

Hebrews chapter 11 (for real this time!):

(31)

Hebrews 11:1+2 God's definition of faith: (in simple terms):

- Taking God at His word; Trusting God completely and being convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that what He says will come to pass. A trust so complete that even though we have not seen proof and even though it is outright impossible that we plant ourselves in a mindset that considers it as though it has already happened. Verse 2: affirms that this is what counted the Old Testament saints as righteous.

Hebrews 11:3 "By faith" the saints, of all ages, understand that the universe was created by the word of God ("word of God" meaning that He spoke it into existence just like He said He did in Genesis 1. (Example: Genesis 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light..." Genesis 1:6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst (to divide) of the waters. (The original tropical weather that Adam and Eve lived in had $\frac{1}{3}$ of the waters in the atmosphere, $\frac{1}{3}$ on the ground, and $\frac{1}{3}$ under the ground. This not only kept out damaging ultraviolet rays but also kept the climate perfect in that it allowed sun by day and dew and mist by night.

This Atmospheric layer of water was instantaneously released at the onset of the flood - along with much of the waters below the earth. Annihilation was immediate with no second chance for repentance) Genesis 1:9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear..." Genesis 1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass..." and so on and so on. Note that God spoke it into existence and upon His return He will speak it out of existence (both the non-believers and the sin soaked ground that we walk on that is full of decay.).

Hebrews 11:4 Abel is the first believer to have entered Paradise. He was found "worthy" by God because He offered a sacrifice to God exactly as God had required of Him.

From here on in the Holy Spirit, through the author, simply highlights some of the Old Testament saints; only about two dozen of millions upon millions

Hebrews 11:5 Enoch is one of three people who did (32) not taste death; Genesis 5:24 "Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him"; 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah is taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire, and the Man/man/or Theophany called Melchizedek who is a priest forever, with no beginning and no end. It is almost certain that since Elijah + Enoch never died that they will be the two witnesses that arrive on the scene at the onset of the tribulation. They of course will finally die when, as in all people, God is done with their ministry, they are killed in Israel at the mid point of the tribulation. It is my opinion that Melchizedek might show up as well.

Hebrews 11:6 Verse 5 says that Enoch, "was commended as having pleased God", and verse 6 makes it crystal clear that **"WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD."**

Rabbit trail: Throughout history God has only asked for two things. One, to trust Him in what He asks of us and, two to try our best in fulfilling His request:

1). To have faith we need trust in the fact that every thing that He says is the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Some hear Him audibly, some hear Him in prayer, some hear Him when they read His Word, and some hear Him through their Holy Spirit. All of us were left here on earth after we were saved for the sole purpose of doing what He designed us to do. No more, no less.

2). To try our best! There has never been a person (outside of the Man Jesus) who has not failed in his or her walk several or hundreds of times. We have all stumbled or been knocked down on our walk with God, and all that He asks is that we get back up again at least one more time than we were down. He supplies not only His helping hand to get us up on our feet again but also equips us to be able to carry out what He has asked us to do. Our failures and even our sins are unendlessly forgotten by God but our successes are not only remembered they are exalted by God! (see printout on how God only asks us to do what He has enabled us to do in Matthew 25:14-28)

So when we look at all those that God lists here (33) in Hebrews 11 let us also notice that God lifts them up

as righteous for what they did in the prime of their faith and He neglects to mention their doubts, failures, and down right disbelief. Why? Because only we can see them when we read His Word. He has absolutely no knowledge of them.

Hebrews 11:7 Noah is a perfect example of what I have just claimed (according to God's word). We all know that whatever happened after the flood with Noah's drunkenness and sin is not remembered by God. Noah is counted as righteous for constructing a Carnevale Cruseline Zoo where there had never been water, let alone rain. And since Ocean liners had never been invented God had to have created Noah to be able to build one. The ability to be able to hewn logs to precise sizes, install them intricately up to 45' off the ground, and over a span of approximately 450 feet. Noah also had to be not only a preacher to warn people about God's upcoming world wide annihilation but also a good teacher and manager of the people who worked for him. (I am convinced that Noah had to have employed hundreds of people over around 125 years to complete the task not only for the enormity of the project but also for the preaching. God definitely wanted everybody to be forewarned so that every living soul could make a choice).

Hebrews 11:8-9 Abraham was counted among the righteous because he left his only home, of idol worshipers, and headed on a journey with no given destination just because God asked him too. Isaac and Jacob were counted as righteous because they too believed that God would make them fathers of a nation of people in a land that they would own. None of them would of course actually see it because it was more than 400 years in to the future. But they didn't need to see it because they believed it.

* By the way I forgot to re-iterate that all believers, of all ages, either believed that God would send a Christ/Redeemed Saviour or after 33 A.D. that God did. *