

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 11:32-40, Study Leader’s Questions

1. *What was true of all the people the author mentioned in Hebrews 11?*
2. *What promises from God give you hope and keep you needing to trust in Him (Hebrews 11:39)?*
3. *List some of the amazing things done by faithful people in past ages (Hebrews 11:33-35a).*
4. *What do you learn about difficulty and persecution from these verses?*
5. *What are some reasons that God does not always deliver those who trust in Him?*
6. *List some of the things these people of faith endured in past ages (Hebrews 11:35b-38).*
7. *Was there any joy at all for these people of faith (Hebrews 11:36)?*
8. *How does the Scripture describe these people (Hebrews 11:38)?*
9. *Why is the world an unworthy place for a people of faith (Hebrews 11:38)?*
10. *What did these ‘heroes of faith’ obtain? What did they not? Why (Hebrews 11:39-40)?*
11. *What is the better thing God provided for us (Hebrews 11:40)?*
12. *While none of us seeks difficulty, how might these verses encourage you to endure when you face trials and persecutions?*
13. *From this chapter, what do we learn about faith and works?*
14. *How would their faith encourage ours?*
15. *How would you explain their faith to someone who did not understand faith in God?*

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 11:32-40, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 256-257, 275-287 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 943, 951, 1613-1614, 1619-1620 for detailed comments.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Hebrews ch 11 Part 3, Appendix – NIV Deficiencies* for remarks on Hebrews 11:13, 37.

1. What was true of all the people the author mentioned in Hebrews 11?

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” Hebrews 11:13.

The named Old Testament saints in Hebrews 11 did not receive God's promises to them in their lifetimes but by faith they could testify that they:

- Had ***“seen them afar off”***
- ***“and were persuaded of them”***
- ***“and embraced them”***

This was a threefold response secured through faith ***“and a threefold cord is not quickly broken”*** Ecclesiastes 4:12.

Note that the NIVs cut out ***“and were persuaded of them.”*** See reference above to *Hebrews ch 11 Part 3, Appendix – NIV Deficiencies*. Hopefully after the manner of the apostle Paul ***“I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful”*** 1 Corinthians 7:25, don't use the NIVs, any of them, for Bible study, or for anything, for that matter, or any of the modern versions, except as bad examples. They are replete with deficiencies and the ***“evil fruit”*** from ***“a corrupt tree”*** Matthew 7:18, the work of ***“many, who corrupt the word of God”*** 2 Corinthians 2:17, either cutting out or disputing many portions of scripture, the NIV cutting out 17 entire verses of scripture; Matthew 17:21, 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44, 46, 11:26, 15:28, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Romans 16:24, 1 John 5:7. See:

www.av1611.org/niv.html,

www.av1611.org/nkjv.html,

www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Manuscript Ascension*.

Returning to the named Old Testament saints in Hebrews 11 theirs was the testimony of David.

“The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands” Psalm 138:8.

Therefore they ***“confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”*** and looked forward to entering ***“the land of promise”*** Hebrews 11:9 when the Lord comes back.

It should be the same for the Christian living now, who can have assurance of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises to him through the Lord Jesus Christ and respond accordingly in ***“steadfastness of your faith in Christ”*** Colossians 2:5, ***“good works...in Christ Jesus”*** Ephesians 2:10 and ***“patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”*** 1 Thessalonians 1:3:

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” 2 Corinthians 1:20.

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” 1 Peter 2:11-12.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” 2 Peter 3:13.

2. *What promises from God give you hope and keep you needing to trust in Him (Hebrews 11:39)?*

Two life verses, one for the Lord's Return, one for the Lord's reward for continuing with Him according to Luke 22:28 "***Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations***":

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us" Isaiah 33:22.

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" Hebrews 10:36.

Both verses impinge on an anecdote from the Channel Island of Jersey. This writer heard the following account many years ago at *The Jersey Experience* exhibition at *Jersey's Living Legend Village* www.jerseyslivinglegend.co.je/index.php?/content/section/16/100/.

The Channel Islands are all that remains of the old Duchy of Normandy and therefore came under the English Crown following the Norman Conquest of 1066. The islanders therefore refer to the reigning monarch, whether a king or queen, as "*Our Duke*."

The Channel islanders were faced with a dilemma early in the 13th century when England and France were at war. Should they remain loyal to the English Crown or side with France? The second option was a serious temptation because the Channel Islands, especially Jersey, are very close to France. The French Cotentin Peninsula is clearly visible from Jersey's north and east coasts on a clear day and if the islanders took the first option, to remain loyal to the English Crown, it would immediately put them at the sharp end against the enemy.

The nobles of the Channel Islands convened a meeting to consider the options and after much debate, the leading nobleman, Jerseyman Renaud de Carteret, proposed a toast:

"To the Duke, our King"

de Carteret pledged loyalty to the Crown even though he knew it would cost him his considerable holdings in Normandy, which it did. See *Appendix 1, 2*.

All the noblemen rose to the toast and the Channel Islands have remained loyal to the Crown ever since then, arguably mainland Britain's most long-standing ally.

From the Crown's perspective, the Channel Islands well deserve the endorsement that today's believers should merit from "***the LORD...our king***" at His Return, insofar as "**"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you"**" John 15:18 and "**"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"**" Hebrews 4:15.

"Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations" Luke 22:28.

3. List some of the amazing things done by faithful people in past ages (Hebrews 11:33-35a).

These things may be summed up in one word – victory:

- Victory over mortal foes, whether royal or rank-and-file; **“subdued kingdoms”** Hebrews 11:33, **“waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over sinful ways; **“wrought righteousness”** Hebrews 11:33
- Victory over fainting hearts; **“obtained promises”** Hebrews 11:33
- Victory over ravenous beasts; **“stopped the mouths of lions”** Hebrews 11:33
- Victory over fiery trials; **“Quenched the violence of fire”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over **“unreasonable and wicked men”** 2 Thessalonians 3:2; **“escaped the edge of the sword”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over physical weakness; **“out of weakness were made strong”** Hebrews 11:34
- Victory over death itself; **“Women received their dead raised to life again”** Hebrews 11:35

Today’s believer can have victory in that **“Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”** Galatians 2:20. As Paul states for today’s believers: **“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”** 1 Corinthians 15:57. See the example of arguably England’s best-known martyrs, Latimer and Ridley, murdered by Rome but certain to be manifest in glory.

“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” Colossians 3:4.



“Quenched the violence of fire”

Hebrews 11:34, being undaunted in devotion to **“the Lord of glory”** 1 Corinthians 2:8, James 2:1 despite the flames *‘Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace in England, as I trust shall never be put out’* –

Hugh Latimer to his fellow martyr Nicholas Ridley, October 16th 1555. Their faith was vindicated, especially in the year 1611

www.manchesterorange.co.uk/Religion/hugh-latimer-reformer

4. What do you learn about difficulty and persecution from these verses?

For those who fit the description **“Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations”** Luke 22:28, difficulty and persecution are:

- *Certain.* **“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”** 2 Timothy 3:12
- *Grievous.* **“For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life”** 2 Corinthians 1:8
- *Conquerable.* **“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”** Romans 8:37
- *Beneficial.* **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”** Romans 8:28. Note 2 Corinthians 1:8 above and Paul’s next statement. **“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead”** 2 Corinthians 1:9.

Peter therefore states what is hard to apply but true nevertheless and has a good outcome matching Romans 8:28 **“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy”** 1 Peter 4:12-13.

5. What are some reasons that God does not always deliver those who trust in Him?

The basic reason is as the Lord said **“And it shall turn to you for a testimony”** Luke 21:13:

- That you should **“in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”** 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- That you should glorify God and be an incentive to others to do so
“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” 1 Peter 2:12
“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” 1 Peter 4:16
- That you should love the Lord Jesus Christ above even life itself. See *Appendix 3*
“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” Revelation 12:9
- That you should be able to trust the Lord to deliver even through death as well as from death
Note Paul at Lystra, Acts 14:6, 7, 8: **“And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead”** Acts 14:16. He was, 2 Corinthians 12:1-5. However, God revived him, after which Paul manifested decided suicidal tendencies. **“Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe”** Acts 14:16. He later explains his inner conflict. **“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you”** Philippians 1:23-24. Nevertheless, Paul shows that God’s deliverance can come even *through* death. **“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me”** 2 Timothy 3:10-11.

6. List some of the things these people of faith endured in past ages (Hebrews 11:35b-38).

In sum, these examples of endurance consist of:

- Torture, like Latimer and Ridley experienced, Hebrews 11:35. See Question 3.
- Trial, like Paul experienced, writing prophetically of himself, Hebrews 11:36, which may have been one reason why he did not identify himself as the writer, because it may have caused confusion in that he had most likely not suffered **“bonds and imprisonment”** Hebrews 11:36 at the time of writing Hebrews 1-12. **“For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance”** Hebrews 10:34, which also refers to the trials his readers underwent, or would undergo and how *by faith* they endured them after the manner of 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *joyfully*, see Question 5, **“Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light”** Colossians 1:11-12.
- Temptation, like the Lord Jesus Christ experienced, Hebrews 11:37, Who **“was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”** Hebrews 4:15. See link under Answers to Questions for details on the modern excision of **“were tempted”** Hebrews 11:37. The modern version mentor clearly did not like being reminded of his first defeat at the hands of a man, the thrashing he received in the wilderness from **“the man Christ Jesus”** 1 Timothy 2:5.
- Torment, like Stephen Acts 7:59 **“stoned,”** Isaiah (tradition) **“sawn asunder,”** James Zebedee Acts 12:2 **“slain with the sword,”** Paul and his followers **“Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling-place”** 1 Corinthians 4:11 **“wandered about...being destitute, afflicted, tormented”** Hebrews 11:37.

Observe that all four afflictions listed above can be and are expressed with words starting with T or t. The letter T or t is a reminder of the cross as Peter states **“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree”** Acts 5:30. See *In awe of Thy Word* by Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger pp 1146-1147. All four afflictions listed match the Lord’s sufferings on the cross as summed up by his enemies’ taunt – another t – **“He saved others; himself he cannot save”** Matthew . See Matthew 26:53-27:50 for the context.

The significance for anyone today is that if he wishes to fulfil Luke 22:28 **“Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations”** he too will first have to **“take up the cross”** Mark 10:21 as the Lord Jesus Christ did such that he is *dead* and *freed from sin* **“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin”** Romans 6:6-7.

Only then can the freed escapee from **“the servants of sin”** become one of **“the servants of righteousness”** Romans 6:17, 18 and **“take up his cross”** Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23 in order to withstand anything like the four t-style afflictions listed above or even simply deal with self on a daily basis as Paul states **“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts”** Galatians 5:24. Note well the following:

“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me” Mark 10:21.

Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger explains, her emphases, the significance of the phrase **“take up the cross”** Mark 10:21 and reveals that it has been attacked by modern versions using corrupt sources.

See www.avpublications.com/avnew/content/Critiqued/james1.html.

“*“...the cross,” omitted in new versions in Mark 10:21, refers to “the cross of Jesus” (John 19:25), “the cross of Christ” (I Cor. 1:17), and “the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal. 6:14). “The preaching of the cross is the power of God unto salvation” (I Cor. 1:18). Taking up “his cross” daily [e.g. Luke 9:23] will not save a person. “The cross of Christ” will. It is only after we have taken our sins to the cross, that our redeemer can help each of us bear his own cross.*

“*When someone like James White [arrogant arch-critic of the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible] spends only a few days or even months writing a critique of a book which entailed six years of research, this reckless, broad brush approach results in painting its con artist into a corner. When Vanna [White] turns to reveal the letters indicating the manuscripts which include Mark 10:21, as the KJV renders it, Mr. White turns white as a ghost. The vast majority of Greek [MSS] have “take up the cross.” These include the uncials A (E) F (G) H, K, M, N, S, U, V, W, X, Y, Gamma, Pi, Sigma, Phi, Omega, [Family] 13 and the majority of all cursives. It is in the Old Latin: (a), q, [Syriac]: [(Peshitta), Sinaitic, Harclean], [Coptic]...Gothic, [(Armenian)] [(Ethiopic)]. It is also extant in 047, 05, 0211, 0257. The few corrupt manuscripts which omit it are Aleph, B, C, D, Theta, Psi, 0274, [a few cursives], [Old Latin: b, c, f, f2, g1, 2, k, l] and [Jerome’s Catholic Vulgate].”*

See *Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version* by J. A. Moorman p 59, 80, from which the above material was taken. Brackets () i.e. from Moorman indicate that the source contains the reading with variation. Braces [] are clarifying insertions by this writer.

In sum, the excision of the phrase **“take up the cross”** Mark 10:21 is an Alexandrian-Catholic corruption led by the usual suspects i.e. Aleph, B, the corruption in this case extending regrettably to most of the extant Old Latin copies containing Mark 10. **“One sinner destroyeth much good”** Ecclesiastes 9:18 and it is possible that a team of sinners attacked the Old Latin copies.

Concerning the English versions with respect to reading **“take up the cross”** Mark 10:21:

The 1385, 1395 Wycliffe do not have *“take up the cross.”*

The Tyndale, Matthew Bibles have *“take up thy cross.”*

The Coverdale Bible has *“take the cross upon thee.”*

The Great Bible has *“take up my cross upon thy shoulders.”*

The Bishops’ and Geneva Bibles have *“take up the cross”* in agreement with the 1611 AV1611 and the 2011 AV1611.

The 1582 JR Jesuit-Rheims New Testament, DR Douay-Rheims 1749-1752 Challoner Revision, 1881 RV, 1901 ASV, JB Jerusalem Bible, NJB New Jerusalem Bible, NWT New World Translation, 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs cut out *“take up the cross”* along with most modern versions. See www.biblegateway.com/. Birds of a feather...

The AV1611 reading **“take up the cross”** Mark 10:21 was clearly recognised and stabilised by the Bibles of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation. The omission of the phrase post-1611 English versions is clearly Catholic-inspired.

7. Was there any joy at all for these people of faith (Hebrews 11:36)?

Yes, see *Question 6*, second bullet point and Hebrews 10:34, which explains why in specific terms people of faith can have joy.

8. *How does the Scripture describe these people (Hebrews 11:38)?*

It describes them as ***“strangers and pilgrims”*** Hebrews 11:13, 1 Peter 2:11 in ***“this present evil world”*** Galatians 1:4, which is not worthy of them.

9. *Why is the world an unworthy place for a people of faith (Hebrews 11:38)?*

Citing the New Testament only:

- *It is the cause of offences against God. **“Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”** Matthew 18:7.*
- *It is ruled by the Devil, who is **“the prince of this world”** John 12:31, 14:30 and **“the god of this world”** 2 Corinthians 4:4. **“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it”** Luke 4:5-6.*
- *It doesn't know its own Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. **“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not”** John 1:10.*
- *It is sinful. **“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”** John 1:29.*
- *It is dead. **“For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world”** John 6:33.*
- *It is evil and hates the Lord Jesus Christ. **“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil”** John 7:7. See Question 8 and Galatians 1:4 with respect to ***“this present evil world.”****
- *It is in darkness. **“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”** John 8:12. See also: Ephesians 6:12 **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”***
- *It hates the Lord's faithful followers. **“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you”** John 15:18-19. See Question 2.*
- *It is so evil that it is not worth praying for. **“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine...I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil”** John 17:9, 15. Forget about ‘extending God's kingdom on earth.’ It isn't going to happen before the Second Advent.*
- *It is **“guilty before God.”** **“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God”** Romans 3:19.*
- *It is condemned. **“But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world”** 1 Corinthians 11:32.*
- *It is at enmity with God. **“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”** James 4:4.*

- *It is polluted.* “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” 2 Peter 2:20.
- *It is beset with lust and pride.* “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” 1 John 2:16.
- *It is perishing.* “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” 1 John 2:17.
- *It is home to “the spirit of antichrist.”* “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” 1 John 4:3.
- *It “lieth in wickedness.”* “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” 1 John 5:19. Not only is the world evil, see above, not only is it so evil the Lord doesn’t pray for it, see above, but it chooses to wallow in its own wickedness.
- *It is deceived by the Devil.* “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” Revelation 12:9.
- *It worships the Devil and the Beast, the Devil incarnate.* “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” Revelation 13:3-4.

Some overlap notwithstanding, those are 19 reasons from the New Testament alone to show why the world is not worthy of the people of faith.

That is why the Lord prophesied through Isaiah “And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible” Isaiah 13:11.

10. *What did these ‘heroes of faith’ obtain? What did they not? Why (Hebrews 11:39-40)?*

The named ‘heroes of faith’ in Hebrews 11 “obtained a good report through faith” Hebrews 11:39 as Hebrews 11 testifies as part of the New Testament that “shall hide a multitude of sins” James 5:20 through “the blood of Christ” 1 Corinthians 10:16, Ephesians 2:13, Hebrews 9:14.

However, the named ‘heroes of faith’ did not enter “the land of promise” Hebrews 11:9. That will happen when the Lord comes back, which is one reason why the Lord said “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad” John 8:56. That is also why the Lord said “And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 8:11 but a resurrection of Old Testament saints must take place first and it does *at the Second Advent*.

“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead” Isaiah 26:19.

The above is further assurance of God’s faithfulness in keeping His promises, which is an encouragement to today’s believer. See *Question 1*.

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” 2 Corinthians 1:20.

11. *What is the better thing God provided for us (Hebrews 11:40)?*

Today's believer genuinely has "**a better resurrection**" Hebrews 11:35 as Paul explains.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

That is why Paul urges today's believer to be "**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**" Titus 2:13.

12. *While none of us seeks difficulty, how might these verses encourage you to endure when you face trials and persecutions?*

See *Questions 3, 4, 5, 6* with respect to victory via faith, facing difficulty and even persecution and maintaining a good testimony under prolonged hardship, trials and temptations.

13. *From this chapter, what do we learn about faith and works?*

From a devotional standpoint faith and works do go together:

It is faith alone that saves but faith that saves is never alone.

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" James 2:17.

That is why Paul commends the Thessalonians for their active faith *with works*. See item on Pastor Lordson Roch www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Hebrews ch 11 Part 3 pp 9-11 as an example of active faith *with works* of faith. **"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father"** 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 describe that **"work of faith"** i.e. **"And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God"** 2 Corinthians 8:5. In effect, they **"spared not"** Romans 8:32.

14. *How would their faith encourage ours?*

See *Question 12* and note that God got them through whatever they had to achieve by faith as the Lord promises in the last chapter of Hebrews.

"...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" Hebrews 13:5. See also Deuteronomy 31:6, 8, Joshua 1:5, 1 Chronicles 28:20.

15. *How would you explain their faith to someone who did not understand faith in God?*

The only way to do so is by testimony.

The Old Testament saints had a promise of entering **"the land of promise"** Hebrews 11:9 as theirs.

This writer can testify to a similar promise concerning **"the land of promise"** Hebrews 11:9 in a particular sense. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Hebrews ch 10 Part 2 p 8.

This writer can testify to the truth God's promise with respect to remaining in England according to a promise of Jeremiah claimed on his behalf. It has been fulfilled. That, to him, shows the reality of the faith as exercised by the named Old Testament saints in Hebrews 11.

"Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul" Jeremiah 32:41.

Appendix 1 – Renaud De Carteret III

From: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renaud_De_Carteret_III

Sir Renaud de Carteret III, Seigneur of [Carteret](#) (1140–1214) was the son of [Renaud de Carteret II](#), and father of [Philippe](#) and [Godefroy](#).

With the separation of [Normandy](#) from England, (1204), Renaud de Carteret had to choose (with many others) between his possessions in [Jersey](#) and those in continental Normandy. Although he had far greater lands on the continent, of which the town of Carteret still bears the name, he chose to throw in his lot with Jersey and remain faithful to the [Duke of Normandy](#) in the person of [John of England](#). Had he decided otherwise, there can be no doubt that the history of Jersey would have been a different one. It would probably have been won over by the king of France and placed on the same footing as the [Chausey Islands](#), dependencies of France not differing from the mainland in government or speech.



De Carteret Family Crest

www.lukeritchie.co.za/portfolio/deca-rtet-family-crest/

Appendix 2 – From Jersey Source: Our Oldest Families p 221

This writer's emphasis:

“Renaud de Carteret...is named for collector of the aid levied in the fifth year of King John upon the lords of the fiefs in the islands, and when in his ninth year the same king demands hostages for their fealty from the chief men of the islands, Renaud gave up Philip, his son and heir, who was thereupon committed to the custody of his uncle Richard, who was on the mainland, and being or having been constable of the king's castle of Winchester was known to be well affected. In 1208 Renaud had a letter of protection, and in 1213 Philip the hostage was given up to Philip Daubeney, the governor of the islands. Thus far we may trace the history of this Renaud from the extracts now in print from the Close Rolls and Patent Rolls of King John. We may add that when the king loses Normandy, Renaud de Carteret loses Carteret and his other lordships in the duchy, but Carteret is now firmly established as the family surname.”

Note the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ, sobering but uplifting, with respect to possessions lost, including houses and lands such as de Carteret would have lost, Hebrews 10:34, *Question 6*, to anyone with His “family surname” **“that worthy name by which ye are called”** James 2:7.

“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life” Mark 10:29-30.

Appendix 3 – Captain Allen Gardiner RN

Dr William Grady¹ relates how Charles Darwin visited the islands of Tierra del Fuego at the southern end of South America in 1833. The natives were so savage that Darwin was convinced that he had found his so-called ‘missing link’ between animals and humans.

In about 1870, Darwin visited Tierra del Fuego again.

This time, he was astounded to discover that many natives had become Christians through the work of the South American Missionary Society, or SAMS².

The society was founded in 1844 by Captain Allen Gardiner of the Royal Navy. Gardiner and six of his missionary companions died in the society’s service in 1851 in Patagonia. They had endured several months of sickness, starvation and extreme cold, reaching 20 degrees below zero.

Captain Gardiner wrote the last lines in his diary on September 6th 1851³. He said this:

“By God’s Grace this blessed group was able to sing praises to Christ for eternity.

“I am not hungry or thirsty in spite of 5 days without eating; Wonderful Grace and Love to me, a sinner...”



Captain Gardiner died near the upturned boat in September 1851

As Paul said in Philippians 4:4 ***“Rejoice in the Lord alway [all the way]: and again I say, Rejoice.”*** Captain Gardiner and his companions set the standard for that verse.

Thanks to his 1870 visit to Tierra del Fuego, Charles Darwin was so impressed by the work of SAMS that he became an Honorary Member and gave an annual subscription to the society for the rest of his life.

“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee...” Psalm 76:10.

Additional References

¹ *Final Authority*, p 182. Note that in an otherwise excellent account of the post-1611 history of the KJB, Dr Grady refers incorrectly to missionary John Paton with respect to the mission work on Tierra del Fuego, which was begun by Captain Allen Gardiner RN

² www.cms-uk.org/Whoweare/History/SAMStimeline/tabid/511/language/en-GB/Default.aspx

www.archive.org/details/romance_missionaryheroism_0910_librivox, 17 – *The Sailor Missionary of Tierra del Fuego*

www.victory-cruises.com/allen_gardiner2.html

³ www.victory-cruises.com/allen_gardiner2.html