

The Reward of Faith

Hebrews 11:30-40

The author of Hebrews presents a series of illustrations in rapid succession - examples of frail men and women who persevered in their faith while waiting for the final reward.

Final Illustrations

I. Faith _____ us with _____ (30-34)

Israel _____ Jericho by faith (30)

Rahab _____ the spies by faith (31)

Others _____ great feats by faith (32-34)

II. Faith _____ us through _____ (35-38)

III. Faith _____ us in _____ (39-40)

Summary Conclusion

I. Faith _____ the _____.

II. Faith _____ the _____.

III. Faith _____ to the _____.

The failure of these godly examples of faith to obtain the promised eternal inheritance was not due to any fault on their part. Instead, it was because God had planned something better for us. The last clause of the paragraph, *that only together with us would they be made perfect . . .* further explains what is meant. In God's gracious purpose the perfection of the Old Testament faithful was only possible *together with us*. As Moffatt put it: 'God in his good providence reserved the messianic perfection of Jesus Christ until we could share it.' So although some of the attested examples of faith saw the fulfillment of specific promises, they died without having received the ultimate promise until the advent of Christ . . . divine grace extended to those living in the last days, that is, *us* (1:2).

- Peter T. O'Brien

[Imagine] two men stand[ing] on the deck of a ship gazing toward the far horizon; the one sees nothing, the other describes the details of a distant steamer. The former has only his unaided eyesight, the latter is using a telescope! Now just as a powerful glass brings home to the eye an object beyond the range of natural vision, so faith gives reality to the heart of things outside the range of our physical senses. Faith sets Divine things before the soul in all the light and power of demonstration, and thus provides inward conviction of their existence.

- A. W. Pink