

Not DESPAIR but HOPE ~ Hebrews 11:20-22

→ Scripture Reading Heb 11:1, 8-10

INTRODUCTION

Christ and the New Covenant are SUPERIOR to: Angels, Moses, the Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and the Sacrificial System. Christ is so much BETTER than ALL of these that it is futile to return to them. ESVN

Hebrews 10:32-36 (NLT) ³² Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.

³³ Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.

³⁴ You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it WITH JOY. You knew there were BETTER THINGS waiting for you that will last forever.

³⁵ So do not throw away this confident TRUST in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you.

³⁶ PATIENT ENDURANCE is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive ALL that HE has promised.

Perseverance is the demonstration of faith. The author expresses confidence that his audience's endurance of persecution for the sake of Christ IS a demonstration of their FAITH. CCE

FAITH in the End ~ Hebrews 11:20

²⁰ By FAITH Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

Genesis 25:22-23 (NIV) ...went to INQUIRE of the LORD. ²³ The LORD said to her, Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people WILL BE STRONGER than the other, and the Older WILL SERVE the Younger.

Genesis 26:35 (NIV) They were a source of GRIEF to Isaac and Rebekah.

Genesis 27:1-2 When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." "Here I am," he answered. ² Isaac said, I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death.

Genesis 27:5-6 (NIV) Now Rebekah was listening as Isaac spoke to HIS son Esau. When Esau left for the open country to hunt game and bring it back, ⁶ Rebekah said to HER son Jacob, Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau...

Genesis 27:31-33 (NIV) ...My father, sit up and eat some of my game, so that you may give me your blessing. ³² His father Isaac asked him, Who are you? I am your son, he answered, your firstborn, Esau. ³³ Isaac TREMBLED VIOLENTLY and said, "Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I BLESSED him - and indeed he will be blessed!

By FAITH Isaac knew his blessing would be perfectly FULFILLED in the future. Hughes

Genesis 28:3-4 (NIV) May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. ⁴ May He give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God GAVE to Abraham.

²⁰ By FAITH Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

Jacob's FAITH in God's PROMISES ~ Hebrews 11:21

²¹ By FAITH Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

Genesis 48:21 (NIV) Then Israel said to Joseph, I am about to die, but God WILL be WITH you and take you back to the LAND of your fathers.

Genesis 49:1 (NIV) Then Jacob called for his sons and said: "Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come.

^{11:1} Now faith is being SURE of what we hope for and CERTAIN of what we do not see.

Faith is to look beyond death to be convinced that death will NOT frustrate God's purposes. PTW

Joseph PERSEVERED in Faith ~ Hebrews 11:22

Genesis 45:7-8 (NIV) ⁷ ...God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God...

Genesis 50:17, 20 (NIV) This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father. When their message came to him, Joseph WEPT...

²⁰ You intended to HARM me, but God intended it for GOOD to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph's brothers committed evil, and God brought about good from their evil. ALCORN

²² By FAITH Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.

IMPLICATIONS

²⁰ You intended to HARM me BUT GOD intended IT for GOOD

God sovereignly worked so that the EVIL Joseph's brothers committed - was dramatically REVERSED to achieve His good purposes. ALCORN

Joseph's Persevering Faith...

- Never GAVE UP Hope
- FORGAVE His Brothers
- Trusted GOD with the FUTURE
- Believed God had a PLAN
- TRUSTED God to Keep His Promises

Jeremiah 18:1-6 (NLT) ...I did as He told me and found the potter working at his wheel. ⁴ But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he CRUSHED it into a lump of clay again and started over ...⁶ O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are You in MY HAND.

IMPLICATIONS

They all had a FIRM conviction that Death could NOT Frustrate or Stop God's plan. Morris

^{11:13} ALL these people were still living by FAITH when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a DISTANCE...

Genesis 15:13-14 (NIV) Then the LORD said to him, Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be Enslaved and Mistreated four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves...

Gen. 50:25 (NIV) ...God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up...

TAKE AWAY ??

By FAITH... Barclay

- Isaac was still a NOMAD
- Jacob was an EXILE in Egypt
- Joseph achieved GREATNESS

→They did not DOUBT that the promises of God would come true.

→They died not in Despair but in HOPE.

→So their FAITH defeated death.

^{11:1} Now FAITH is being SURE of what we hope for and CERTAIN of what we do not see.