

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview – Heb 11:1-40</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”. This is Hebrew’s definition of faith. Those with faith “received divine approval” and understand that “the world was created by the word of God”. The author explains the concept of faith through the prophets and other heroes in Israel’s history: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham/Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel. 	<p>11:1-40</p> <p>11:1-3</p> <p>11:4-40</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>The Meaning of Faith, Distinct from all Other Acts of Intellects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for (pointing to the future; (hypostasis (GK) / substance, “realization” (NAB), that is, something realized; firm)”. Those who have faith in God and His promise persevere; they live their lives according to this promise. Their attitude reflects that their faith in this assurance is real. Their faith makes future realities present, the “conviction of things not seen”; it reveals the future and the unseen, therefore, faith becomes the “assurance of things hoped for”. Acts rooted in faith are acts of freedom as well as the most important acts of human action. Without faith, humankind cannot be saved. Intellect and faith can exist together; both are necessary to attain true understanding. Intellect can be blind without faith; without intellect, faith can deteriorate into superstition. Faith is not blind and is not against the intellect but surpasses it. 	<p>11:1-3</p> <p>11:1, CCSS 227-8 CSB</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>SN2, CCC 161 CCC 159, SN3</p> <p>SN4, CCSS 230</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><u>The Examples of Abel, Enoch, and Noah</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noah’s faith reveals his trust in God’s revelation of the great flood; he lives according to his faith. His faith has become the assurance for the “things not seen”. Faith is obedience; Noah “took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household”. According to the Jewish traditions, he has become the laughing stock of his time. Faith also means that one is willing to become the laughing stock of the world for the sake of the truth. His faith realizes “things hoped for” (the intimate relationship between God and humanity) and condemns the world. 	<p>11:4-7</p> <p>CCSS 233 -234</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>The Examples of Abraham and Sarah – Faith Overcoming Death</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abraham, the Father of Faith, stands out as the man of faith par excellence. He kept faith when God called him to leave Haran; he kept his faith even during the most difficult challenges throughout his life. The author divides Abraham’s life of faith into four stages: 1. “called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance” (Why didn’t God clarify His plan?); 2. “By faith h sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents” (“sojourner” from “paroikos” (GK) => root of “parish”); 3. “From 	<p>11:8-19</p> <p>Rm 4:11, Gen 12:4 CCSS 235</p> <p>11:8, 9, 11, 17 CCSS 235-241</p>

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	<p>one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven" => resurrection; 4. "Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac ... ready to offer up his only-begotten son" because "He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" – the faithful hopes for the "city"; a city built by God, the Heavenly Jerusalem => salvation is communal and uniting. Contrary, sin divides; therefore, Babel's confusion and division co-exists with God's city of unity. 	<p>2:18</p> <p>11:10, BXVI, On <i>Christian Hope</i>, n, 14</p>
E	<p><u>Moses' Five Acts of Faith – Faith Overcoming Fear</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months" – Moses' parents "saw that the child was beautiful" and believed that God has given him an important mission. They hid him by faith and "were not afraid of the king's edict". They showed obedient faith by saving their son; contrary to Abraham killing his son by faith. Faith is key here, not the saving nor killing. • "... choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin ... he looked to the reward". Moses prefigures Christ. This history encourages those who suffered similar persecution during the times of the early Church. • "... he left Egypt ... not afraid of the anger of the king; for he endured as seeing him who is invisible". • "... he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood", demonstrating obedient faith; a firm belief in God's protection of Israel's first born. • "... the people crossed the Red Sea" – It takes the greatest faith to overcome the greatest fear. 	<p>11:23-29</p> <p>11:23, CCSS 246, CSB</p> <p>11:24-26 CCSS 246-7, CSB</p> <p>11:27, CCSS 248</p> <p>11:28, CCSS 248</p> <p>11:29, CCSS 248, CSB</p>
F	<p><u>The Examples of Jericho, Rahab, from the Judges to the Macabean Times</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jericho falls due to the Israelites' obedience to God, using rituals instead of fighting with the army. This demonstrates a greater faith. • Rahab the harlot welcomed the Israelites scouts, demonstrating her trust in the God of the Israelites and her belief that good deeds would lead to rewards. Through marriage, she became the ancestor of the Messiah; she prefigures salvation brought by Christ to sinners. • "... wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth" refers to 1Macabees 2:28-30. 	<p>11:30-40</p> <p>11:30, CCSS 250 CSB</p> <p>11:31, Mt 1:5, 21:31 CCSS 250, CSB</p> <p>11:38</p>

(Special Notes – See Chinese handouts.)