

Hebrews 11:23-31 Faith in the Era of Exodus and Conquest

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three
2 months by his parents, because they saw that the child was
3 beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By
4 faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called
5 the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be
6 mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the
7 fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of
8 Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he
9 was looking to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not
10 being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as
11 seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the
12 Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of
13 the firstborn might not touch them.

14 ²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land,
15 but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same,
16 were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down
17 after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith
18 Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were
19 disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to
20 the spies.

**Read the passage through completely
before looking at these questions.**

Observation (What does it say):

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

Interpretation (What does it mean):

After observing the passage, what questions do you have?

Application (What does it mean for me):

What in this passage draws your attention as relating to your spiritual formation?

For additional thought and discussion:

In what way did Moses “choose rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin”? How does the account in Exodus 2-4 fit with the pastor’s brief biography of Moses?

Why does the writer specifically mention that Rahab was a prostitute?

What do you make of the fact that “disobedient” in v. 31 is *apeitheo* (ἀπειθέω) that we have discussed before as “unpersuadable” (Hebrews 3:18, 4:6, 4:11)? Compare four uses in Hebrews of the positive form of the word *peitho* (πείθω) where it is used of trust or confidence (2:13, 6:9, 13:17, 18).

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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