



WALKING ON WATER
— BIBLE CHURCH —

FAITH BEYOND *Our Lifetime*

HEBREWS 11:13–22

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Hebrews 11:13-22

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

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Hebrews 11:13-22

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,”

19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Hebrews 11:13-22

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

THE MOVEMENT OF THE PASSAGE

Hebrews 11:13–16 — Faith looks ahead

Hebrews 11:17–19 — Faith obeys under testing

Hebrews 11:20–22 — Faith blesses the future

WHAT HEBREWS CALLS FAITH

Faith trusts what God has spoken (11:1).

Faith perseveres before fulfillment (10:36).

Faith looks beyond the present moment (11:13).

PART ONE · HEBREWS 11:13–16

FAITH THAT SEES BEYOND THIS LIFE

Pilgrims live for a promise they may not yet see.



HEBREWS 11:13 — THE KEY CLAIM

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises...”

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV excerpt)

FAITH CAN OUTLIVE OUR LIFESPAN

God's timetable may exceed our lifetime.

An unfinished promise is not a failed promise.

Faithfulness is not measured by immediate results.

THEY SAW THE PROMISE AFAR OFF

They recognized God's promised future.

They welcomed what was still distant.

Their hope gave meaning to present obedience.

STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON EARTH

Abraham: “a foreigner and a visitor” (Gen. 23:4).

Jacob described his years as a pilgrimage (Gen. 47:9).

Their ultimate identity was shaped by God.

A PILGRIM IS NOT AN ESCAPIST

We serve faithfully where God has placed us.

We refuse to make this age our final home.

Future hope strengthens present responsibility.

THEY WERE SEEKING A HOMELAND

Their confession revealed their deepest longing.

Faith looked for a lasting country (11:14).

Home was finally found in God's promise.

THEY COULD HAVE TURNED BACK

Their former country remained an option (11:15).

They did not make the old life their destination.

Faith chooses God's future over familiarity.

HEBREWS 11:16 — THEIR DESIRE

“But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.”

Hebrews 11:16 (NKJV excerpt)

GOD HAS PREPARED A CITY

God is not ashamed to be called their God.

The city's security rests in God's preparation.

Our hope rests in His character, not ours.

PART TWO · HEBREWS 11:17–19

FAITH THAT TRUSTS UNDER TESTING

Abraham believed God when obedience was costly.



ABRAHAM'S SEVERE TEST

God had promised descendants through Isaac.

Genesis 22 tested Abraham's trust and obedience.

The command appeared to threaten the promise.

ABRAHAM'S SEVERE TEST

Hebrews 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up **his only begotten son,**

μονογενής, ές (μόνος, γένος; Hes.; LXX; PsSol 18, 4; TestSol 20:2; TestBenj 9:2; ParJer 7:26; ApcEsdr 6:16; ApcSed 9:2; Joseph., Just.; loanw. in rabb.)

acc. μονογενῆ (-ῆν J 3:16 v.l.; Hb 11:17 D; also ApcEsdr 6:16)

① **pert.** to being the only one of its kind within a specific relationship, *one and only, only* (so mostly, incl. Judg 11:34; Tob 3:15; 8:17) of children:

- of Isaac, Abraham's only son (Jos., Ant. 1, 222) Hb 11:17.

WHY “ONLY BEGOTTEN” ISAAC?

Abraham already had Ishmael.

Isaac was unique as the son of promise.

The covenant line was to continue through Isaac.

HEBREWS 11:19 — ABRAHAM REASONED

“God was able to raise him up, even from the dead...”

Hebrews 11:19 (NKJV excerpt)

ISAAC RETURNED “IN A FIGURE”

Isaac did not actually die.

God provided a ram in his place (Gen. 22:13).

Abraham received Isaac back figuratively from death.

WHAT GENESIS 22 DOES NOT TEACH

God stopped Abraham before Isaac was killed.

Scripture condemns human sacrifice (Deut. 12:31).

This event is no warrant for harming others.

FAITH PRODUCES OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 11 emphasizes Abraham's trust.

James 2:21–23 emphasizes his active response.

True faith is displayed in faithful action.

WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED

Trust God's revealed Word over appearances.

Obey what Scripture actually commands.

Leave outcomes to the God who keeps promises.

PART THREE · HEBREWS 11:20–21

FAITH THAT BLESSES THE NEXT GENERATION

Isaac and Jacob spoke of a future not yet visible.



ISAAC BLESSED THINGS TO COME

Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau (11:20).

He spoke about a future he could not see.

God's purposes endured family conflict.

JACOB BLESSED JOSEPH'S SONS

He blessed Manasseh and Ephraim (Gen. 48).

The younger Ephraim received the greater place.

God's purpose exceeded customary human rank.

JACOB WORSHIPED NEAR DEATH

He asked for burial in the promised land.

He bowed in worship (Gen. 47:29–31).

His final requests displayed confidence in God.

STAFF OR BED? THE TEXTUAL NOTE

Hebrews 11:21 follows the Greek “staff.”

Hebrew Genesis 47:31 reads “bed.”

Either way, Jacob’s faithful worship is central.

WHAT WILL WE PASS FORWARD?

Speak Scripture rather than empty guarantees.

Model worship and obedience before others.

Invest in people who will outlive us.

PART FOUR · HEBREWS 11:22

FAITH THAT EXPECTS GOD'S FUTURE

Joseph planned for God's promise beyond his death.



JOSEPH'S FAITH AT DEATH

He foretold Israel's departure from Egypt.

He gave instructions concerning his bones.

He died convinced that God would act.

GOD'S PROMISE ACROSS GENERATIONS

1

GENESIS 50:25 — Joseph made the request.

2

EXODUS 13:19 — Moses carried his bones.

3

JOSHUA 24:32 — Israel buried them in Shechem.

FAITH LEAVES A TESTIMONY

Joseph's final act preached God's faithfulness.

His instructions outlived his own influence.

His hope was in God's promise—not Egypt.

A BETTER CITY THROUGH CHRIST

The patriarchs anticipated God's future rest.

Jesus secures the promised inheritance (Heb. 9:15).

God will dwell with His people (Rev. 21:1–3).

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY

Where am I tempted to “return” (11:15)?

Where must I obey while trusting God’s future?

What faith-filled legacy am I preparing?

THE MAIN LESSON

“We may not see every fulfillment. We can still die trusting the God who promised.”

Hebrews 11:13–22 — Teaching summary

SOURCES AND STUDY PASSAGES

Primary: The Pulpit Commentary, Hebrews 11:13–22.

Genesis 21–22; 27; 47–50; Exodus 13; Joshua 24.

Hebrews 9–13; James 2; Revelation 21.