

The Faith of the Israelites

(Hebrews 11:29-30)

Introduction:

1. A number of Old Testament characters mentioned in Hebrews 11 illustrate how faith will enable a person to be in good standing with God.
2. In vs.4-28 we read about the faith of nine individuals, including Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses.
3. In vs.29-30 we read about the faith of the Israelites as a group.
4. According to Hebrews 3:16-19, the Israelites did not always demonstrate great faith.
5. However, on these two occasions they did.
 - a. (vs.29) By faith they passed through the Red Sea.
 - b. (vs.30) By faith they conquered Jericho.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.29) BY FAITH THE ISRAELITES PASSED THROUGH THE RED SEA
 - A. (Exodus 12-13) The Israelites left Egypt and began their journey to Canaan.
 - B. Their passing through the Red Sea is recorded in Exodus 14.
 1. (vs.1-4) God directed the Israelites to camp by the sea.
 2. (vs.5-9) The Egyptians pursued after the Israelites.
 3. (vs.10-14) The Israelites became afraid, but Moses assured them that God would deliver them from the Egyptians.
 4. (vs.15-22) God directed the Israelites to go forward, and they passed through the Red Sea on dry ground.
 5. (vs.23-31) God destroyed the Egyptians as they attempted to go through the sea.
- II. (vs.30) BY FAITH THE ISRAELITES CONQUERED JERICHO
 - A. After forty years the Israelites finally entered Canaan (Joshua 1-5).
 - B. Their victory over Jericho is recorded in Joshua 6.
 1. (vs.1-5) God gave Joshua instructions for taking Jericho.
 2. (vs.6-21) The Israelites followed God's instructions and took the city.