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# Words of Truth

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## Hebrews 11:32-40

By: Brian A. Yeager

In summary of this great chapter of faith, the following was written: *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect”* (Hebrews 11:32-40).

This reminds me of how there is so much to say about the works of Jesus (John 20:30-31) that the world could not contain the volume of the books that should be written (John 21:24-25). The great faith and works of Gedeon [Gideon; Jerubbaal] is recorded in the book of Judges (Judges 6:1-8:35). The great faith and works of Barak are recorded in the book of Judges (Judges 4:1-5:31). The book of Judges also records the faith and works of Jephthae [Jephthah] (Judges 11:1-12:7) and Samson (Judges 13:1-16:31). Gideon [Jerubbaal] and Jephthah were remembered with other judges for their deliverance of Israel (I Samuel 12:11).

We can read about the life of Samuel in the book of I Samuel (I Samuel 1:1-25:1). You can even read how the witch of Endor summoned Samuel from beyond the grave (I Samuel 28:1-25). Samuel saw the end of the days of the judges in Israel (Acts 13:20). Interestingly, we don't read of the first king of Israel (Saul) in this chapter of faith. However, we do read of his successor. There is much written about David. You could start studying about David in the book of Ruth (Ruth 4:17) and your studies would take you all the way through the book of Revelation (Revelation 22:16). To say that time would fail me to write about David would be a massive understatement. God chose David not only to be a king in Israel (I Samuel 16:1ff.), but also to be the the first in the succession of kings all the way to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1, Luke 1:32, and Acts 2:25-30).

Through faith, Israel had great victories and were capable of subduing kingdoms. There were battles wherein God's hand was clearly seen in their victories such as when Joshua led the armies of Israel (Joshua 10:1-43). The history of God's people includes times of faith wherein righteousness was shown forth (Genesis 43:1-47:12). Through faith, the children of Israel obtained promises made to them by God (Genesis 12:1-7 and Joshua 23:1-11). I would be surprised if someone was unaware of Daniel being in the lion's den (Daniel 6:1-28).

As we are seeing, there were many accounts of faithful acts from God's people in the past. We get to learn from those acts of faith (Romans 15:4). Think about men that were willing to literally enter the fire to stand faithful. Men such as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did just that (Daniel 3:1-30). These men refused to worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. One of my personal favorite responses is in that account. Nebuchadnezzar threatened them and commanded them to bow down to his idol. That is when we read: *"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up"* (Daniel 3:16-18). To see men stand, even if God would not deliver them, is a great show of faith among other things.

Great people of faith escaped the edge of the sword (Psalms 144:10). Faith allowed strength to come about in times of weakness (I Samuel 30:1-6). Faith allowed men to wax valiant [mighty; powerful] in fight (I Kings 18:1-46). Armies of men were caused to flee from the armies of Israel because of faith (I Samuel 14:1-23). Women received their dead raised to life again (I Kings 17:17-24). Through faith, the people of God had and always will be willing to suffer persecution in an unwavering fashion (II Chronicles 16:1-10, Jeremiah 20:1-2, and Acts 4:1-5:42). The people of God knew and still know that the reward is worth the suffering in this present world (Matthew 5:10-12, Luke 6:22-23, Acts 14:22, Romans 8:17, Philippians 1:28-29, II Thessalonians 1:4-10, and II Timothy 2:12). Thus, the Scriptures show us much suffering for those who stood for the truth (I Kings 19:1-18, II Chronicles 36:14-16, Psalms 105:17-18, Jeremiah 2:30, Jeremiah 37:15, Acts 7:51-52, etc.).

This study, for me at least, has been an emotional one. I hate to read about the sufferings of those that stood for God before us. It is certainly true that the world did not deserve to have such people of faith among them because of how the world treated them. When the righteous suffered, people often ignored it (Isaiah 57:1). I am also strengthened, for I know that we can be stronger than they because we have it better than they did. This Hebrew letter shows us that from chapters three through ten. We have a better law, better hope, better priesthood, better promises, etc. We know what they desired to know (I Peter 1:1-12). All of those accounts of old are there for us to learn much from (I Corinthians 10:1-13). Brethren, stand fast in the faith (Philippians 4:1) like those before us did!