

Hebrews 11:1-7 Faith in the Era of Creation

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 ³⁵Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which
2 has a great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so
3 that when you  have done the will of God, you may receive
4 what was promised.

5 ³⁷For yet in a very little while,
6 He who is coming will come, and will not delay.
7 ³⁸But My righteous one shall live by faith:
8 And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

9 ³⁹But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction,
10 but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

11 **11:1** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the
12 conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the men of old
13 gained approval.

14 ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by
15 the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of
16 things which are visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered to God a
17 better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the
18 testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his
19 gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

20 ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see
21 death; and he was not found because God took him up; for
22 he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he
23 was pleasing to God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to
24 please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He
25 is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. ⁷By
26 faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet
27 seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his
28 household, by which he condemned the world, and became
29 an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Review the section from last week (v. 35-39) for the context. Then focus on 11:1-7.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle repeated words or ideas.
- Draw lines to connect related themes or topics. 
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What similarities or differences do you see between Able, Enoch, and Noah?
- What aspects of faith are emphasized for
Abel _____
Enoch _____
Noah _____
Us _____
- What do the phrases mean: “gained approval” (v. 2), “obtained testimony” (v. 4), “obtained witness” (v. 5)?
- How do these examples affect your understanding of the end of chapter 10?
- How would “faith” as “belief and trust” affect your understanding of this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What areas of your life would be most affected by greater “belief and trust”?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

Observation – *What does it say?* **Interpretation** – *What does it mean?* **Application** – *What does it mean for me?*

For additional thought and discussion:

- How do the particular personal examples (Abel, Enoch, Noah) relate to the more general comments interspersed in the text (v. 1, 3, 6)?
- Note that “gained approval” (v. 2), “obtained testimony” (v. 4), “obtained witness” (v. 5) are all passive forms of the same verb, μαρτυρέω (martyreō). The verb is used in active voice of God in v. 4, “God testifying.”

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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