

“By Faith They Overcame”
Hebrews 11:30-40
5/10/26
Message 22
Mothers Day ☺

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “By Faith They Overcame”

- **Remember Context – Running Start**

- **1. Doctrine Ends - Hebrews 10:18**
 - Ended the Doctrine Section of Hebrews
- **2. Duty Begins - From Hebrews 10:19 until the end of the book**
 - **It is NOW DUTY TIME**
 - We have a Responsibility do something with the Doctrine
 - LIVE IT OUT
 - WALK WORTHY
- **3. KEY - Paul is Writing to Discouraged Believers**
 - Paul is encouraging these discourage believers to keep moving forward in Christ to stay the course
 - There is NO Other Place to go
 - You must NOT lose heart

Proverbs 24:10 (NKJV)

10 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.

- So critical that we are ALWAYS growing in our walks with Jesus

- Otherwise, we run the risk of fainting

- **4. Paul's Instruction – For Staying The Course**

- **1. Draw Near To God vv. 19-21**

- The FIRST thing he does to encourage them
 - Because of what Christ has Done
 - Because He made Himself the Perfect Sacrifice
 - We NOW have BOLDNESS to come before a HOLY God
 - So let take advantage of that

- **2. The Response Of Those Who Have Access To God vv. 22-25**

- The SECOND thing he does
 - **Let Us**
 - They Continue to Draw Near to God
 - Hold Fast Confession of our Hope
 - Consider – Others
 - Don't Forsake the Fellowship

- **3. The Problem With Willful Rejection vv. 26-31**

- THIRD Thing he does
 - There is no other place to Go
 - Jesus is the ONLY WAY

▪ 4. The Reminder Of The Heavenly Reward vv. 32-39

- FOURTH thing he does
 - Heaven is coming
 - Hang in there Jesus is coming to take us all home

▪ 5. Keep the Faith Chapter 11:1-7

- What is Faith

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Faith = Trust
- Substance = Foundation = Jesus
- Evidence = We have not seen BUT we KNOW

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- To Please GOD = Must have FAITH
- Must Believe = That He is GOD
- Diligently Seek Him = With ALL your heart

- **Examples so far**

- **If your faith is active – you will see yourself in these examples**

- Cain And Abel v. 4

- Cain with the RIGHT Sacrifice
- Not like Able who attempted to come in his own power
- Coming to worship God on HIS terms not yours
- Enoch v. 5
 - 300 years walked with God
 - In a Wicked world – he is an example for us
- Noah v. 7
 - Violence / Evil Increasing
 - But Found Grace
 - 120 years to build
 - Faithful even when it did not make sense
 - Faithful even when only a few went on the ark
- Abraham vv. 8-19
 - By Faith they left the comforts of everything
 - Family and home
 - Trusted God for the promise that was made to him
- Isaac v. 20
 - Broke with tradition
 - Blessed Jacob the second born

- Jacob v. 21
 - Went against family wish Joseph by blessing the second born
 - Blessed the younger of Joseph's sons
- Joseph v. 22
 - Sold into slavery yet God had a purpose
 - I want my bones with God People in God's Land
- Moses's Parents
 - Stood For what was RIGHT
- Moses
 - Gave up – the power of the world
 - For the sufferings of Christ

• **Now This Morning 2 Encouraging points**

- By Faith They Had Confidence In God's Promises vv. 30-32
- By Faith They Overcame The Circumstances They Faced vv. 33-40

By Faith They Had Confidence In God's Promises vv. 30-32

• **1. Joshua / Israel v. 30**

Hebrews 11:30 (NKJV)

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

- **1. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down**
 - **Context**

- Israel Under Moses crossed the Red Sea
 - Israel wandered for 40 years in the desert
- Now the time has come to cross over into the Promise Land
 - The Land that God has Given them
 - Now before they were ready to cross the Jordan River and conquer the land
 - Moses was buried BY God and Joshua his number 2 was now in charge

Joshua 1:1–9 (NKJV)

- 1** *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:*
- 2** *"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.*
- 3** *Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.*
- 4** *From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.*
- 5** *No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.*
- 6** *Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*
- 7** *Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*
- 8** *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*
- 9** *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

- Joshua Sent Spies into the Land (Joshua 2)

- More on this with Rabab
- Israel Cross the Jordan (Joshua 3)
- Set Memorial Stones (Joshua 4)
- Circumcised (Joshua 5)
- Angel of the Lord (God) came to Joshua

Joshua 5:13–15 (NKJV)

13 *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?”*

14 *So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”*

15 *Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.*

- Jericho (Joshua 6)
 - Jericho was protected by high walls.
 - God had an unconventional plan for conquering the city of Jericho
 - Joshua was to have the Israelite army carry the Ark of the Covenant
 - March around the city once each day for 6 days.
 - NOW On the 7 day they were to march around the city 7 times
 - Blow their trumpets, and give a great shout.

- God promised that the walls of the city would fall down, and they would be able to conquer the city.
- And that's exactly what happened.

○ **2. The Faith At Jericho**

- The people of Israel had a Daring Faith.
 - 1. A BOLD Faith - No turning back
 - There was no turning back, having already crossed the river Jordan at flood stage, which cut off any line of retreat.
 - 2. An OBEDIENT Faith – God's Strange plan
 - They did not really understand what God was doing
 - Yet they Obeyed, nonetheless.
 - 3. A PATIENT Faith – Results took time – Faithful each day
 - The walls did not fall down for the first six days, yet they kept marching as God commanded.
 - Can you imagine – if they gave up after the 3 day...

• **2. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish v. 31**

Hebrews 11:31 (NKJV)

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

○ **1. Rahab (Joshua 2)**

- Before Israel crossed the Jordan River to conquer Jericho

- Joshua sent 2 spies to check out the city and give him a report back.
 - When the spies came into the city
 - They stopped at the house of a harlot named Rahab and planned on staying the night there.
- The king of Jericho heard about the spies at Rahab's house
 - Sent messengers demanding that she turn them over.
 - She lied to the messengers and said they had already left.
 - As she hid the spies that night
- She knew God was bring judgment to her people
 - She told them that all the people had heard about the Red Sea parting and the Israelites conquering the Amorites.
 - She asked that she and her family be spared.
- **Rahab had a couple of strikes against her**
 - When it came to surviving the coming judgment of God.
 - 1. She was a prostitute.
 - Yes no matter how people attempt to soften this up – they cant she was a prostitute
 - 2. She was a Canaanite.
 - She was a part of a culture that had become so corrupt and degenerate

- That God had decided their time was up and judgment was coming.

- **Rahab would BE SAVED**

- She and her family survive destruction of Jericho
 - She and her family would be welcomed into the community of the nation of Israel.
- She would later marry an Israelite named Salmon
 - Become the mother of Boaz,
 - From whose line was King David and ultimately Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 1:5)

Matthew 1:5 (NKJV)

5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

- **2. Application – Jesus STILL SAVES SINNERS**

- **Rahab was a prostitute.**

- She was a sinner

- **She was saved by the God**

- She was saved because she had “faith”.

- **You might think you’re beyond help...**

- But I’m here to tell you today that God wants to save you from the judgment to come.
- Rahab herself would tell you that it’s true.

- **3. And what more shall I say? v. 32**

Hebrews 11:32 (NKJV)

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

- **1. Gideon (Judges 6-7)**

- **Context**

- Israel was being tormented by the Midianites

Judges 6:6–9 (NKJV)

6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites,

8 that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;

9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

- **God Calls Gideon**

Judges 6:11–17 (NKJV)

11 Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

13 Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”

15 So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

16 And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”

17 Then he said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me.

- We See Gideon was overwhelmed
- Needed proof
 - Prepares a young goat
 - The Offering was consumed by God
- **Gideon Makes an Altar**
 - Destroys the Idols of his father
 - Altars of Baal
- **Gideon needs another sign**
 - The sign of the FLEECE
- **Gideon Army is Too BIG**
 - Before entering battle
 - Gideon's troops numbered 32,000
 - So who is fearful – GO HOME

Judges 7:3 (NKJV)

3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.' ” And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

- Still too MANY

Judges 7:5–8 (NKJV)

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.”

6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

7 Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

- NOW just 300 men to take on 135,000

▪ **The Battle**

- That night, God sent Gideon into the midst of the Midianite camp.
- There, Gideon overheard a couple of frightened Midianites discussing a dream that they took to portend disaster for them.
- Hearing this encouraged Gideon, and he rallied his troops

Judges 7:16–18 (NKJV)

16 Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

17 And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do:

18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!' "

▪ **Gideon was the fifth judge**

- Renowned as the greatest of Israel.

▪ **Gideon Life Teaches Us**

- Gideon proves himself to be a
 - Faithful man

- A mighty warrior
- A strong leader and a diplomat
- Gideon's faith seemed to be weak at times
 - But God patiently worked with him and strengthened his faith to the point that he could carry out God's mission.
- Gideon's obedience to the Lord required him to take a stand
 - Against his own father and his own tribe.
 - He feared what would happen when he tore down his father's idol
 - But it is evident he feared God much more.
- Gideon In battle
 - Trusted God's Plan – strange plan
- **For US**
 - God uses ordinary people to accomplish His plans
- **2. Barak (Judges 4)**
 - **Context**
 - The Israelites had been under the control of the Canaanite king Jabin
 - And his commander of his army - Sisera
 - The Canaanites had 900 chariots of iron and ruled over Israel for 20 years
 - **A prophetess named Deborah**

- Deborah's instruct Barak to summon 10,000 men and attack Jabin's army.
- Fearful to comply with such a command, Barak told Deborah

Judges 4:8–9 (NKJV)

8 *And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"*

9 *So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.*

▪ **The Battle**

- Deborah and Barak then gathered 10,000 troops and attacked Sisera and his army.
 - Barak's troops won
 - All Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left" (Judges 4:16).
- Sisera himself fled to the tent of a Hebrew woman named Jael.
 - She gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket in the tent.
 - Then, "Jael . . . picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted.
 - She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died"
- Following this battle
 - God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. And

- the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him
- Deborah's prophecy was fulfilled:
 - Barak won, Sisera was killed by a woman, and the Israelites were freed from their enemies.

▪ **Application**

- 1. God often calls people to step out in faith to attempt the unexpected
- 2. God often uses unlikely people and sources to accomplish His plans
- 3. God sometimes requires great risk and effort on our behalf as part of His divine plan.

○ **3. Samson: (Judges 13-16)**

- Samson's life is one of contradiction.
 - He was a man of great physical strength
 - Yet displayed great moral weakness.
- A Nazirite
 - Set apart to God from birth" (Judges 13:5)
 - Yet he continually broke the rules of a Nazirite
 - 3 Main Restrictions (Numbers 6)
 - No Grape Products:

- Prohibition against wine, strong drink, grapes, and even vinegar made from wine.
- No Haircuts
 - The hair was allowed to grow long as an outward sign of the dedication.
- No Dead Bodies
 - The person could not come into contact with a corpse, even of family members, to maintain ritual purity.
- He was a judge for 20 years
- The Spirit of God was upon him
 - Came upon him many times
 - Giving him great strength to fight the Philistines, the oppressors of the Israelites.
- Samson played with SIN
 - Samson met and fell in love with a Philistine named Delilah.
 - The rulers of the Philistines bribed Delilah to discover the secret of Samson's strength and betray him into their hands (Judges 16:5).
 - Delilah began to beg Samson to know the secret of his strength. After telling her some lies
 - Samson finally revealed that his strength was due to his separation to the Lord; specifically, the fact that his hair had never been cut.
 - Delilah informed the Philistine rulers of Samson's secret and then waited until Samson was asleep

- She called for someone to come shave his head.
- She woke him with a cry: “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” (verse 20).
- Samson stood up to fight, “but he did not know that the LORD had left him”

- The Philistines

- Celebrate their great victory over Samson
- The rulers assembled in the temple of their god, Dagon, to praise him for delivering Samson into their power (Judges 16:23)
- During the festivities, they brought Samson from prison to entertain them.
- Leaning against the support pillars of the pagan temple,
- Samson prayed to the LORD, ‘O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes’” (verse 28).
- God mercifully granted Samson’s request.
- Samson “pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it” (verse 30).
- Samson killed more when he died—about 3,000 Philistines—than while he lived.

- The life of Samson – God is merciful

- **4. Jephthah: (Judges 11)**

- Jephthah was a Gileadite but was born of a prostitute.

- He was used of God to defeat the Ammonites.
 - Yet Jephthah made a foolish vow and kept it (Judges 11)
- Jephthah served as a judge over Israel for 6 years following the leadership of Jair.
- The Ammonites came against Israel in war.
 - The Israelites sent for Jephthah, asking for his help.
 - The elders of Gilead offered to serve Jephthah if he helped them defeat their enemy.
 - Jephthah accepted their offer and then sent a message to the Ammonite king in an attempt to avoid war.
 - The Ammonite king rejected Jephthah's message, and war was inevitable.
 - Jephthah made a vow to God, saying

Judges 11:30–31 (NKJV)

30 *And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,*

31 *then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."*

- Jephthah then defeated the Ammonites and returned home to Mizpah (Judges 11:32–34).
- When Jephthah arrived at home
 - His daughter, an only child, was the first to come out of his house (Judges 11:34).
- What lessons can be learned from Jephthah?

- 1. God can use us regardless of our background.
- 2. Don't make STUPID Vows

○ **5. David (1 & 2 Samuel)**

- The great king of Israel was a remarkable man of faith.
 - Yet he also failed with Bathsheba and with his own children.
- KNOWN as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:13–14; Acts 13:22)
- God Choice to be King – Samuel
- David Goliath
- Saul – Could not stand David
- David wilderness years
- David Bathsheba
- David and his kids
- David finished strong

○ **6. Application – What we take form all of this**

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV)

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—
31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

By Faith They Overcame The Circumstances They Faced vv. 33-40

- **1. By faith, some were victorious over circumstances vv. 33-35a**

- **1. Subdued kingdoms v. 33a**

Hebrews 11:33 (NKJV)

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

- **Some of these were**

- David
- Joshua
- King Asa
- Jehoshaphat
- King Hezekiah
- King Josiah

- **2. Worked righteousness v.33b**

Hebrews 11:33 (NKJV)

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

- **Some of these were**

- Elijah
- Elisha

- King Josiah
- **Wrought righteousness (ἡργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην).**
 - Referring not merely to their personal virtues
 - **But to the public exercise** of these as leaders
 - (2 Sam. 8:15; 1 Chron. 18:14; 1 Sam. 12:4)
 - Faith showed itself in the association of righteousness with power.
- Obtained Promises
 - Among these we could include Caleb, Gideon, and Barak.
- **3. Stopped the mouths of lions v.33 c**

Hebrews 11:33 (NKJV)

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

- These include
 - Daniel
 - David
 - Benaiah (one of David's mighty men)
- **4. Quenched the violence of fire v.34**

Hebrews 11:34 (NKJV)

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

- **Quenched the violence of fire**

- Among these are
 - Hananiah, Michelle and Azariah
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- **Escaped the edge of the sword**
 - David escaped the sword of Goliath and the sword of Saul
 - Moses escaped the sword of Pharaoh
 - Elijah escaped the sword of Jezebel.
- **Out of weakness were made strong:**
 - Among these are Sarah, Gideon, Abraham, Esther, and King Hezekiah.
- **Became valiant in battle:**
 - Some of the many in this description are David, King Asa, and Jehoshaphat.
- **5. Women who received their dead raised to life again v. 35a**

Hebrews 11:35 (NKJV)

35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

- The Old Testament mentions
 - At least two who fit this description
 - The widow of Zarepheth (Elijah 1 Kings 17)
 - Elijah had pronounced a drought on the land of Israel because of it's rebellion against God.

- The king wasn't too happy about this, so he put out a "hit" on Elijah, and Elijah began his life as a man on the run.
- One of the places Elijah hid was with a widow in Zarephath.
- This woman hid Elijah for a few years.
- One day this woman's son died.
- God used Elijah to raise the son back from the dead (
- The Shunamite woman (Elisha 2 Kings 4)
 - One day this woman's son grew ill and died.
 - She laid the dead body on the bed that Elisha would sleep on, and then she rode a donkey to find Elisha. When Elisha found out about the boy, he sent his servant to lay Elisha's staff on the boy, but the woman wasn't satisfied until Elisha himself went and prayed over the boy.
 - Elisha went into the room and prayed, and the child came back to life.

• **2. By faith, some were victorious under their circumstances vv. 35b-38**

- **1. Tortured v. 35b**

Hebrews 11:35 (NKJV)

35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

▪ **Tortured**

- Greek: τυμπανίζω ("timpani")

- Means: to beat the drum or tambourine; to torture with the “rack”

- **Accepting –**

- Greek: prosdechomai –
- Means: to receive to one’s self, to admit, to give access to one’s self

- **Deliverance –**

- Greek: apolutrosis –
- Means: a releasing effected by payment of ransom; redemption, deliverance
- Deliverance offered at the price for denying their faith

- **That they might obtain a BETTER RESURRECTION**

- Paul talked about how rewards in heaven will be based on how our lives make it through the fire of judgment.
- (1 Corinthians 3:12–15)
- Build your lives out of spiritual gold rather than cheapen it by building out of things that will burn up in the fire.

- **2. Trial of mockings v. 36**

Hebrews 11:36 (NKJV)

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

- **Mockings – Scourgings**

- Isaac endured the cruel mocking of Ishmael
- Samson was mocked at the feast of the Philistines.

- **Chains and imprisonments**

- Joseph was cast into prison for his faith, and the evil King Ahab imprisoned the prophet Micaiah.

- **3. They were stoned vv. 37-38**

Hebrews 11:37–38 (NKJV)

37 *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—*

38 *of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

- **Stoned**

- Zechariah was stoned to death between the altar and the temple and Naboth was stoned to death by Jezebel's henchmen.

- **Sawn in two:**

- According to reliable tradition, Isaiah was killed by being sawn in two.

- **Were tempted:**

- Want the suffering to stop – here is great amount of wealth JUST deny Christ

- **Were slain with the sword:**

- Such as the eighty-five priests murdered by Doeg, or the prophets murdered in Elijah's day.

- **Wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins**

- Such as Elijah, who wore this kind humble clothing and did not mind the humility or the discomfort.

- **Of whom the world was not worthy**

- The world is not necessarily friendly to people of faith, and the world isn't necessarily worthy of them either.

- **In dens and caves of the earth**

- David, Elijah, and prophets under the leadership of Obadiah were all forced to flee and hide in caves.

- **3. A Good Testimony vv. 39-40**

- **1. Having obtained a good testimony through faith**

Hebrews 11:39–40 (NKJV)

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

- Though they obtained this good testimony, they did not receive the promise
 - The testimony of the completed work of the Messiah on their behalf.
 - The faith of OT saints looked forward to the promised salvation,
 - Whereas the faith of those after Christ looks back to the fulfillment of the promise.
- God having provided something better for us
 - The Resurrection

Closing

- By FAITH OVERCAME