

(17) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which --- figuratively speaking --- he did receive him back.

(20) By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.

(21) By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

(22) By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

(23) By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

(24) By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

(29) By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

(30) By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

(31) By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Think on these things:

- 1) We start off with the statement that Abraham was being tested (v. 17a). Why does God test people? Consult James 1:2-4, 12-15, and 1 Peter 1:6-7.

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- 2) Abraham, ultimately, was the father of eight sons (Genesis 25:1, 7-9). However, only Isaac, his son with Sarah, was considered the “child of promise” in God’s eyes. If Isaac was the child of promise, why was Abraham willing to sacrifice him that day on Mt. Moriah (v. 19, Genesis 22)?

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- 3) Where do you see faith expressed by Moses’ parents (v. 23)?

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- 4) When Moses grew up, what decision of faith did he come to, and why (vs. 24-26)?

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5) Why wasn't Moses intimidated by Pharaoh, the most powerful world leader of that time (v. 27, Exodus 3)?

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6) Out of all the plagues God sent upon Egypt through Moses and Aaron, why do you think Passover is chosen to represent an act of faith (v. 28, Exodus 12)?

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7) For Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, what future promised blessing were they embracing by their actions in vs. 20-22 (Genesis 50:24-25)? Remember the Jewish reference: The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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8) Exodus 14 records the events of v. 29. Who showed faith to enter the dry path God created to walk across through the towering walls of water on both sides --- and escape certain death? Do you realize that God set all this up to prove something to Pharaoh (Exodus 14:1-4)?

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9) Imagine this battle strategy: walk around the city once each day, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> day walk around it seven times and then shout really loud (Joshua 6:1-5). What were the results for the Israelites when they did this?

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10) Rahab's story is amazing. Like Moses, she chose God's people over her own (Joshua 2 and 6:22-27). What other distinction is known about this prostitute from Jericho (Matthew 1:1-6)?

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: