

The graphic features the words "HEROES OF THE FAITH" in large, white, serif capital letters. The letters are arranged in two rows: "H E R O E S" on top and "O F T H E F A I T H" below. The background is a dark blue rectangle with faint, light blue text from the Bible, including phrases like "the house of God," "with a sincere heart," "having our consciences," "a guilty conscience," "washed with water," "wringingly," "righteous," "forings. And by", "ough he is de", "By faith Er", "that he did n", "found, b", and "before".

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Sunday, July 16, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Hebrews 11:20-22

Adoniram Judson is purported to have said, while struggling to make head way in his ministry in Burma, “the future is as bright as the promises of God.” That sentiment captures the closing sections of Genesis well. Although initially the people of God experienced prosperity during their stay in Egypt, anyone with a short-term outlook would have predicted that things would go poorly for them. The history of humanity is marked by tribal warfare and the Israelites were still outsiders in Egypt. Sure enough, over the next few hundred years, Israel would be oppressed as slaves in Egypt under a ruler who did not know Joseph (Exodus 1:8). Yet God’s promises remained true.

For many of us, whether in plenty or in want, it can be difficult to trust or treasure the promises of God. Often when we are experiencing abundance and material blessings, it can be difficult for us to treasure God’s promise that the best is yet to come when we will be reunited with Him on the New Earth. And when we are experiencing suffering and trials, it can be difficult to trust the promises of future blessing because we are so focused on the present. Yet it is clear from Scripture that God wants us to trust and to treasure His promises regardless of our circumstances.

Context

Genesis 50 is like a cliff hanger. God has providentially led His people into Egypt where He knows they will be enslaved. Yet through the mouth of Joseph, God tells His people that He will certainly visit them and deliver them. The proof is going to be that even though Joseph will die in Egypt with his people, his bones will be kept and delivered safely into the promised land when God visits His people to rescue them from slavery in Egypt (Gen. 48:21-22; Ex. 13:19).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Remember My Bones”

Read Genesis 50:22-25, then Hebrews 11:20-22

Hebrews

11.20	Isaac	Gen 27
11.21	Jacob	Gen 48
11.22	Joseph	Gen 50
	Gen 50.22	45-50 years old... dies at 110
	Gen 50.24	dying... confident... promise
	Gen 50.25	“covenant of the coffin”

Lessons

- Believe God’s word
- Look to the future with confidence
- This life is NOT all there is

Discuss

- 1) Having read Genesis 50:22-25, what key phrase is repeated in verses 24 and 25? How does that phrase form the foundation of our faith as we look to our future?
- 2) Pastor Don talked about how significant it was for Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph to all make important professions of faith (blessings related to God's promises) as death approached. How should the reality of our own death motivate us to pass the gospel on to others today?
- 3) Why is it that we often fail to pass the gospel on to others? What does that say about the condition of our confidence/faith in God's promises?
- 4) What is the greatest challenge to your faith right now?
- 5) How does God's fulfillment of His short-term promise to Joseph and the people of Israel encourage you to persevere in faith for the long haul?