

- one thing that should stand out about the people the writer mentions in this chapter is the fact that God is not limited by circumstances, origins, pasts, nationalities, or gender

Truth- the only thing that limits God in one's life is unbelief

- the one thing the writer has shown in this chapter is that all these people believed God against all odds

Truth- God tells us to trust Him today just like all these did in the past

(He is the same yesterday, today, and forever- the only thing that has changed is time)

vs.32- "what shall I more say"- the writer has previously showed Christ being superior (better) than the angels, Moses, the Levitical priesthood, and the fact that His priesthood is eternal (after the order of Melchisedek)

- then he shows that the Heavenly Tabernacle is eternal in which the High Priest must be eternal
*with all this, he has shown his readers that Jesus is, in fact, God in the flesh as only God is eternal (the "Immanuel" of Isaiah)

- the idea of all his writings is that he wants to show his readers that if all these people were still on the earth, they would have acknowledged Christ for who He is (to "have faith" in God means to trust in the "Immanuel")

- we have already seen these men mentioned here had flaws but they are not mentioned because they messed up, but because they got up

*these judges lived in a time of darkness and apostasy - Judges 21:25

- their faith picked them up and they rose above those dark times and stood for God

- "Samuel"- last judge and first recognized prophet

- "Jephthae"- his family disowned him because he was the product of a prostitute- Judges 11
(But when his family was in peril, they turned to him)

- David- he wasn't even in the lineup when Samuel came to anoint the next king- I Sam. 16

Truth- sometimes, God uses the unexpected (Example- the disciples)

vs.33- now the writer reminds his readers of the accomplishments of so many people due to their faith in God

- "subdued kingdoms"- Joshua, David, and many of the judges

- "wrought righteousness"- this phrase indicates kings that ruled in a pleasing manner to God (David, Solomon, Asa, Josiah)

- "promises"- Abraham, Moses, David

- "mouths of lions"- Samson, David, Daniel

vs.34- "violence of fire"- the 3 Hebrews in the furnace

(Cast into it because they wouldn't bow to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image)

- "escaped"- David from Saul and Absalom, Elijah from Jezebel, Elisha from the Syrians at Dothan

- "were made strong"- these were the many that battled God's enemies on earth

vs.35- "women"- the widow from Zarapeth (1 Kings 17), the Shunnamite woman (2 Kings 4)

- "tortured"- (tumpanizo) where we get the word timpani (a drum)

(The device implied here was a wheel shaped instrument where people were stretched over it and pulled down tightly on it like a drumhead- then were clubbed to death)

- "not accepting deliverance"- this would be an escape from torture that would mean defying God as the only means of escape

Truth- these people all had their faith tested (if faith can't be tested, it can't be trusted) I Pet. 1:7

*Barak himself struggled with faith, Samson and David struggled with flesh, and Jephthae struggled with family- but their faith in them gave them the strength to overcome

*everyone mentioned in this chapter were weak men and women who did the impossible because their faith told them that God would not leave them or forsake them

- "better resurrection"- instead of them telling their faith what to do, their faith told them