Chapter 7 - FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD SHOWN IN THE OT

By faith Abel *offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks (Heb. 11:4).* *p. 111*

By faith *Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him", for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God (Heb. 11:5).* *p. 111*

By faith *Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith (Heb 11:7).* *p. 112*

THE JEWISH NATION BEGAN WITH THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

God made a promise to Abraham that he would have a child and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Abraham believed what God had promised him.

…he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness (*Gen. 15:6*). *p. 112*

NT COMMENTS:

And ***not being weak in faith,*** he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. *20* ***He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith***, giving glory to God*,* *21* and *being* ***fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform****" (Ro. 4:19-21).* *p. 113*

FAITH REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS

The word "trust" (trusted, trusting, etc.) shows up at least **70 times** in the Psalms *p. 113*

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness, (Ps 37:3). Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, He shall bring it to pass (Ps. 37:5). *p. 113*

And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him (Ps. 37:40). *p. 114*

Whenever I am afraid, ***I will trust*** *in You. 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear, what can flesh do to me? (Ps. 56:3,4).* *p. 114*

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes (Ps. 118:8-9). *p. 114*

ENCOURAGEMENTS TO "TRUST IN GOD" BEYOND THE PSALMS

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding (Pro. 3:5). *p. 114*

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. ***Trust*** ***in*** ***the*** ***Lord*** *forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength [Rock of Ages] (Is. 26:3-4).* *p. 114*

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and ***He knows those who trust in Him*** *(Nahum 1:7).* *p. 115*

ADDITIONAL ONES SHOWING FAITH AFTER ABRAHAM

Joshua and Caleb

In Numbers 13:26-33 Ten of the twelve spies reported the land was impossible to conquer. Only **Joshua and Caleb confessed faith in God's promise** to give them the land. They said, "**We are well able to overcome it**." The other ten perished because of their evil report. The people did not believe and were turned away from the promised land. *p. 115*

NT confirmation:

So *we see that they could not enter in because of* ***unbelief*** (Heb. 3:19). *p. 115*

The Book of Job

The book of Job is included with the Wisdom literature. Most of the book is a discussion between Job and three others regarding "*Why do the righteous suffer*?" His friends are convinced that Job has sinned and needs to confess. Job's reply is that he has done the best he could to live for God. However, even in his suffering Job gives testimony of faith. *p. 116*

Though He slay me, yet will I ***trust*** *Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him (Job 13:15).* *p. 116*

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth. *26* *And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God (Job 19:25-26).* *p. 116*

28 chapters of Job discuss and attempt to understand God's purposes for suffering, but no answer is found. When God finally responds He tells of His power and authority but doesn't give His reasoning for Job's suffering. *p. 116*

CONCLUSION: *We need to trust God because He is in charge and He knows what He is doing. God wants us to believe and trust Him for He is working His plan in our life.*

The Prophet Habakkuk

In his small book, the prophet asks God several questions regarding the judgment of the wickedness of Judah. The answer God gives him does not make sense to Him, but God reveals that He is to be trusted even when he does not [we do not] understand what He is doing. *p. 117*

*Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but **the just shall live by his faith** (Hab. 2:4).* *p. 117*

CONCLUSION: By the end of the book the prophet proclaims **even** if things are going badly, he will still rejoice (and trust) in God. *p. 117*

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines… Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation (Hab. 3:17a-18). *p. 117*