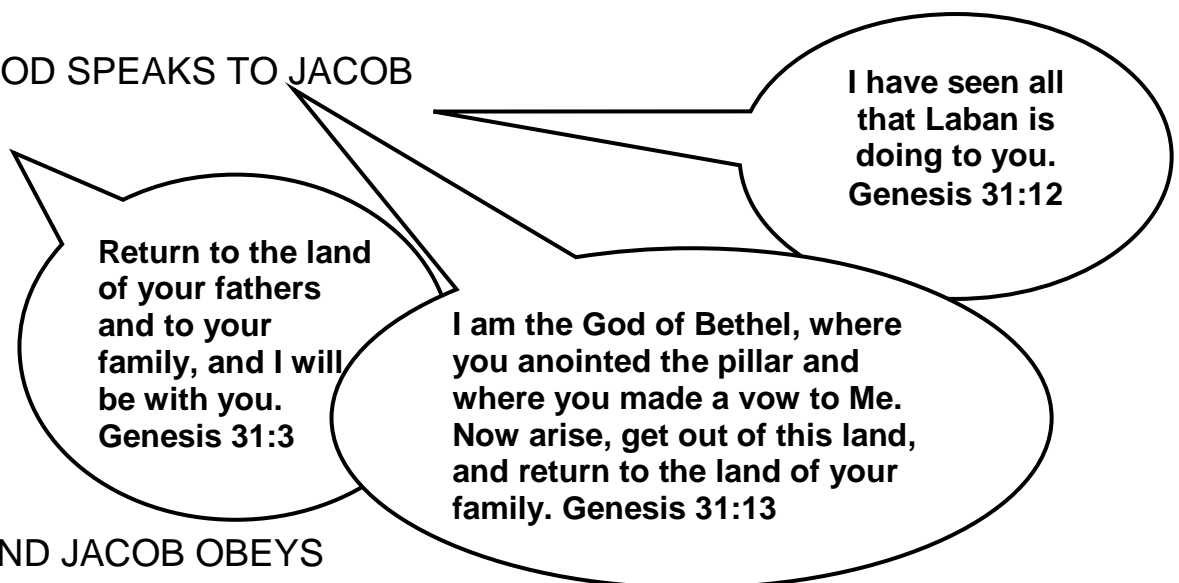
Read Genesis 29-30

- Jacob marries and is deceived by his father-in-law
- He has twelve sons who become the twelve tribes of Israel
- Jacob’s father-in-law cheats him again with the herds of goats

GOD DIRECTS JACOB SO THAT HE PROSPERS

Read Genesis 30:37-43

GOD SPEAKS TO JACOB

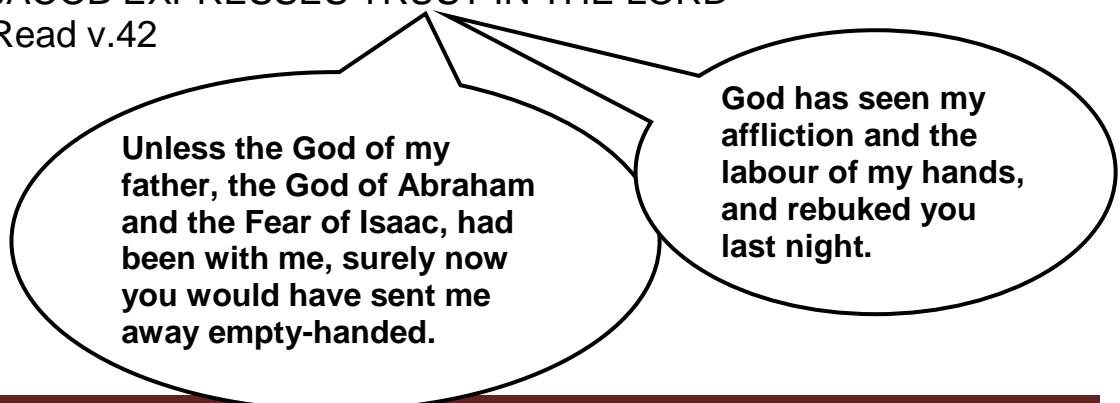


AND JACOB OBEYS

God also spoke to his father-in-law, Laban warning him not to harm Jacob. (v.24)

JACOB EXPRESSES TRUST IN THE LORD

Read v.42



JACOB RETURNS HOME

Read Genesis 32:1-21

- Once again Jacob sees the angels of God. (v.1)
- He still is only partly trusting God and makes plans for the safety of his family and possessions. (v.3-6)
- He fears his brother. (v.7)
- He recognizes his own unworthiness. (v.10)
- He cries out for deliverance. (v.11)
- He reminds God of His covenant promise. (v.12)

JACOB REPENTS AND OVERCOMES

Read Genesis 32:22-32

- A Man wrestles with Jacob until daybreak. (v.24)
- Jacob would not give in. (v.25)
- The Man puts Jacob's hip socket out of joint. (v.25)
- Jacob will not let the Man go until he receives a blessing. (v.26)
- The Man asks Jacob's name. (v.27)
- When Jacob speaks his name he is confessing his sins, because all his life he has lived up to the meaning of his name. (v.27)
- Jacob receives a new name, Israel, "for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (v.28)
- Jacob received a blessing. (v.29)
- Jacob recognized he had had a face-to-face encounter with God and his life was preserved. (v.30)
- Jacob bore a limp – a sign that he was a changed man. (v.31)

JACOB AND ESAU MEET

Read Genesis 33:1-11

- At their meeting, Esau forgives Jacob. (v.4)
- Jacob offers to bless him. (v.8)
- Jacob acknowledges the grace of God. (v.5, v.11)

JACOB BECOMES ISRAEL and GOD HAS A NATION FOR HIMSELF

In Genesis 35 we read that Jacob returned to the place where he first met God. God tells Jacob to begin a fresh way of life. (Genesis 35:2)

- Put away the foreign gods that are among you.
- Purify yourselves.
- Change your garments.

Jacob goes back to his first meeting place with God. (Genesis 35:4)

GOD SPEAKS TO JACOB AT BETHEL

Read Genesis 35:9-15

- God changes his name from Jacob to Israel. (v.10)
- God tells Jacob to be fruitful and multiply. (v.11)
- God prophesies about the offspring of Jacob. (v.11)
- God promises land to Jacob and his descendants. (v.12)
- Jacob worshipped and named the place, Bethel. (v.14-15)

JACOB MOVED TO EGYPT TO FIND FOOD AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL MULTIPLIED AND GREW STRONG THERE.

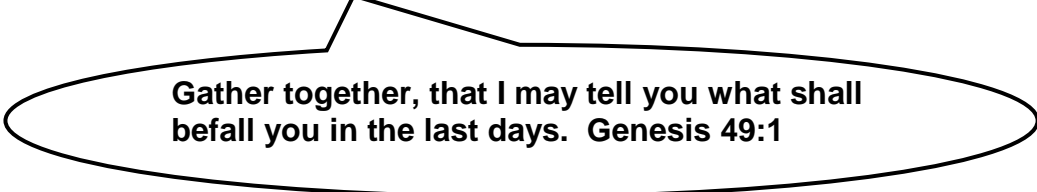
Read Genesis 46:2-3

Jacob is obedient to God and blesses Joseph's sons (his grandsons) with a similar blessing to the one God had given to his mother, Rachel.



The younger brother shall be greater than he. Genesis 48: 19

Before his death, Jacob prophesies about each of his sons.



Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days. Genesis 49:1

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM JACOB?

- Even though he wandered away from following God, he remembered what God had promised.
- God still spoke to Jacob even in his times of wandering.
- Jacob remembered his encounter with God – both the time and place.
- God loved Jacob too much to let him remain in his sin.
- Once Jacob confessed his sin, he was a changed man – there was evidence of true repentance.
- As an overcomer, Jacob received a new name from God. (Read Revelation 2:17 and see that there Jesus promises a new name to the overcomer.)

Heroes of the Faith

- As a result of his obedience and faith in God to fulfill His covenant promises, Israel became a mighty nation and possessed the promised land.
- God wants an overcoming people (church) for Himself.

JOSEPH

BELOVED SON



“Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob.” Genesis 49:22-24

JOSEPH'S story begins in Genesis 30:23-24

➤ **BELOVED SON**

Joseph was the beloved son of Jacob (who was known as Israel) and Rachel.

Read Genesis 37:1-3

**Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colours.
Genesis 37:3**

➤ **REJECTED BROTHER**

But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Genesis 37:4

His brothers allowed their jealousy to turn to hatred and to thoughts of murder.

Read Genesis 37:12-36 to see how they sold Joseph as a slave.

➤ **OBEDIENT SON AND SLAVE**

Read Genesis 37:12-14

As a son Joseph obeyed his father.

Here I am. v.13

Read Genesis 39:1-6

As a slave Joseph obeyed his master and was given a place of authority.

The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man....and his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.....Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. v.2-4

Read Genesis 39:6-23

As a prisoner Joseph was obedient and was given authority.

The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper. v.23

In trials and persecutions Joseph persevered and pleased God.

➤ **JOSEPH THE DREAMER**

As a young man Joseph received dreams about the future from

And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind. v.11

Heroes of the Faith

Later when he was accused unjustly and put in prison, he became known for the gift God had given him to interpret dreams.

So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God?” Genesis 40:8

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it. Genesis 41:15

**So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”
Genesis 41:16**

Joseph never took glory from God but acknowledged the source of his gift.

➤ JOSEPH WAS FRUITFUL

We have already read that God was with Joseph and made all that he did to prosper.

In his final words to his sons, Israel prophesies about Joseph.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. Genesis 49:22

Joseph’s father recognized that Joseph’s strength came because he grew near a well, that is, he stayed in close fellowship with the LORD who is the wellspring of life.

He also acknowledged that Joseph went beyond his own familiar territory and reached out to others.

➤ JOSEPH IS EXALTED BECAUSE OF HIS OBEDIENCE AND GIVEN GREAT AUTHORITY

Joseph began life as a son of a shepherd.

He became a slave with oversight in his master’s house. Gen.39:5

He served as a prisoner and then an overseer in the prison. Gen. 39:22

He was “set over all the land of Egypt” by Pharaoh. Gen.40:39-43

➤ JOSEPH IS FORGIVING

Read Genesis 42:1-46:7

Joseph not only forgives his brothers, but he recognizes God’s hand of blessing on all that had happened to him

**But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
Genesis 45:5**

**So now it was not you who sent me here, but God...
Genesis 45:8**

- ABOUT THE FUTURE EXODUS OF HIS FAMILY FROM EGYPT

I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. Gen. 50: 24

- ABOUT HIS BONES BEING TAKEN BACK TO THE LAND PROMISED TO HIS FATHERS

Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." Genesis 50:25

➤ JOSEPH WAS SEPARATE FROM HIS BROTHERS

Read Genesis 49:26 and see that the blessings of God were upon Joseph because his behaviour was different from the behaviour of his brothers.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM JOSEPH'S LIFE?

His life reminds us of Jesus.

- ✓ He was beloved of his father, and so are we beloved by God our heavenly father. (John 3:16)
- ✓ He was obedient even when he was not being fairly treated. (1 Peter 4:12-13)
- ✓ He listened to God and received dreams and interpretations. (Acts 2:17)
- ✓ He was forgiving and we are told to forgive. (Matthew 6:12,14)
- ✓ He was fruitful and Jesus told us to "bear much fruit". (John 15:8)
- ✓ He was exalted to a place of authority because of his obedience. (Ephesians 2:6)
- ✓ Joseph sets an example for the church to be a storehouse of God's word for the people



Law Giver



Chosen to set
God's people free

MOSES

MOSES was born at a time when the Israelites were severely oppressed by the Egyptians. After Joseph had died, a new king (Pharaoh) ruled who did not know of all that Joseph had done, and as the children of Israel increased in number, the Egyptians were afraid they would “take over” and rebel against them.

But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. Exodus 1:7

The Egyptians were afraid of them, (Exodus 1:12) and caused them to “serve with rigour” (Exodus 1:13). As a result their lives were made miserable. Then the pharaoh ordered that all male babies born to the Hebrew women were to be thrown into the river (Exodus 2:22).

AT THIS POINT IN HISTORY, MOSES WAS BORN.

Read Exodus 2:1-10

- ✓ His parents were both from the house of Levi, the ministering tribe. v.1
- ✓ When his mother “saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months”. (v.2)
- ✓ She made a water-tight basket and placed her baby in it in the reeds by the river and set her daughter nearby to watch. (v.3-4)
- ✓ Pharaoh’s daughter found him. (v.6)
- ✓ She allowed the baby’s mother to come and nurse him. (v.7)
- ✓ The child was returned to Pharaoh’s daughter and became her son. (10)
- ✓ She called him Moses, “Because I drew him out of the water.” (v.10)

SO GOD’S PLAN TO RESCUE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BEGAN.

- A Hebrew baby drawn out of the water was to lead the children of Israel out of bondage.
- This baby belonged to godly parents who would have known the covenant promises given by God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- God had honoured their faith and given the baby back to his parents. His formative years were spent in a home where he was nurtured in the teachings of the God of the children of Israel.

“By faith Moses, when he became of age refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.” Hebrews 11:24-25

MOSES DOES THINGS HIS OWN WAY

Read Exodus 2:11-15

- Moses looked at the burdens of his people. (v.11)

Heroes of the Faith

- He killed an Egyptian slave driver. (v.12)
- His action is misunderstood by his own people. (v.14)
- Moses had to flee to save his life. (v.15)

Read Exodus 2:16-22

Moses helps the daughters of Jethro (Reuel), a priest of Midian, and marries his daughter, Zipporah, who bears him a son.

GOD ACTS ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE

Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. Exodus 2:23

So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. Exodus 2:24

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them. Exodus 2:25

Read Exodus 3:1-10

- The Angel of the LORD visits Moses in a flame of fire in the midst of a bush, but the bush is not burned up (v.2). God had shown Moses His first miracle.
- Moses turns aside to look (v.3), and God responds to this act of faith and speaks to Moses (v.4-5).
- God reassures Moses (v.6), and introduces His reason for visiting Moses (7-9).
- God calls Moses

Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. v.10

Read Exodus 3:14-22 to see how God reminds Moses of His covenant promises to his forefathers and encourages him.

Read Exodus 4:1-17 and see the miraculous power of God revealed to Moses to strengthen his faith.

GOD GAVE MOSES A ROD AS A TANGIBLE SIGN THAT HE WOULD BE WITH HIM IN POWER.

And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do signs. Exodus 4:17

So Moses went to Egypt, the land of captivity, with great faith in God and with the rod of authority to lead the children of Israel out of bondage.

Moses left, “esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.” (Hebrews 11:26)

MOSES BOLDLY LED THE CHILDREN OUT OF EGYPT IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

“By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” (Hebrews 11:27)

Moses was so sure that God would keep His promises to him that he was bold, confronting the enemy on behalf of the people time after time. He knew the power of God available to those who obey.

Read Exodus 5:1-10:29 to see how God acted on behalf of His people.

GOD GAVE MOSES INSTRUCTIONS TO CELEBRATE THE PASSOVER

Finally God gave Moses instructions to prepare to leave.

Read Exodus 12:1-28

“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.” Hebrews 11:28

Moses did not understand the significance of Jesus, the Passover Lamb, and the power of His blood to take away our sins and set us free from the bondages of sin and death. Yet he was obedient, and the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, the place where they had been slaves to a master other than God.

MOSES LEADS THE PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT.

As the people left, they took with them “articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.” (Exodus 12:35)

God had provided for them for their journey even as He had provided for Moses. He had given them a tangible sign of His care for their needs.

<p>And the LORD had given the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they had requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. Exodus 12:36</p>

Even so, the people tested Moses and complained much on their journey. Yet he continued to trust God.

“By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.” Hebrews 11:29

MOSES USES THE ROD OF AUTHORITY THAT GOD HAD GIVEN HIM

- ✓ to divide the waters of the Red Sea

Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. Exodus 14:16

- ✓ to give the people water in the desert

Also take in your hand the rod with which you struck the water and go. Behold, I will stand with you on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. Exodus 17:5-6

- ✓ to stand before God in prayer as Joshua led the army in battle

Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand. Exodus 17:9

“And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.” Exodus 17:11

Moses received the ten commandments (Exodus 20) by faith and built the tabernacle, and all its fittings according to the pattern that God had given him (Exodus 21-40). He instituted the laws for the sacrifices and the feasts (the book of Leviticus) according to God's instructions.

MOSES DENIES HIMSELF AND TRUSTS GOD

When the people rebelled (Exodus 32:1-10), God would have destroyed them and made Moses a great nation for himself. Moses pleaded with God according to His promises, and God relented. (Exodus 32:1-14)

GOD RESPONDS TO A CHALLENGE AARON and MIRIAM MADE TO MOSES

“If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, evenly plainly,

and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the LORD.” Numbers 12:6-8

In the New Testament Moses is honoured along with Elijah on the mountain as Jesus is transfigured before His disciples. John 9:4

The writer to the Hebrews reminds the church of the faithfulness of Moses in building a house for the Lord and giving the pattern for believers to follow.

“As Moses also was faithful in all His house.” Hebrews 3:3,5

“And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward.”

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF MOSES?

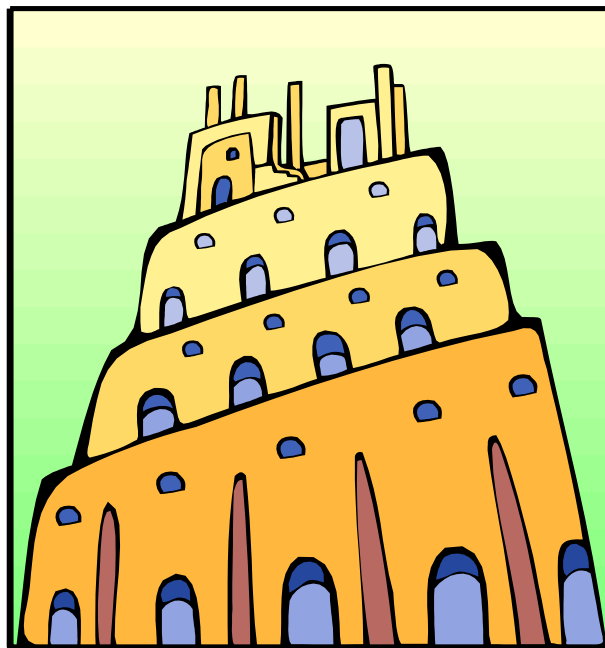
- We are to trust God’s promises for He keeps His word.
- We are to obey the word of the Lord if we are to see God’s hand at work in our lives.
- We are to “turn aside” to look at what God is doing, even as Moses turned aside to see the burning bush.
- We are to recognize that the Lord never changes. He is still the God of miracles.
- We are to take no glory for ourselves.
- We are to recognize that the Lord has given us the Holy Spirit as a sign of our redemption and a guarantee of our inheritance. (Ephesians 1:14)
- We are to celebrate the Passover as we remember the ***“Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)***
- We, individually, and the church corporately, are to see the patterns that God gave to Moses to understand how to approach God.
- We are to flee the lusts of the flesh (1 Timothy 6:11), and pursue the things of God.
- We are to know the authority we have in Christ and to exercise that authority.
- We are to be bold in the face of trials and adversity, knowing that God is all-powerful.
- We are to know the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to deliver us from bondage and bring us into His kingdom. (Colossians 1:13)
- Like Moses, we are to teach the word of God to our children.

In his lifetime Moses, ***“having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.” Hebrews 11:39-40.***

Moses did not enter the promised land in his lifetime. Yet in his lifetime, he did not seek the honour of riches in the household of the Pharaoh. He endured the hard labour of a shepherd. He accepted the responsibility of leading a grumbling people through

the wilderness for forty years. And Jesus has revealed to his disciples he is now with God the Father. (John 9:4)

BY FAITH the WALLS of JERICHO FELL DOWN



- JOSHUA – a faithful and obedient leader
- THE PRIESTS – honouring and obeying God
- THE PEOPLE – in unity and obedient to God's commands

Heroes of the Faith

BY FAITH THE WALLS OF JERICO FELL DOWN AFTER THEY WERE ENCIRCLED FOR SEVEN DAYS.

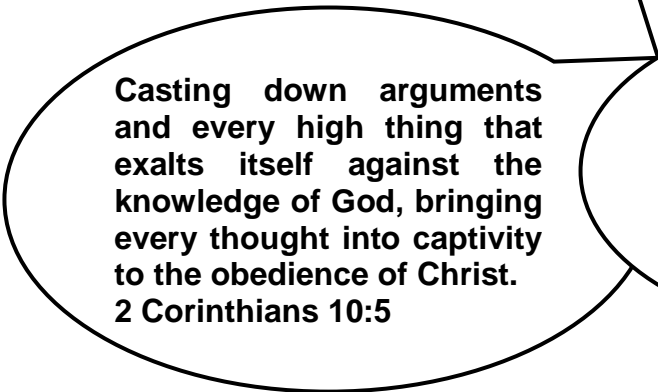
When the children of Israel entered the promised land, they did so through the mighty miracles of God.

✓ ***“For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over.” Joshua 4:23***


This sign was ***“That all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that He is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.” Joshua 4:24***

Immediately they had crossed the Jordan, the fortified city of Jericho was before them. This was the first stronghold that must be demolished if they were to live in the promised land.

To enter the promises of God, we are to be:



Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5



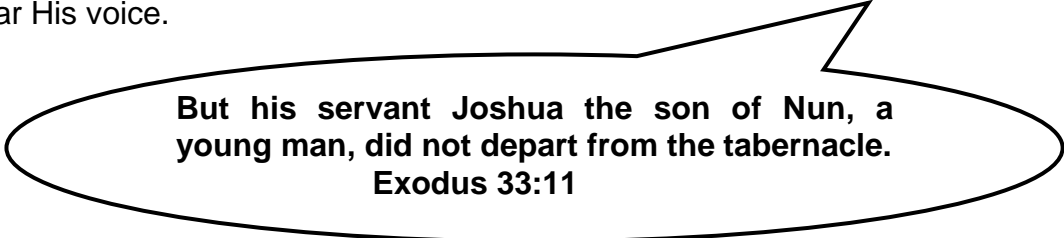
And being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:6

Joshua, as the leader, the priests, and the people all needed to be obedient to God for him to punish the disobedience of the people of Jericho.

They exercised great faith as they trusted God to destroy Jericho.

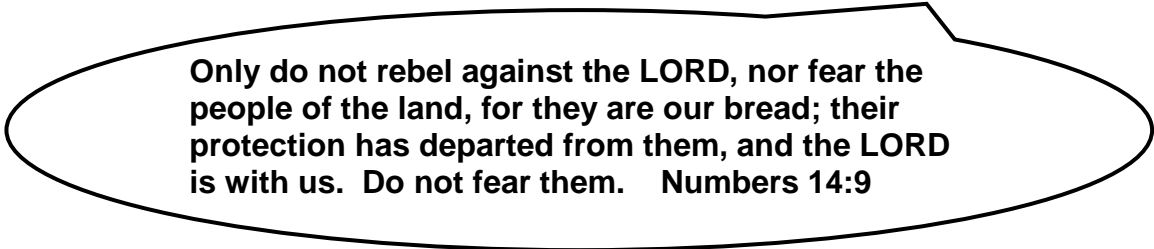
JOSHUA, the leader exercised faith.

As a young man he had learnt how to remain in the Lord's presence and to hear His voice.



But his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Exodus 33:11

As a young man he had been sent as one of the spies to investigate the promised land of Canaan. Along with Caleb, he was sure that God was giving them this land.



Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them. Numbers 14:9

Heroes of the Faith

Joshua was “a man in whom is the Spirit” (Numbers 27:18), who walked in God’s authority.

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. Deuteronomy 34:9

Joshua had an encounter with the Commander of the LORD’S army and received instructions to enter and demolish Jericho. Joshua 5:13-15



As Joshua obeyed God’s commands, God led him to victory

THE PRIESTS obeyed God.

The priests, carrying the ark of the covenant had stepped into the flooded Jordan ahead of the children of Israel.

Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan. Joshua 3: 17

And all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan. Joshua 3:17

This is the role of the priest – to bear the presence of God before people until all enter the promises of god.

The priests carried the presence of God before the enemy and as they marched around the city they blew the rams’ horns.

They proclaimed the word of God continually until the enemy was destroyed!

Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew the trumpets. Joshua 6:13

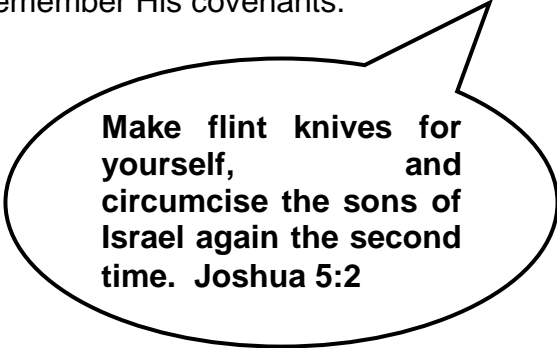
Heroes of the Faith

We are priests of God called:


- ✓ to bear the presence of God
- ✓ to proclaim the word of God continually
- ✓ to persevere until the enemy is defeated

THE PEOPLE followed the leadership and entered the promised land.

Once they had crossed the Jordan on dry land, God called the Israelites to remember His covenants.



Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time. Joshua 5:2



Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover. Joshua 5:10

If we are to enter fully into the promises of God, we remember:

- ✓ we are also circumcised “by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh”. (Colossians 2:11)
- ✓ we are to celebrate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as He gave His body and blood that we might live.



**Do this in remembrance of Me.
1 Corinthians 11:24**

Once our obedience is complete, the Lord gives us weapons that are “mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” (1 Corinthians 10:4), and makes us ready to “punish all disobedience”. 2 Corinthians 10:6

THE CHILDREN OF GOD OBEYED THE WORD OF GOD

- **THE WEAPONS HE GAVE WERE MIGHTY IN GOD FOR PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS**
- **ON THE SEVENTH DAY – HIS DAY OF REST – HE GAVE THEM VICTORY AND DESTROYED THEIR ENEMIES**
- **THUS THE LORD DESTROYED THE STRONGHOLD OF JERICHO**

RAHAB



- HEARD OF GOD'S POWER AND PROTECTION
- FEARED GOD
- HID HIS MESSENGERS
- TRUSTED GOD TO RESCUE HER AND HER FAMILY
- RECEIVED SALVATION

Heroes of the Faith

RAHAB - A WOMAN WHO TURNED TO GOD - AND FOUND DELIVERANCE

"By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace." Hebrews 11:31

Rahab's story begins in Joshua 2.

- She was a "harlot" of Jericho who hid the Israeli spies in her house v.1-3
- She lied about their whereabouts v.4-5
- She had heard reports of the protection and mighty power of God towards His chosen people v.8-11
- She made a bargain with the spies for the safety of herself and her household v.12-13
- She is saved when Jericho is destroyed v.22-23

Her name is found in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:5

RAHAB IS REMEMBERED FOR HER FAITH

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not wanting any to perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Rahab had heard of the protection that God had given His people as they escaped from Egypt and of the mighty power He had exercised on their behalf.

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan.

Joshua 3:10

RAHAB EXPERIENCES THE FEAR OF GOD

News of the coming of God's people had already reached Jericho.

**I know that the Lord has given you the land
Joshua 2:9**

And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you. Joshua 2:11

**The terror of you has fallen on us, and all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.
Joshua 2:9**

RAHAB REPENTS

- She turns to God

For the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Joshua 2:11

- She pleads for her family

And spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. Joshua 2:13

- Rahab's actions show true change v.21

According to your words so be it

She sent them away

She bound the scarlet cord in the window

- She is given responsibility to take steps for the deliverance of her family v.17-20

RAHAB'S STORY SHOWS US THAT FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

**Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?
For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:25-26**

RAHAB RECEIVED THE SPIES WITH PEACE

Jesus said: "But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house', and if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not it will return to you. Luke 10:5-6

RAHAB AND HER WHOLE HOUSEHOLD WERE SAVED

"So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel." Joshua 6:23

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM RAHAB'S STORY?

- When God's people demonstrate God's power, others change

Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:5

- God's salvation is for all

The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:17

- True repentance brings change and responsibility

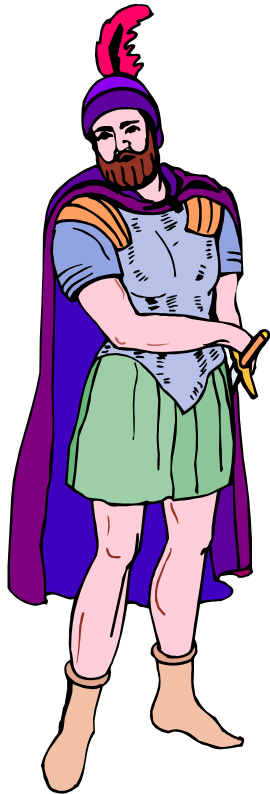
Repent, therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord Acts 3:19

Go and make disciples Matthew 28:19

- True fear of God leads to change

RAHAB'S FAITH IN GOD TO DELIVER BROUGHT SALVATION TO HER WHOLE FAMILY

GIDEON



mighty man of
valour

“Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”

And Gideon believing, went in the power of God and won the victory over the enemy.

GIDEON'S story is found in Judges 6-8

IT IS A STORY OF A MAN WHO DID NOT FOCUS ON HIS OWN WEAKNESSES BUT TRUSTED GOD WHO CALLED HIM AND SENT HIM TO SAVE A NATION.

Gideon lived at a time when the children of God had been disobedient and God handed them over to the enemy to oppress them.

**Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD
Judges 6:1**

**So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years.
Judges 6:1**

We meet Gideon in Judges 6:11 when he received a visit from an Angel of the LORD.

He is threshing wheat- precious food for his family- out of sight of the enemy. This is a reminder to us, that in the face of the enemy we must guard the precious things that God has given us.

But hold fast what you have till I come. Revelation 2:25

The Angel of the LORD encourages Gideon as He greets him.

The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valour. Judges 6:12

Gideon questions his visitor basing his questions upon what he had heard about the goodness and the miracles of God.

Read Judges 6:1-40

O my Lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? v.13


Where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about? v.13

But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. v.13

God gives Gideon a job to do. He commissions Gideon.



Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.v.14



**Have I not sent you?
v.14**

v.15 Gideon protests and looks at his own weaknesses

v.16 God reassures him

v.17 Gideon asks for a sign that this is really a message from God

v.18 Gideon prepares an offering for the Messenger

v.20-21 the Angel of the God accepts the offering and shows Gideon a miracle

GOD ANSWERS GIDEON'S QUESTION THROUGH THE MIRACLE



Where are all the miracles? v.13

v.22 Gideon is afraid that he will now die because he has seen the face of the Lord

v.23 God speaks peace and reassurance to Gideon

v.24 Gideon worships God and names Him

THE-LORD-IS-PEACE YAHWEH SHALOM

GIDEON NOW HAS A SENSE OF SECURITY IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.

v.25-26 God tells Gideon to destroy all the altars that his father has built and then to offer a sacrifice to the LORD.

v.27 Gideon obeys. His name means "a feller, one who cuts down".

v.28-33 Gideon meets with opposition, but his action has brought his own father to his senses and his father defends him and challenges the worshippers of idols to call upon the idols to defend themselves if they can.



If he (Baal) is a god, let him plead for himself. v.32

GIDEON HAS BEEN EMPOWERED AS A LEADER.

Because of his obedience the Spirit of the Lord comes upon Gideon and empowers him for action. (v.34-35)

- the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon
- he blew the trumpet
- his tribe gathered behind him
- he sent messengers to other tribes who also gathered behind him

GIDEON SEEKS FOR MORE REASSURANCE FROM GOD.

- v.36-40 Gideon checks to see that he is really hearing accurately from God and God does as Gideon asks.

GIDEON LEADS A MIGHTY ARMY

The story of the battles that Gideon fights are in Judges 7

God gives Gideon very specific instructions because He wants Gideon and the people to know that He is a miracle working God who cares for His people.

GOD CUTS THE ARMY DOWN IN SIZE

1. Read Judges 7:2

The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand

God sends some of the soldiers home.

Lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, "My own hand has saved me."

2. Read Judges 7:4-7

God chooses 300 to fight the battle and defeat the enemy. Those chosen are the ones who keep their eyes open and are alert even while they are satisfying their own needs.

GIDEON TRUSTS GOD AND OVERCOMES FEAR.

- He hears God speak

Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hands.” 7:9

- And receives further proof from God that God will be with Him. v:10-14

LED BY GOD, GIDEON LEADS A REMNANT OF THE ARMY INTO BATTLE AND WINS A MIGHTY VICTORY.

Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule over us, both you and your son and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of the Midian.” v.22

But Gideon knew it was the LORD who had won the battle.

I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you. v:23

The people had peace for forty years while Gideon led them. Sadly he made a golden ephod to remember what God had done and the people later worshipped this.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM GIDEON?

- Gideon had an expectation that God who performed miracles yesterday would do the same today.

Jesus said:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. John 14:12

Gideon cried out for these miracles and God came to him.

- Gideon tested God to ensure that it was God’s voice that he was hearing.

By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. 2 Corinthians 13:1

Heroes of the Faith

- Gideon knew he could not do what God had asked of him in his own strength.

**Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,
says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 4:6**

Jesus said:

**But you shall receive power when the
Holy Spirit has come upon you. Acts 1:8**

- As a result of his obedience, the Holy Spirit came upon him.

Jesus said:

**If anyone love Me, he will keep My word;
and My Father will love him, and we will
come to him and make Our home with
him. John 14:23**

- Gideon trusted the LORD in spite of the circumstances around him and God used a remnant of the people to accomplish His purposes. Today God will use a trusting church that is willing to watch to see that God's purposes are accomplished.
- God will not share His glory with another.

**My glory I will not give to another,
nor My praise to carved images.
Isaiah 42:8**

- There is only One who has the right to rule and He is the LORD.

He is:

**KING OF KINGS
AND LORD OF LORDS”
Revelation 19:16**

BARAK

VICTORIOUS WARRIOR



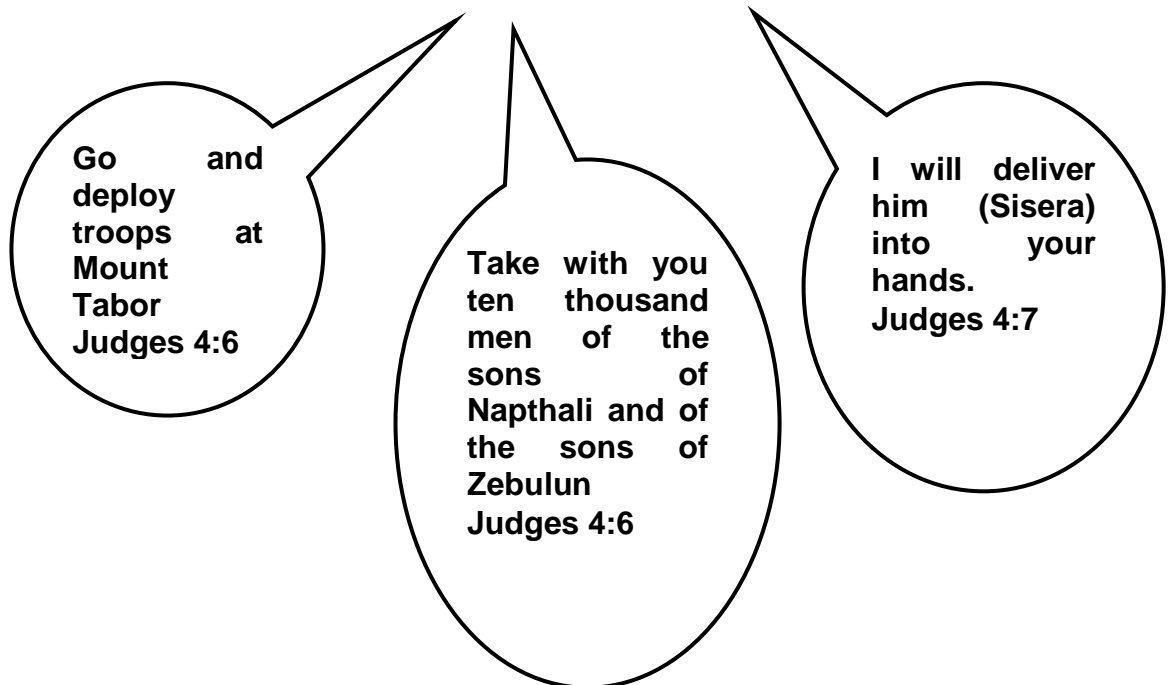
- GUIDED BY THE PROPHETIC VOICE OF GOD'S CHOSEN LEADER

BARAK - GUIDED BY THE PROPHET OF GOD

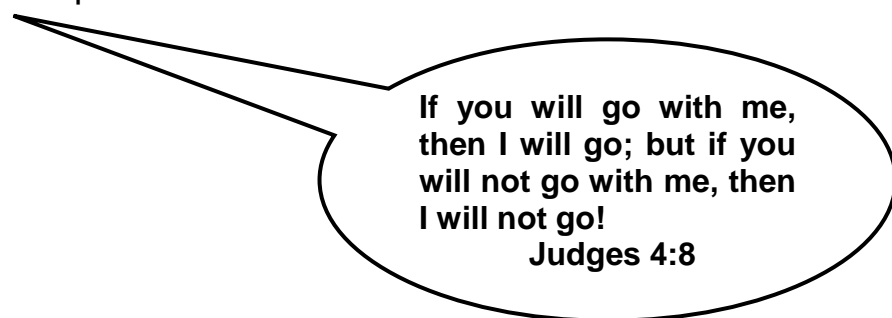
Barak's story is found in Judges 4-5

Barak was commander of the Israelite army at the time when Deborah, the prophetess, was judge of Israel. Judges 4:4-6

Deborah brings a prophetic, detailed command and a word of a victory to be won from the Lord.



Barak's response to Deborah is conditional:



THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS

Barak:

- recognizes the authority of God's chosen judge and the anointing and gifts she exercised
- trusted God's guidance through this leader
- chooses to remain with the one who brings the prophetic guiding word from God

- is not deterred when Deborah tells him that the glory will not be his

Barak is obviously a commander of renown, for Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, gathered a massive army to oppose him. Judges 4:13

With a further prophetic word, Barak goes to battle. v.14

Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand.

**Has not the LORD gone before you?
v.14**

With this guidance and encouragement from the LORD, Barak wins a mighty victory. v.15-16

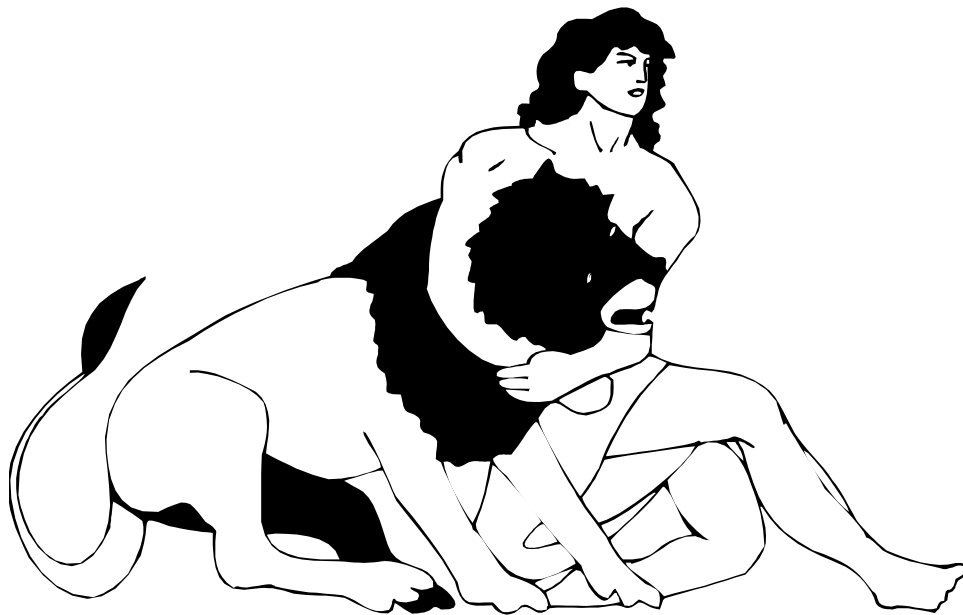
However, Barak recognizes that the prophetic word has not been fulfilled. Sisera has escaped (v.15), and the LORD had promised that He would deliver Sisera into Barak's hand (v.14).

Barak trusts the word of God and is obedient to see that word fulfilled. Read v.17-22

BARAK PRESENTS A PICTURE OF THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH

- RESPECTING THE ANOINTING AND GIFTS OF GOD IN OTHERS
- RECOGNISING THAT THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS
- PERSEVERING TO SEE THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S WORD

SAMSON



- Chosen of God
- Mighty in strength
- Used by God

“For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb; and he shall deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines.” Judges 13:5

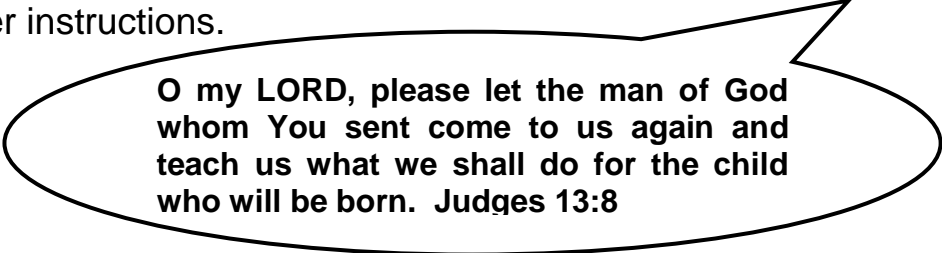
SAMSON'S story is in Judges 13:1-16:31

He was born at a time when “the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.” 13:1

The Angel of the LORD visited his mother with clear instructions about his birth.

- v.3 He was a promised child.
- v.5 He was chosen to be set apart from his birth as a Nazarite.
- v.5 He was chosen to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

His parents were God-fearing people and humbly prayed for further instructions.

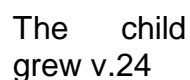


O my LORD, please let the man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born. Judges 13:8



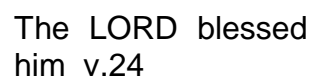
And God listened to the voice of Manoah. v.9

v.21-23 show the faith of Samson's mother.



The child
grew v.24

and



The LORD blessed
him v.24



And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him. v.25

Read Judges 14:1-4

Samson displeased his parents by asking for a wife from the Philistines. But this was a part of God's plan.



But his mother and father did not know that it was of the LORD – that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. v.4

THE HOLY SPIRIT “COMES UPON” SAMSON TO EMPOWER HIM MIGHTILY.

- To kill a lion (ch.14:6)

Heroes of the Faith

- To kill 30 men (ch.14:19)
- To kill a thousand men with the jawbone of a donkey. (ch.15:14)
- To break free from the ropes that were binding him. (ch.15:14)

Even though many of these things happened because Samson was angry, God used the opportunities to punish the Philistines.

SAMSON KNOWS THE SOURCE OF HIS STRENGTH AND CALLS ON GOD FOR HELP.

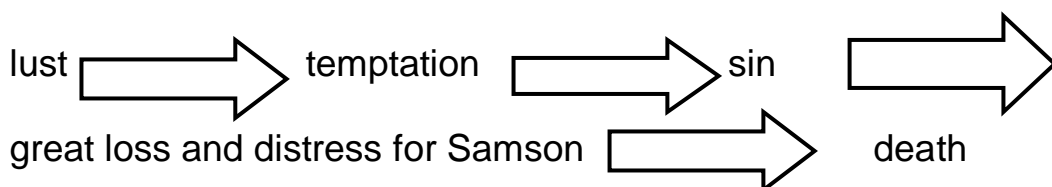
Read Judges 15:18-19

Samson cried out to the LORD and the Lord miraculously split the hollow place and gave Samson water.

SAMSON GIVES IN TO HIS DESIRES FOR WOMEN.

Read Judges 16:1-19

Because Samson did not resist temptation, he sinned and lost His God-given strength.



SAMSON REPENTS

Read Judges 16:20-31

Samson cries out to God.

O LORD GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God. v.28

The LORD restored to him his strength and he destroyed thousands of the Philistines who were oppressing the children of Israel.

So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life. v.30

Samson judged Israel for twenty years.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM SAMSON?

- God has a plan for our lives

For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the LORD, thoughts to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Heroes of the Faith

- God chooses and sets apart people for His purposes.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

- Yielding to temptation leads to death.

Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death. James 1:15

- We are to avoid those things that lead us astray

Flee also youthful lusts.

2 Timothy 2:22

- We are to seek the things of God.

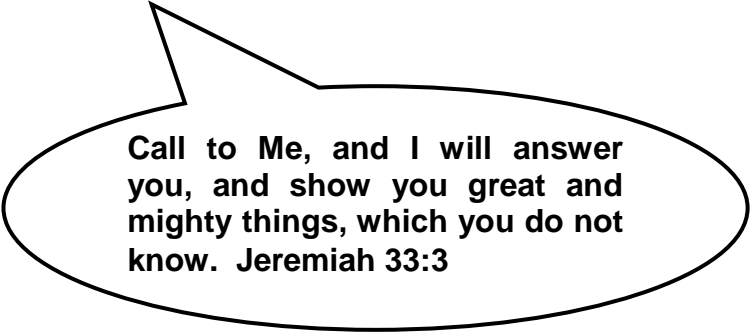
But pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22

- There is a way to return to God through repentance.

The Lordis longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Jesus said, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17

- God answers when we call out to Him.



Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

JEPHTHAH



- MIGHTY WARRIOR
- KNEW THE PROMISES OF GOD
- TRUSTED GOD FOR HIS INHERITANCE
- A PICTURE OF THE CHURCH ENFORCING GOD'S PROMISES IN THE WORLD

JEPHTHAH

- ✓ A man who knew the inheritance of God's people
- ✓ A man who fought for this inheritance
- ✓ A man who enforced God's victories on earth

Jephthah's story is recorded in Judges 11:1-12:7

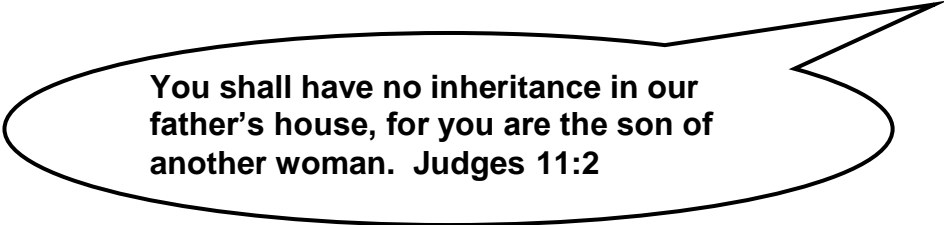
It is a story of "a mighty man of valour":

- who was disinherited and rejected by his brothers v.3-4
- called to fight for the rights of the Israelites v.6
- chosen to be judge of Israel v.8-10
- knew the history of his people v.12-23
- subdued the enemy v.32-33
- made a rash vow before the Lord v.31
- died without descendants to whom he could leave an inheritance Judges 12:7

Jephthah's story:

- shows us a picture of God's people, whose inheritance is not of this world.

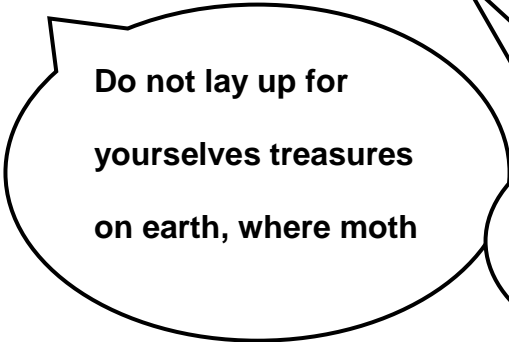
Jephthah's brothers, the sons of Gilead, drove Jephthah out, and said to him:



You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman. Judges 11:2

But Jephthah knew the word of God and the history of God's dealings with His people. From verses 15 to 22, Jephthah recites this history to the enemy. He knew that the real treasures of mankind are in the promises and victories of God, not in the earthly possessions that we inherit from our families.

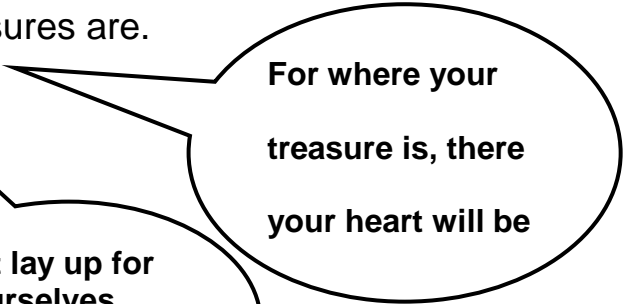
Jesus teaches us where our real treasures are.



Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth



But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be

Heroes of the Faith

Jepthah's story:

- reminds us not to allow the enemy to repossess what God has already given to us.

And now the LORD God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it? Judges 11:23

We, too, are to know the victory that Jesus has won for us at the cross and to withstand every attack of the evil one who tries to rob us of what God has given to us.

Jesus has warned us:

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill,

and instructed us:

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

Jepthah's story:

- teaches us to be prepared to fight to retain the victory God has already won.

So whatever the LORD our God takes possession of before us, we will possess. Judges 11:24

Jepthah's story:

- teaches us that we, as the church, are to fulfill God's command to Adam. The church is to bring God's rule and reign into the earth.

Fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Genesis 1:28

Heroes of the Faith

Jepthah's story:

- teaches us to know our rights as the children of God. He recognizes that God is Judge and He stands by His promises.

**May the LORD, the Judge, render judgement
this day between the children of Israel and
the people of Ammon. Judges 11:27**

Jepthah's story:

- teaches us that we have victory through the confession of our faith

**They overcame
himby the
word of their
testimony.
Revelation 12:11**

**With the mouth
confession is made
unto salvation.
Romans 10:10**

The Holy Spirit empowers those who make such a confession.

**"THEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON JEPHTAH" (v.29);
he won a mighty battle,
and "THE LORD DELIVERED THEM INTO HIS HANDS". (v.32)**

Jepthah left no descendants on this earth. His only daughter died a virgin. He entered life without anything, and he died leaving no one to inherit any earthly possessions.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM JEPHTAH?

- ✓ We have an inheritance from God. The treasures of the world do not compare with the treasures of God.
- ✓ When we know the word of God we can enforce this victory in the world. This is the appointed (that is, the God-given) role of the church.
- ✓ We are to persevere in the battle we have against the enemy, knowing that our God is both Judge and Victor.
- ✓ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

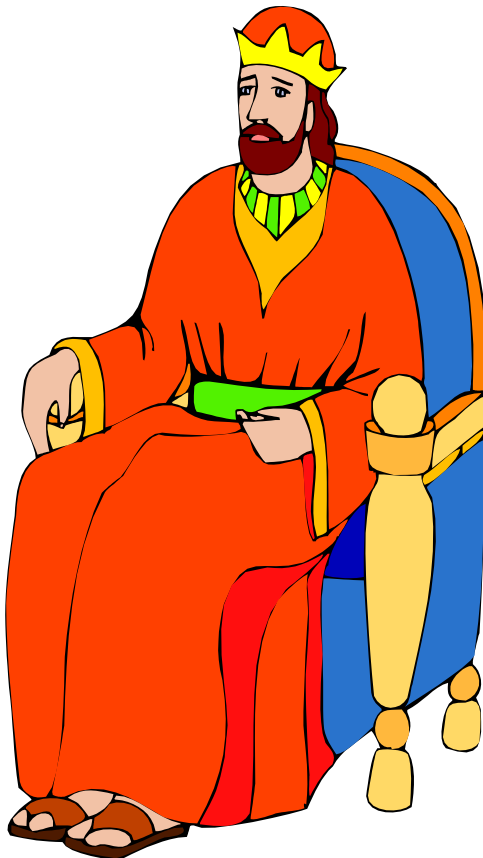
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you
1 Peter 1:3-4

"For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

DAVID



from shepherd boy



to king

DAVID

David was born the youngest son in his family and was responsible for minding the sheep.

- Shepherd boy

God chose him to be king of a nation and lead his chosen people to be victorious over their enemies.

- King

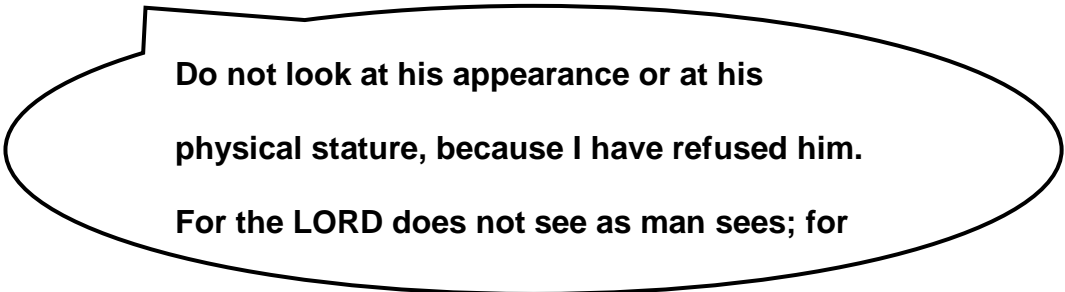
“After that He (God) gave them judges for about 450 years, until Samuel the prophet.

And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’” Acts 13:22


When King Saul displeased God, He sent the prophet, Samuel, to anoint a shepherd boy called David to be king.

God guided Samuel in the choosing of the one to be anointed.



**Do not look at his appearance or at his
physical stature, because I have refused him.
For the LORD does not see as man sees; for**

And God chose David.



And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him;

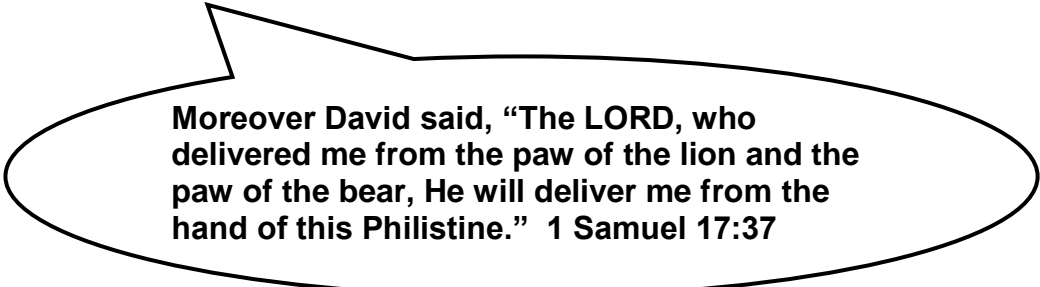
David's story is recorded in 1 Samuel 16:1-2 Samuel and also in 1 Kings.

David did not become king immediately he was anointed. For many years he served King Saul as an officer in his army, and also ministered to him through song, especially when Saul was troubled by a tormenting spirit. Eventually he became king and ruled Judah for seven years, and Israel for forty years.

David's life was one of success and failures. But in his life we see a man who trusted God and had great faith in God's dealings with men.

➤ AS A SHEPHERD DAVID TRUSTED GOD.

Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37




Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:37

Read Psalm 23. As a shepherd David learned how the LORD cares for His people as a shepherd cares for His sheep. Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:11)

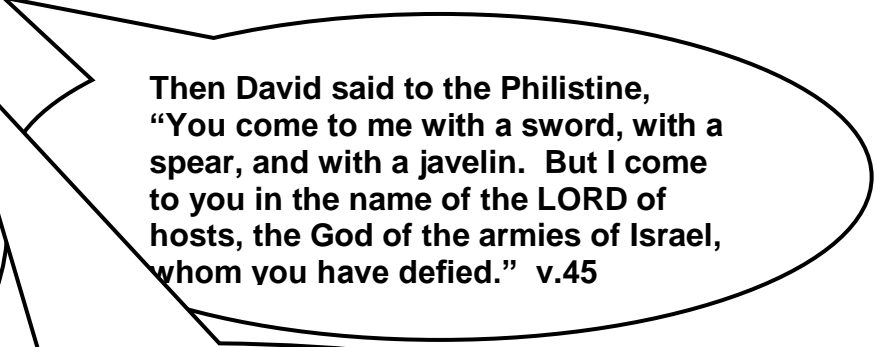
➤ **DAVID KNEW THE SOURCE OF HIS STRENGTH**

Read the story of David’s encounter with the giant, Goliath, in 1 Samuel 17:38-51

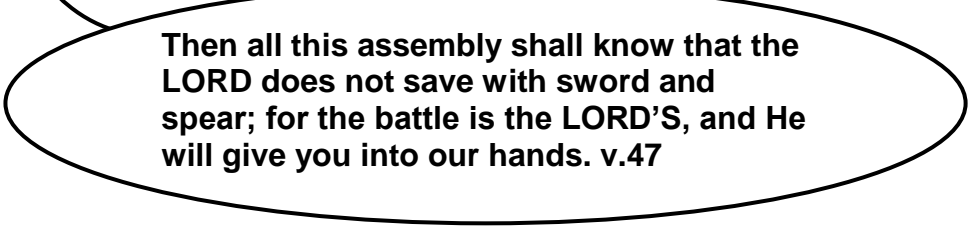
David honours God and acknowledges God’s hand in his battles.



This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand. v.46



Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” v.45



Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD’S, and He will give you into our hands. v.47

When the city of Ziklag was burned and David’s wives and the wives and families of his men were captured, “David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.” 1 Samuel 30:6

➤ **GOD PROTECTS DAVID**

When Samuel anointed David as king, “the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.” 1 Samuel 16:13

King Saul tried many times to kill David because he was jealous of him. Each time the LORD protected David.

Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. 1 Samuel 18:12

And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. 1 Samuel 18:14

➤ **DAVID HONOURS GOD'S ANOINTED ONE**

David had opportunities to take revenge on Saul and to kill him. However he knew God's laws and would not kill him, nor would he allow any of his followers to kill him.

Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless. 1 Samuel 26:9

David was loyal to King Saul and to his son Jonathan. He honoured the covenant he and Jonathan made and cared for Jonathan's remaining son after Jonathan died.

➤ **DAVID KNEW AND TRUSTED IN THE MERCIES OF GOD HE UNDERSTOOD THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD THAT FOLLOWS TRUE REPENTANCE**

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-17. David sinned and committed adultery and had another man killed.

The prophet, Nathan, came and told David of his sin. David confessed his sin and repented.

**So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."
2 Samuel 12:13**

Psalms 51 declares David's confession of his sin and recognition of the mercies and forgiveness of God.

➤ **DAVID CALLS UPON GOD FOR GUIDANCE**

Before going into battle, David asked the LORD what he should do.

Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" 1 Samuel 23:2

In the Psalms, David records how he asked for guidance.

In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul. Psalm 138:3

➤ **DAVID KNEW THAT GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT**

David spent much of his life running away from Saul and in hiding. However, he knew there is no place where God is not able to see us.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? v.7

Psalm 139 is a declaration of great faith in God who is always with us. He recognized the hand of God even before his birth.(v.14-18)

➤ **DAVID ACTS AS PRIEST**

In his lifetime, David served as a priest offering up sacrifices to God. He pointed to Jesus the Christ who would come as both priest and king.

Read 2 Samuel 6:12-18

He brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem offering up sacrifices on the way. There was no veil in the temple separating man from God while David ruled.

➤ **GOD ESTABLISHES AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH DAVID AND HIS KINGDOM**

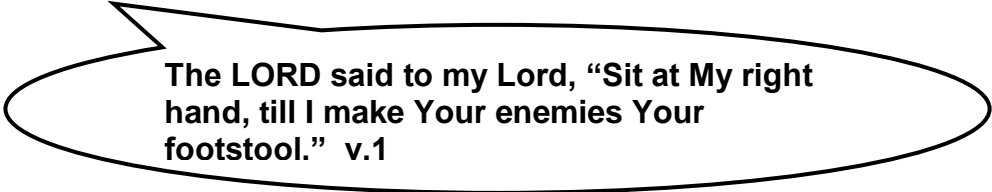
Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17

- I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.
- And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.
- I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom forever.

This has been fulfilled in Christ Jesus, the Rod from the stem of Jesse. (Isaiah 9:1)

➤ DAVID WAS A PROPHET

David announced the reign of Jesus the Messiah in Psalm 110.



The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” v.1

➤ DAVID DESIRED TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR THE LORD

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-7

God would not allow David to build Him a house for He wanted David to understand that His desire is to dwell in man's heart. God allowed David's son, Solomon, to build the temple in Jerusalem.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM DAVID'S LIFE?

- God does not see us as man sees us. He looks at our hearts.
- God forgives when we come to Him and wipes away our sin. We then go forward without condemnation. (Romans 8:1)
- When we call out to God, believing that He hears, He answers us. (1 John 5:14-15)
- David was a man who worshipped with enthusiasm. (2 Samuel 6:14) God loves to hear His people worship.
- When we trust God, He works mightily on our behalf.
- We are to respect and honour those God anoints to serve Him.
- We learn through suffering, “knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4)

DAVID'S LIFE POINTED TO JESUS.

HE WAS BORN IN A HUMBLE STATE

HE WAS RAISED TO BE KING

HE LEARNED THROUGH SUFFERING

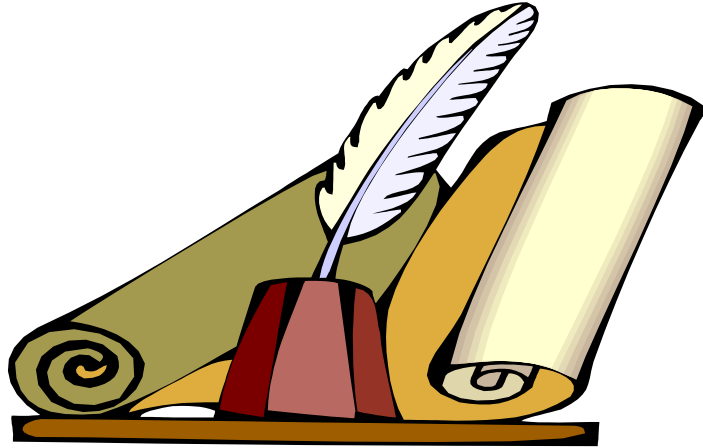
HE HONoured GOD BY HIS OBEDIENCE

HE OVERCAME THE POWER OF THE ENEMY

HE SERVED AS A PRIEST, A PROPHET, AND A KING

“Surely the LORD GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

SAMUEL



and
the
PROPHETS

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets” Hebrews 1:1

SAMUEL

Samuel was the son of Elkanah and Hannah. Hannah had pleaded with God to give her a son.

- ✓ He was dedicated to God before his conception

O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.” 1 Samuel 1: 11

- ✓ He was the answer to Hannah’s prayer

“For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. 1 Samuel 1:27

- ✓ Hannah lent her son to the LORD

Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD. 1 Samuel 1:28

- ✓ Samuel grew up in the house of the LORD

Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest. 2 Samuel 2:11

And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favour both with the LORD and men. 2 Samuel 2:26

- ✓ Samuel hears God speak

And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. 1 Samuel 3:1

Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10

And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD. 1 Samuel 3:20

GOD USED SAMUEL TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY

- Samuel ministered as a priest and a prophet
- He turned the people back to God
- He anointed both Saul (the people’s choice of king), and David to rule over Israel

- He was obedient to God even when he didn't understand (Read 1 Samuel 16:1-4)

THE PROPHETS

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets.” Hebrews 1:1

It has always been God's plan to speak to His people.

- To guide
- To warn
- To tell what is yet to come
- To correct or discipline

Surely the LORD GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

Through Moses God promised to raise up a Prophet, the Messiah.

**The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.
Deuteronomy 18:15**

Old Testament prophets pointed to the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

- They foretold His virgin birth. (Isaiah 7:14)
- They foretold His death. (Isaiah 53)
- They foretold His resurrection, His coming judgement, and future reign as Lord and King. (Psalm 110:1-4)

Jesus reminded His followers of the word of the prophets.

**O foolish ones,
and slow of heart
to believe in all
that the prophets
have spoken.
Luke 24:25**

**These are the words which I
spoke to you while I was
with you, that all things
must be fulfilled which were
written in the Law of Moses
and the Prophets and the
Psalms concerning Me.
Luke 24:44**

Heroes of the Faith

God spoke in various ways to the prophets.

- Through dreams (Genesis 37:5-10)
- Through visions (Jeremiah 1:11,13; Ezekiel 1:1))
- Directly using words (2 Samuel 23:2-3; Jeremiah 30:1-2)

The prophets spoke to the people in different ways.

- Through speech (Amos 1:1,3:1)
- Through signs (Hosea 1:2)

PROPHETIC BOOKS and THEIR MESSAGES

Isaiah	a message of salvation
Jeremiah	failure to repent will lead to suffering
Lamentations	suffering is punishment for sin
Ezekiel	Israel will be destroyed, then restored
Daniel	God controls the destiny of nations
Hosea	return to God
Joel	judgement and grace
Amos	judgement on Israel
Obadiah	judgement
Jonah	God's compassion
Micah	God's compassion
Nahum	God's judgement on Ninevah
Habbakuk	the just shall live by faith
Zephaniah	the wrath of a loving God
Haggai	rebuilding the temple of God
Zechariah	the LORD remembers Zion
Malachi	remembrance of God's love and justice

[These messages have been adapted from the "Themes" of the NKJV Spirit Filled Life Bible c.1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.]

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13

Read Hebrews 11:33-38 to see what happened to so many of these prophets.

And all of these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Hebrews 11:39-40

Heroes of the Faith

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www.revivalministries.org.au

You will find :

1. **Current newsletters** and previous ones; you can read the newsletter on the net, receive it by email or by post.
2. All of our manuals are advertised and some are fully published on the website. Copies of manuals can be ordered [donation appreciated to cover costs]
4. Information on **current events, ministry schools, ministry trips** etc.
5. Reports on **overseas ministry**: RMA sends teams to **Myanmar, India, Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Central Congo and Mauritius.**

And much more!

SHILOH SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

is based at the SHILOH Centre in Toowoomba but can travel anywhere.

Short Term Training Schools [2 weeks in duration] are held at least twice yearly, at SHILOH Centre. The short term training provides a means for many saints to be equipped and released into fruitful ministry. Schools are held in other centres on request.

Apostolic/Prophetic conferences hosted every few months with recognized apostles and prophets ministering.

Monthly Training Days held on Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Teaching the apostles doctrine. Occasional guest ministries to teach and train.
Leadership gatherings held on Fridays prior to Monthly Training Day.

Weekly Teaching Sessions to open up the scriptures, bringing revelation with line upon line teaching of the Word.

Discipleship Courses to encourage new believers to become full on disciples, through reading scripture, recording what the Lord is saying, memorising verses, praying for the lost and witnessing to their faith.

Bible Research Classes teaching use of concordances, message preparation, preaching and teaching practice.

TEACHING / STUDY MANUALS AVAILABLE

1) The Word and the Spirit; 2) Prayer a Way of Life; 3) Foundations of Our Faith; 4) The Power of Prayer; 5) This Gospel Must Be Preached; 6) Steps to Revival; 7) Strategy to Reach the Nation; 8) The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed; 9) Let us go on to Perfection; 10) And He gave some to be Apostles...; 11) The Cross to the Glory; 12) Planting the Church; 13) I will Build My Church; 14) Faith in Practice

15) Leadership in the Last Days; 16) The Spirit and Power of Elijah

Youth and Young Christians: **1) Prayer Attack; 2) Foundations of our Faith for Youth;**

3) Born again to Serve; 6) Heroes of the Bible

Children's Manuals: **1) God Talk; 2) Joseph, Jesus and Me**

"Walking in Our Inheritance" a book by Paul Galligan

