



***Surrounded By A Great Cloud Of
Witnesses....***

Heb. 12:1-3

Introduction

- Chapters we identify with topics.
 - Creation
 - The 10 Commandments
 - Love
 - Resurrection
 - The Tongue
 - O.T. prophecy of Jesus's death
 - Sermon on the Mount
 - The beginning of the church
 - Faith

Introduction

- The life of faith is stressed from the beginning to the end of the epistle to the Hebrews.
 - Chapter 1:1-2 → God hath spoken
 - Chapter 2:1-4 → We must heed His word
 - Chapter 3:12,19 → Must hold fast to hope and avoid the evil heart of unbelief
 - Chapter 4:2,11 → Hearing the gospel is of benefit only if it is mixed with faith
 - Chapter 5:11-6:1 → Must grow in faith
 - Chapter 6:10-12 → Through faith and endurance are the promises inherited

Introduction

- The necessity of faith permeates the letter as the writer implores his readers not to return to Judaism, to hold on to Jesus Christ as their great high priest, and the New Covenant with its much better promises.
- As he continues to encourage them in this course, warns of apostasy and encourages them to encourage one another to faithfulness and steadfastness.

Heb. 10:19-25; 36-40

- 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Heb. 10:36-40

- 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. ***39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.***

The Great Cloud Of Witnesses...

- Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
 - A succession of examples, who by their lives bear witness to the necessity, nature and power of faith – a persistent, forward looking faith.
 - They encourage us as we see that they by faith obtained God's approval. We are encompassed by them and they are many.

Introduction

- One of the great emphasis in the Hebrew letter is “faith”.
 - What faith is → Heb. 11:1
 - The necessity of faith → Heb. 11:6
 - Illustrations of faith → Abel, Enoch, Noah...

Abel

- Abel. (Heb. 11:4; Gen. 4:1-9)
 - Abel offered a pleasing sacrifice by faith.
 - Rom. 10:17 → 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - Jn. 4:24 → 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.



Abel still gives speaks:

- How we worship matters to God.
- Pleasing worship is by faith.
- God accepts the best we have to offer.

Enoch

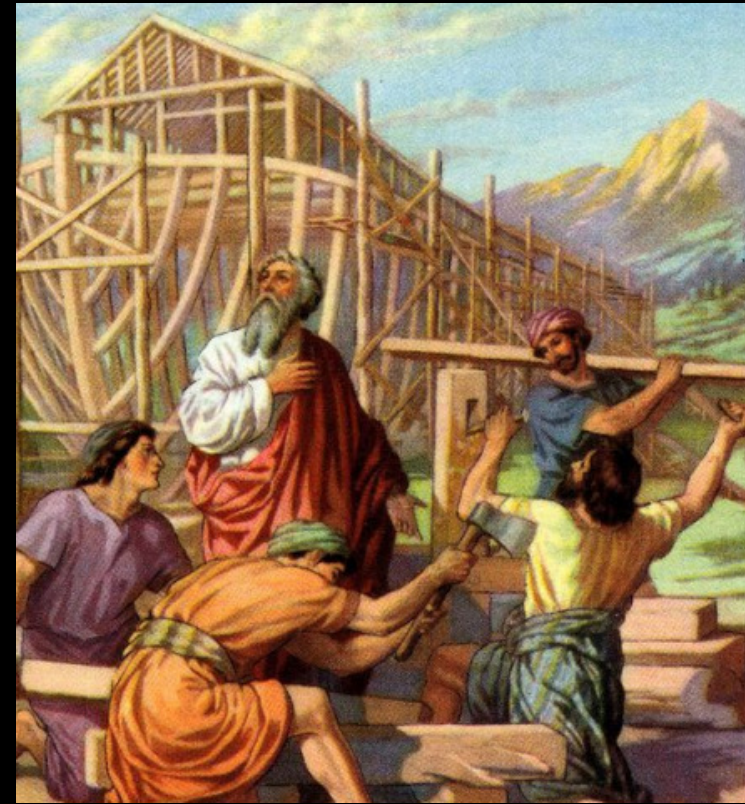
- Enoch. (Heb. 11:5; Jude 14; Gen. 5:22-24) Enoch walked with God.
 - Had the right relationship with God. Lived in close fellowship with God.
 - Walking with God:
 - Eph. 4:17-20 → does not live and think like the world.
 - Eph. 5:2 → walks in sacrificial love
 - Eph. 5:6 → as children of light
 - Eph. 5:11 → has no fellowship with darkness. (III Jn. 4)
 - Eph. 5:15-17 → walks circumspectly
 - carefully; takes advantage of every opportunity.



Enoch testifies that the life that pleases God conforms to his will. (Gal. 1:10)

Noah

- Noah (Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6-9)
 - Believed when nearly all else disbelieved. (6:5-7,13; II Pet. 2:5)
 - Heeded God's Warning. (Gen. 6:13)
 - Followed God's pattern. (Gen. 6:22; Matt. 7:21; II Jn. 9)
 - Illustrated God's salvation:
 - Grace (Gen. 6:8)
 - Faith (Heb. 11:7)
 - Obedience (Gen. 6:22)



21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: