

Hebrews 11:4–12

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 2, 2022.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with my series about Hebrews 11. This installment was a presentation titled “Hebrews 11:4-12.” I want to share some of my comments in this article.

Mentioned Abel

Hebrews 11:4—“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”

- The story about Abel is found in Genesis 4:1-9.
- Abel is mentioned only a few times in the New Testament—including Matthew 23:35, Luke 11:51 and Hebrews 12:22-24.

Mentioned Enoch

Hebrews 11:5—“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

- The story about Enoch is found in Genesis 5:18-24.
- Genesis 5:22 said that Enoch walked with God for 300 years.
- Many religious people like to debate what Hebrews 11:5 meant when it said that Enoch “did not see death.” Hebrews 9:27 said that it is appointed for men to die once. If you enjoy that kind of discussion, have fun with that topic.

Hebrews 11:6—“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Mentioned Noah

Hebrews 11:7—“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Noah is mentioned 50 times in the Old Testament and three times in the New Testament.

Mentioned Abraham and Sarah

Abram (Abraham's previous name) is mentioned 61 times in the Old Testament. Sarai (Sarah's previous name) is mentioned 17 times in the Old Testament.

Abraham is mentioned 176 times in the Old Testament and 74 times in the New Testament.

Sarah is mentioned 43 times in the Old Testament and four times in the New Testament.

Abraham and Sarah went to a land

- Hebrews 11:8-10 mentioned that Abraham went to a land of promise.
- 1 Peter 3:6 shows that Sarah also went to a land of promise.

1 Peter 3:5-6—"For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."

(For the record, I don't want my wife to call me lord. I have been blessed to marry a strong and capable person—and we have been on a joint journey for 48 years.)

All nations blessed

- Hebrews 11:11-12 mentioned that Abraham and Sarah produced a promised lineage—physical and spiritual.

Galatians 3:6-9—"Just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."

Galatians 3:16—"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ."