

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUFFERING

OF FAITHFUL PEOPLE



Hebrews 11:32-40

CONTEXT AND STRUCTURE

“THROUGH FAITH” (v.33)

The Nature of Faith

“THROUGH FAITH” (v.39)

CONTEXT AND STRUCTURE

**The Preacher uses a
rhetorical device known as:**

Praeteritio...

“to fill in the gaps”

(32) “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ...,”

So the Preacher will use “*praeteritio*” for the sake of time and he begins with six well know figures of Israel’s history.

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**Not in
chronological
order...but in
orders of pairs
with the first
being the most
significant!**

(32) “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ...,”



**Gideon – 100 men
routed the army of
the Midianites.**

**Barak – 10,000 men
defeated King
Jabin of Canaan
w/his 900 iron
chariots.**

(32) “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ...,”



Samson – killed more Philistines in his death than his life.

Jephthah – a small band of men routed the Ammonites.

The Ten Things Gained Through Faith (vv.33-35a)

The Three Accomplishments:

1. Conquered territories/took possession of the land (Judges).
2. David and Samuel enacted God's righteousness.
3. Obtained the good things that God had promised to Abraham (land, nationhood, growth, prosperity).

The Ten Things Gained Through Faith (vv. 33-35a)

The Three Threats Overcome by Faith:

1. Predators (animal world).
2. Destructive power of the natural world (fire).
3. Deadly weapons of political powers.

The Ten Things Gained Through Faith (vv.33-35a)

The Three Divine Invigorations:

- 1. Empowerment in weakness (Samson).**
- 2. Prowess in warfare (Gideon).**
- 3. Victory over foreign armies (David).**

The Ten Things Gained Through Faith (vv.33-35a)

The Tenth and Last Item:

**Not a gift received by men, but by women
on account of their faith!**

+ Resurrection of a family member

- The widow of Zarephath (Elijah)**
- The woman of Shunem (Elisha)**
- The widow of Nain (Jesus (Prophet))**

People who Suffered Through Faith (v.35b)

The Preacher now shifts the focus of the congregation to those who suffered through faith, which bore a greater witness of God than by accomplishments.

+ The Preacher may be referring to Eleazar and an unnamed mother who refused to eat pork dedicated to the Greek god Dionysus (cf. 2 Macc 6:7, 18 – 7:42).

People who Suffered Through Faith (v.36)

Here the congregation would have possibly thought of the mistreatment of *Joseph* (Gen. 39:20); the prophets *Hanani* (2 Chr. 16:7-10), *Micaiah* (1 Kings 22:26, 27), and *Jeremiah* (Jer. 20:2, 7; 29:26; 37:15-16), as well as the persecution of Christians in their era.

People who Suffered Through Faith (v.37a-c)

God's faithful people were also put to death, executed, in very brutal ways.

- + Naboth (Stoning - 1 Kings 21)**
- + Zechariah (Stoning - 2 Chr. 24: 20-21)**
- + Stephen (Stoning - Acts 7:58)**
- + Those sawn in half in an attempt to prevent resurrection (Isaiah (?))**
- + Sword/Beheadings (James) (Acts 12:2)**

People who Suffered Through Faith (vv.37d-38)

God's faithful people were also excluded from civil society.

- + Forced to live as vagrants
 - No clothing/food/shelter
 - Wore sheepskins/goatskins
- + Forced to wander (no livelihood)
- + Forced to live in caves & holes

People who Suffered Through Faith

(vv. 37d-38)

Because of the world's treatment of God's saints, the world is not worthy of them. And, thereby, unworthy of God; hence, He will pour out His judgment upon them!



People who Suffered Through Faith (vv. 39-40)

**“Through their
Faith”** in God’s
faithfulness all the
Old Testament saints
were attested by God
as reliable witnesses
to the LORD!



People who Suffered Through Faith (vv. 39-40)

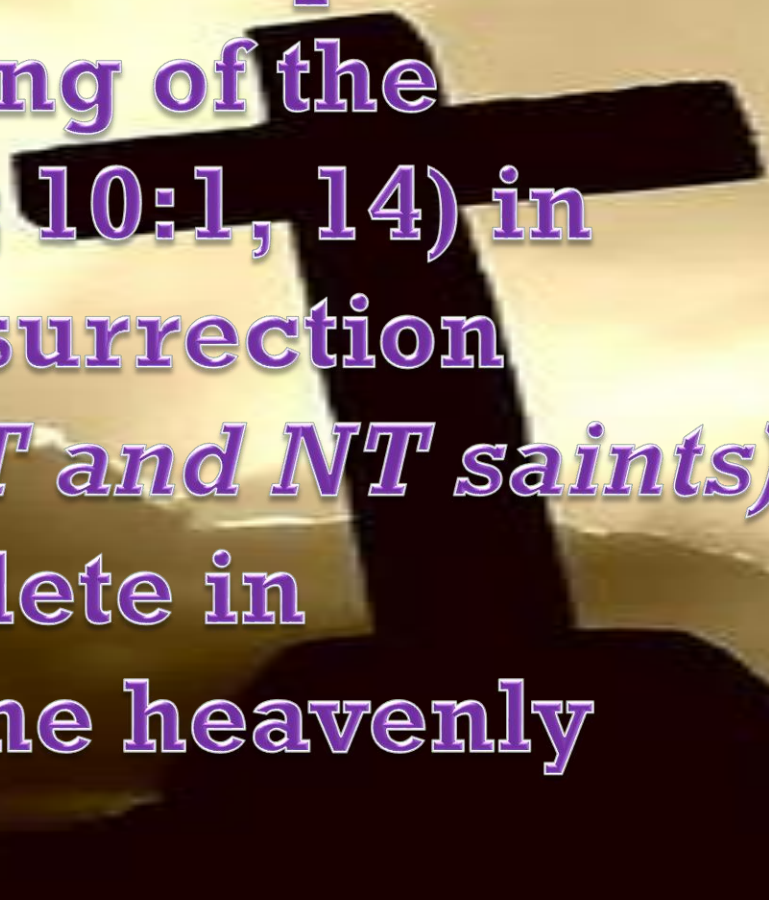
In life and death,
prosperity and
adversity, in victory
and persecution,
the LORD
vindicated them for
their faith!



People who Suffered Through Faith (v.39-40)

⁴⁰“God having
provided something
better for us, that
they should not be
made perfect apart
from us..”





By our Lord's work on His cross
through His death and exaltation,
He now make others complete
through the cleansing of the
conscience (9:9, 14; 10:1, 14) in
anticipation of the resurrection
when all people (*OT and NT saints*)
will be made complete in
everlasting life in the heavenly
Zion (12:22-24).