IV. FAITH IN THE EXODUS AND CONQUEST (Hebrews 11:23-31)

A. The Faith of Moses (Hebrews 11:23-27)

1. His example of faith (Hebrews 11:23)
   a. The time of the example—"when he was born"
      (1) Moses was certainly not old enough to remember this event; however, the recounting of this truth to him gave him a wonderful example of faith. Faithful parents help to produce faithful children (see 2 Timothy 1:5).
      (2) In a sense, the birth of every child is an act of faith, but this was especially true in the life of Moses.
      (3) The children of Israel were a thorn in the flesh to their Egyptian masters. With each increase in affliction by the Egyptians, the Israelites multiplied and grew stronger. In an effort to change this pattern, Pharaoh demanded that the midwives kill all the Hebrew male children at the time of birth. Yet the midwives feared God so they refused to obey the command. What would have been the outcome had the midwives simply obeyed Pharaoh and killed all the newborn males? We know one thing that would have resulted. The second chapter of Exodus tells of the birth of a baby boy. His parents hid him until he could no longer be hid and finally had to be released into the care of Almighty God. According to Pharaoh's decree, this boy should have been killed. His name was Moses (see Exodus 2:1-4).
      (4) Consider the opposition of their faith:
         a) The commands of the king
         b) The circumstances for Israel (i.e., slavery)
         c) The crowd surrounding them (many Israelites had lost faith)
   b. The demonstration by the example
      (1) Their act—Moses "was hid three months of his parents" (see Exodus 2:2).
         a) He was nourished up in his father's house three months (Acts 7:20).
         b) There is no doubt that this age was pivotal for two reasons:
            i) The increase of dangers: crying, noise, mobility
            ii) The safety of the child
      (2) Their cause
         a) They saw he was a proper child.
            i) A goodly child (Exodus 2:2)
            ii) Exceeding fair (Acts 7:20)
            iii) It is likely that each of these spoke of Moses' physical appearance.
         b) They were not afraid of the king's commandment (see Acts 5:29). Note: This does not insinuate that they felt no fear, but that their faith in God was more prominent.

2. His demonstration of faith (Hebrews 11:24-27)
   a. The time of his faith—"when he was come to years" (Hebrews 11:24); faith can only be personally demonstrated by those who are "come to years."
   b. The demonstration of his faith (Hebrews 11:24-25)
      (1) He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter (Hebrews 11:24). Note: Apparently the faith of Moses' parents caused him to refuse to be identified as a child of Pharaoh when he was older.
      (2) He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25).
   c. The testimony of his faith (Hebrews 11:26)
      (1) Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt
      (2) He had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
   d. The outcome of his faith (Hebrews 11:27)
      (1) The action
         a) He forsook Egypt.
         b) He endured.
      (2) The confidence
         a) Not fearing the wrath of the king
         b) Seeing Him who is invisible
            i) Moses' first departure
               (a) At the age of forty, Moses fled Egypt in fear for his life (Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:20-29).
               (b) It is not hard to imagine the degree of fear sensed by Moses as he ran from the most powerful man who ruled the most powerful nation on earth during his day.
            ii) Moses' second departure
               (a) Moses yet again departed from Egypt, forty years later this time, not fearing the wrath of the king.
               (b) What made the difference?
                  (i) How did Moses keep from losing his mind during such a difficult time of trial?
                  (ii) How did he endure the troubles associated with leaving Egypt?
               (c) He endured because he saw "him who is invisible."
               (d) He saw God! He did not see the Lord simply with his physical eyes, but rather through the eye of faith.
               (e) Moses endured for one reason, the Lord was with him and he knew it.
               (f) Endurance becomes possible as the believer learns to acknowledge the presence of the Almighty in his or her life.

B. The Faith of Israel (Hebrews 11:28-30)

1. Their beginning of faith (Hebrews 11:28)
   a. The father of their faith—"he" [Moses]
   b. The event of their faith (Exodus 12:3-30)
      (1) They kept the passover.
      (2) And the sprinkling of blood
   c. The preservation of their faith—"lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them" (Exodus 12:29-30)
2. Their challenge of faith (Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14:10-31)
   a. They passed through the Red sea as by dry land.
   b. The Egyptians tried the same and drowned.
3. Their reward of faith (Hebrews 11:30; Joshua 6:1-21)
   a. The walls of Jericho fell down.
   b. After they were compassed about seven days

C. The Faith of Rahab (Hebrews 11:31)

1. Her surroundings of faithlessness
2. Her demonstration of faith
   a. Rahab's past
      (1) Her family (Joshua 2:13)
         a) Her name—Rahab, meaning wide or spacious
         b) Her parents
            i) Father
            ii) And mother
         c) Her brethren
         d) Her sisters
         e) Her kindred
      (2) Her career
         a) Her association—"harlot" (Joshua 2:1; Joshua 6:17, 22, 25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25)
         b) Her dwelling
            i) Her house was upon the town wall (Joshua 2:15).
            ii) This was a strategic dwelling place for a harlot.
               (a) She could gain business from those entering and exiting the city.
               (b) She could discreetly let men out by way of the city wall.
   b. Rahab's present
      (1) Her conviction (Joshua 2:1-5, 7)
         a) The men from the king (Joshua 2:1-3)
         b) The message from Rahab (Joshua 2:4-5)
         c) The pursuit of the men (Joshua 2:7)
      (2) Her career (Joshua 2:6)
         a) She had stalks of flax laid in order.

b) Some have suspected that she was using the flax to create clothing or similar things (see Proverbs 31:13).

(3) Her conversion (Joshua 2:8-21)

a) Her personal statement of faith (Joshua 2:8-9a)

b) The reaction of her people to Israel's victories (Joshua 2:9b-11)

c) Her personal request (Joshua 2:12-13)

d) The covenant (Joshua 2:14-21a)

e) Her immediate obedience (Joshua 2:21b)

(4) Her care (Joshua 6:17, 22-23)

a) Rahab gathered her family into her home.

b) Apparently, her message of coming judgment bore more weight with her family than Lot's did with his.

c) The two spies went into the house of Rahab (Joshua 6:22-23).

c. Rahab's future

(1) Her dwelling (Joshua 6:25)

a) She dwelt in Israel when the book of Joshua was penned.

b) It is likely she lived there the rest of her days.

(2) Her family (Matthew 1:5)

a) By all appearances, the Rahab of Jericho is the Rachab of Matthew 1:5.

b) If this is the case, Rahab settled in with her new people and married a man named Salmon (also called Salma), one of the leaders in the tribe of Judah.

c) Furthermore, she gave birth to Booz (Boaz), who begat Obed, who begat Jesse, who begat David.

d) This could explain why Boaz was willing to give Ruth a chance. After all, his mother had been from a strange people and an ill-reputed line of work. He had been witness of God's transforming power and saw the same in Ruth.

(3) Her testimony (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25)

a) She was justified by faith (Hebrews 11:31).

b) She was justified by her works (James 2:25).

V. FAITH IN NUMEROUS EXAMPLES (Hebrews 11:32-40)

A. The Power of Their Faith (Hebrews 11:32-35a)

1. The examples of faith (Hebrews 11:32)
   a. Gedeon (Judges 6-8)
   b. Barak (Judges 4-5)
   c. Samson (Judges 13-16)
   d. Jephthae (Judges 11:1-12:7)
   e. David (1 Samuel 16-1 Kings 2:11)
   f. Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-25:1)
   g. The prophets

2. The accomplishments of faith (Hebrews 11:33-35a)
    a. Subdued kingdoms (Hebrews 11:33)
    b. Wrought righteousness (Hebrews 11:33)
    c. Obtained promises (Hebrews 11:33)
    d. Stopped the mouths of lions (Hebrews 11:33)
    e. Quenched the violence of fire (Hebrews 11:34)
    f. Escaped the edge of the sword (Hebrews 11:34)
    g. Out of weakness were made strong (Hebrews 11:34)
    h. Waxed valiant in fight (Hebrews 11:34)
    i. Turned to flight the armies of the aliens (Hebrews 11:34)
    j. Women received their dead raised to life again (Hebrews 11:35a).

B. The Persecution of Their Faith (Hebrews 11:35b-38)

1. Torture (Hebrews 11:35b)
    a. Not accepting deliverance
    b. That they might obtain a better resurrection
2. Trials (Hebrews 11:36)
    a. Of cruel mockings
    b. And scourgings
3. Bonds and imprisonments (Hebrews 11:36)
4. Stonings (Hebrews 11:37)
5. Sawn asunder (Hebrews 11:37)
6. Tempted (Hebrews 11:37)
7. Slain (Hebrews 11:37)
8. Modesty (Hebrews 11:37)
    a. In sheepskins
    b. In goatskins
9. Destitute (Hebrews 11:37)
10. Afflicted (Hebrews 11:37)
11. Tormented (Hebrews 11:37)
12. Wanderings (Hebrews 11:38)
    a. In deserts
    b. In mountains
    c. In dens and caves of the earth

C. The Prosperity of Their Faith (Hebrews 11:38)

1. The unworthiness of the world
2. The testimony of God

D. The Patience of Their Faith (Hebrews 11:39-40)

1. Their report (Hebrews 11:39)
2. Their wait (Hebrews 11:39)
3. Their association (Hebrews 11:40)

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews II

The Partakers of Christ in Hope

Hebrews 12:1-29

I. THE RACE TO BE RUN (Hebrews 12:1-3)

A. The Trainers—Compassing Witnesses (Hebrews 12:1)

1. Their identity
   a. The uniting word *Wherefore* lets us know that we have not moved away from the subject matter of the previous chapter.
   b. Historically, the word *witness* meant:
      (1) An attestation of fact from personal knowledge; Note: The word can be broken down to *wit + ness*. The word *wit* means knowledge, understanding, or mental capacity.
      (2) One who testifies
   c. The witnesses were identified in the previous chapter, however, this does not suggest they are watching as we run. Instead, it suggests that they left us a testimony of the benefits of lives lived by faith.
2. Their example
   a. Their example of faith (Hebrews 11:17-19)
   b. Their example of courage (Hebrews 11:24-27)
3. Their faithfulness
   a. Without the comfort of numbers (Hebrews 11:7)
   b. Without needing all the details (Hebrews 11:8)
   c. In the midst of surreal callings (Hebrews 11:17-19)
   d. Choosing suffering rather than ease (Hebrews 11:24-26)
   e. Sealing it with their deaths (Hebrews 11:35-38)
4. Their investment
   a. Their investment of time and sweat (Hebrews 11:7)
   b. Their investment of their lives (Hebrews 11:13)
   c. Their investment of trials (Hebrews 11:24-26)
   d. Their investment of their safety (Hebrews 11:33-34)
   e. Their investment of blood (Hebrews 11:35-37)
5. Their advancement
   a. We are further along due to their example (1 Corinthians 10:11).
   b. We are further along because of their labour.
6. Their reward (2 John 1:8)
   a. John recognized when someone falls from the faith, that person is not the only one who suffers loss. Not only does the offending Christian lose rewards, but those who ministered to him lose as well.
   b. When the Galatians turned from the simplicity of the gospel adding legalistic requirements, Paul said to them, “I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain” (Galatians 4:11).

c. Paul exhorted the Philippians to hold fast the word: "that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain" (Philippians 2:16).

7. Their education
   a. If we learn to walk by faith from those who have gone before, it stands to reason that the generation to follow will learn the same from us (2 Timothy 2:2).
   b. In fact, those who come behind us will:
      (1) Follow our example
         a) They will do as we have done.
         b) They will love what we have loved.
         c) They will hate what we have hated.
      (2) Be hindered or helped by us
         a) They will be **helped** by what we have accomplished by faith.
         b) They will be **hindered** by our faithlessness.

B. The Race (Hebrews 12:1-3)

1. An efficient race—laying aside (Hebrews 12:1)
   a. Weights (1 Corinthians 10:23)
      (1) In order to effectively run, we must lay aside things that hinder our ability to perform at our peak (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
      (2) These things may not be sin, but they prevent us from doing our best (2 Timothy 2:3-4). These things could include, but are not limited to:
         a) Hobbies
         b) Associations
         c) Running the wrong race
         d) Distractions
      (3) Although weights are likely not the same as sin, they can become sin if not handled properly.
   b. Sins
      (1) Although all sins hinder in the Christian race, the focus of this passage is besetting sins. In the context, a besetting sin is likened to something that would wrap itself around the legs and ankles of a runner to hinder his progress in a race. With that being said, it is important to get a better understanding of this particular doctrine.
      (2) Man has a besetting sin.
         a) It may be one or few.
            i) This passage could be speaking of sin in a general sense, indicating that sin can beset us in this life.
            ii) However, it seems more likely that the passage speaks of a particular sin frequent in a believer's life.
         b) It overtakes us.
            i) The scripture uses the word *beset* six times.

(a) It is used with the words *round about* (Judges 19:22; Judges 20:5), *round* (Psalm 22:12), and *about* (Hosea 7:2).
(b) Each usage gives the impression of being surrounded or imprisoned for the purpose of doing harm to another.
(c) This rightly portrays the impact of sin upon the individual.
(i) Sin surrounds men and attacks them in every facet of life, leaving them no place to run or to hide.
(ii) It hinders their walk with God and hurts their ability to reach others for Christ.

ii) Notice that this particular sin "so easily" besets us.

(3) Sin will put a man on the shelf.
a) As manifested in the Old Testament
i) Moses smiting the rock (Numbers 20:10-12)
ii) Eli's failure to correct his sons (1 Samuel 3:11-13)
iii) Saul's failure to destroy the Amalekites (1 Samuel 28:15-18)
b) As manifested in the New Testament
i) Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:18-20)
ii) Paul's concern (1 Corinthians 9:26-27)

(4) God's grace is man's hope.
a) His grace in enlightenment
i) It takes the grace of God to see our own sinfulness.
ii) The Lord dealt with Pharisees on this subject (John 9:39-41).
b) His grace in forgiveness and restoration
i) The question is not if we fall, but when will we fall.
ii) We depend on the grace of God to forgive us and cleanse us (1 John 1:9).
iii) God can and will restore us when we fall.
c) His grace in victory
i) Paul did everything he could physically to keep from being a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:27).
ii) Eventually, the believer must determine in his heart to walk with God in a circumspect manner.
iii) There was not much that Paul feared, but he feared the thought of being placed on a shelf by the Lord.

2. A patient race (Hebrews 12:1)
a. Defining patience (2 Thessalonians 1:4)
(1) The word *patience* is historically connected to the word *passion* which is biblically defined as suffering (Acts 1:3).
(2) True to its association, the word *patience* means to suffer or endure some time of trial.

(3) The Bible bears further testimony to these truths by associating patience with waiting (James 5:7) and enduring (2 Thessalonians 1:4; James 5:11).
(4) The Bible also combines patience with the word *longsuffering* (Colossians 1:11).
a) These words may appear the same, but they are not.
b) Longsuffering has to do with the quantity (or length of time) of endurance, while patience has to do with the quality of endurance.

b. Running with patience
(1) Our race is likened more to a marathon or cross-country run than to a short-lived sprint.
a) In these types of endurance races, the strategic runner outlasts the impatient contender.
b) A sprint initiated at the starting line may place the runner at the head of the pack but always yields a disappointing outcome.
(2) The same holds true concerning the Christian race.
a) Believers are to run this race patiently.
b) The Christian must never allow present trials and difficult circumstances to disqualify him from his perspective race.
c) In fact, the long-term goal of winning the race must be ever present in every thought and action.
d) The Christian race is not only about how much we can accomplish in the present, but what the Lord has accomplished before our crossing of the finish line.

3. A chosen race—"the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1; see Acts 20:24 and compare with Psalm 37:23)
4. An inspired race (Hebrews 12:2-3)
a. The example (Hebrews 12:2)
(1) His identity
a) Jesus
b) The author and finisher of our faith
(2) His inspiration—"the joy that was set before him"
(3) His endurance
a) He endured the cross.
b) He despised the shame.
(4) His entrance—"is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"
b. The encouragement (Hebrews 12:3)
(1) The consideration
a) Consider Him.
b) He endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself.
(2) The caution
a) Lest ye be wearied
b) Lest ye faint in your minds