**Greater Than All - wk 14 – Faith Road Trip – Pt 1**

**Road trip with family as a kid – clueless but trust – just enjoy the trip.**

**Hebrews catch up… Where we are so far…**

**Chap 1-3 - Jesus is creator of all things, and greater than all creation! Chap 4-10 - Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for saving us from judgement**

**Thru Jesus we can confidently draw near to God and must draw near to each other. Don’t give up on Jesus & don’t give up meeting together.**

**\*\* The primary arch - don’t give up but grow up!**

**(Heb is filled familiar amazing verses – today is one. Did entire series on just this chap 14 yrs ago.) Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

**Oft-misused passage. KJV – “Faith is the substance” – is used to teach faith is as an actual substance & force, like gravity.**

**This is not just about faith – but especially faith in Jesus Christ.**

**The theme of the entire letter and continuing thought. This verse is not a formula or recipe for how to get things that you want.**

**Faith is not a force it is not a spiritual law (that even God has to obey) – faith is trust in God – specifically trust in Christ!**

**(Let’s break this down) Hebrews 10:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**

**Biblical Faith - (defined by Hebrews 11) is a supernatural trust and assurance in what God says even if you don’t see it or understand it.**

**(Upost-asis – lit. confident support – substance – to stand on)**

**It is knowing that he has done and will do all that he has said – even if you don’t see it. Confident, relying on – stand on chair?**

**Faith deals with the unseen – but not the unreal – it is not a blind leap but a trust in what you know and what you don’t see – it is to have spiritual eyes. We see differently with faith.**

**2 This is what the ancients were commended for. (Theme of the chap - he is about to list names and true brief stories. Known as - The Hall of Faith) 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

**Biblical Faith - brings true understanding about life and God**

**Not faith in science - we can learn from science but makes terrible God**

**Not faith in relationships - friends, marriage - will leave you confused**

**Not faith in money – investments and the economy - it comes and go**

**Not faith in religion – church, pastors, people, leaders - churches fail**

**Not faith in faith – confessing, thinking, declaring, profess - not enough**

**Not faith in ourselves - be positive, committed, follow thru – disappoint**

**BUT- 11:3 By faith (In God) we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

**“God created the universe… prove it!” It is by faith in Christ that you will understand that at his command - “Let there be light!” - nothing became something – all creation followed.**

**Psalm 33:6 - By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.**

**God did not create w/ faith – he knows and see all things – faith does not apply to him – he is the object of all faith.**

**The Almighty creator God is ground zero, primary mover, beginning of all things, the eternal infinite One created who the finite. Understanding starts here - God intentionally created this world – and you.**

**There is no understand of anything apart from this faith.**

**First, we are given a description of faith - then the writer gives amazing examples of this faith - what faith in the LORD God looks like.**

**Hebrews 11:2 This is what the ancients were commended for….**

**The Hall of Faith! – 16 people men & women.**

**Writing to Jewish readers, he is asserting the case for Christ with people they had on baseball cards and played as a kid.**

**ABEL**

**Heb 11:4 By faith Abel (Adam’s son - Gen 4) brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. (Mention Cain)**

**By Faith he gave a better offering (an act of true worshiped to God)**

**He trusted God enough to give his very best.**

**Not knowing if God would receive it or if he would get anything back, he gave his best - because he knew God deserved it. Cain gave God the leftovers. Able gave his best by faith.**

**The Hall of Faith begins with establishing the rightful rule, ownership, and worship of the creator of all things.**

**Biblical faith has a high view of the sovereignty of God.**

**Because God is creator of all things, He alone decides how he will be approached and worshiped. Not you. This is the recorded first acceptance and rejection of God – by God’s choice.**

**By faith we understand God alone decides what is acceptable and how he will be approached – and what he requires for his presence. (Pointing to the one lamb of God – Christ alone)**

**“Though dead – Able still speaks!” Biblical faith understands this.**

**ENOCH**

**Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch (Gen 5, Jude 14 – OT prophet) was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith (this kind of faith – like Enoch) it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

**By Faith He walked with God – Gen 5:22 “Enoch walked faithfully with God”**

**He trusted God and pleased God when others did not**

**Jude 14 refers to him as a prophet – warning of coming judgement)**

**Enoch earnestly sought God and walked with him – faithfully.**

**(Remember Heb is all about faithfully walking with God – not quitting –**

**“Did not experience death” “because God took him away.”**

**This points to our new life - that thru Christ we will not experience death as the world experiences it.**

**Heb 11:6 And without faith (like Enoch’s faith) it is impossible to please God…**

**Biblical faith – is the only way to please God (Not difficult - impossible)**

**To trust and follow what God says even if you don’t see it or understand it. (The resurrection, the cross, the word of God)**

**“Well, I please God by just being myself…” well, you’re selfish and so am I, so I don’t think that’s it - not what the Bible says. It a faith that walks with Him faithfully that he desires.**

**6 …because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists *and* that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (the heart of Enoch)**

**“I believe God exists – I’m good” – so do demons, James 2:19 – they are very spiritual. Believing God exists is not a saving faith. It’s a good start to knowing and understanding salvation.**

**Biblical Faith – seeks God and brings the reward of salvation**

**The reward- if you seek God with your whole heart is salvation. Belief in the one true creator God and the ernest pursuit of Him will bring you face to face with Jesus. He is the reward.**

**NOAH**

**7 By faith Noah… (Son of Lamech, great grandson of Enoch – Gen 6-9)**

**Noah is just a myth, right? Was Noah a real person? Yes.**

* **Prophet Ezekiel says yes – Ez 14:20 – God refers to Noah’s faith**
* **Prophet Isaiah says yes – Is 54:9 – Mentions Noah and flood as fact**
* **Prophet Ezra says yes - 1 Chron 1 – family tree of Abraham**
* **Luke says yes – Luke 3 - Noah is listed in Jesus family tree**
* **Hebrews (Apostle Paul) says yes - Heb 11:7 - Noah / flood mentioned**
* **Jesus says yes - Matt 24:37-39 / Luke 17:26-27 - “…just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.**
* **Apostle Peter says yes - 1 Pet 3:20, 2 Pet 2:5 – Noah, family, ark & flood.**

**Plus (pics) – there is evidence and stories of a universal flood in almost every culture. Telling similar stories as the Bible.**

**Extra - When we turn the Bible into mythology – we give ourselves an excuse to discredit what it says.**

**Well, that did not really happen, God didn’t really do that – well maybe God did not say or do this either.**

**There are a lot of crazy things in the bible - The key is proper understanding and interpretation of what is written.**

**Extra - When we remove the miraculous from the scriptures – we eventually end up removing the resurrection.**

**Which is the pinnacle miracle our entire faith rests on.**

**So - Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear (of God – godly fear) built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.**

**By Faith He obeyed God**

**He trusted and spoke God’s word when it was a difficult thing to say**

**Speaking, preaching, warning - no one listened. Never stopped seemed irrational and impossible - but he trusted and obeyed.**

**Biblical faith can bring ridiculed and misunderstanding**

**Mocked - building something that had never been built for a rainstorm no one had ever seen. Year after year – holding on the words of God.**

**By faith – Noah was the seed of the promised Messiah.**

**We have Jesus because Noah trusted God.**

**We think Faith like this will bring great blessing… but notice…**

**“Faith like Enoch – God will give you a long life and blessing” No**

**“Faith like Noah – God will save your whole family” No**

**But - It was the same faith Able had – that brought his death.**

**Abel’s murder made him the first martyr.**

**Biblical Faith in God will bring different results: Able = murdered by a jealous brother. Enoch = taken up to heaven. Noah = family saved. God does as he will to establish his purpose & glory. \*The reward is Jesus.**

**Noah reminds us to hold tight to God’s word in a world that seeks their own version of God – we see this in…**

**2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. (dishonor – lit. blasphemy) 3 In their greed (thirst for stuff) these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. (God’s judgement will come) 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; (as God judged angels he will judge them) 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness…**

**There will always be those who teach false teaching and tickle the ears – telling people what people want to hear. But like Noah in the face of ridicule we stand firm in the faith of Jesus Christ – the sovereign God and his word. This is Biblical faith.**

**Notice this - Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear (holy fear of God – KJV godly fear) built an ark to save his family.**

**Biblical faith includes the awe and fear of God.**

**Noah like faith – never loses the awe and wonder of God’s might.**

**I get frustrated when I see God disrespected and turned into a buddy or vending machine. The closer we get to Jesus - the more we understand the awe, wonder, and power of God.**

**We will see this again and again in the Hall of Faith**

**Biblical faith - moves a person to action and obedience.**

**True Faith is action = it results in movement and obedience.**

**The grace that does not change my life, will not save my soul.” - Charles Spurgeon**

**Abel’s faith moved him to offer his best to worship of the sovereign Lord God.**

**Enoch’s faith moved him to preach and walk faithfully w/ God all the days of life**

**Noah’s faith moved him to warn others and build the ark – to live and speak differently in our culture.**

**Some of you might say – 1 of 2 things today:**

**“I have lots of faith in God…”**

**Okay – Do you obey his known word? Are you living out what he says regardless of the outcome? Are you willing to live with ridicule and death? Is Jesus enough reward?**

**Or you hear this verse - Heb 11:6 …without faith it is impossible to please God…**

**And think – “I don’t have much faith…”**

**I have good news for you… all you need is a little faith.**

**Mustard seed size faith – Matt 17. Why so little? Don’t I need a lot?**

* **The issue is not the size of the faith we have, but the size of the God we serve.**

**1 John 5:4 This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (Our faith in Christ Jesus)**