

## STRUCTURE

*From Ann:*

(11:1) Intro/Overview: Faith is hope and confidence is unseen realities.

(11:2) Old Testament saints were commended for their faith in an unseen better country

(11:3-11, 17-38) Examples of this faith:

- a) (11:3)—Creation is an example showing ALL of us that this world was made out of an unseen world.
- b) (11:4-11)—Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah all displayed faith in God's promise of a better country by showing that they put their hope and life into obeying an unseen but very real God.  
[(11:13-16) Comment on v. 3-11: By living their lives as foreigners on earth and putting their hope in a better, heavenly country, these saints showed their faith, and God was not ashamed to be called their God.]
- c) (11:17-19) Abraham's example of faith and obedience in sacrificing Isaac
- d) (11:20-31) Old Testament saints looking and traveling toward the literal promised land while putting faith in the eternal promised land and a better resurrection.
- e) (11:32-38) Other named and unnamed OT saints who all lived by faith in a better resurrection to come; two groups:
  - (11:32-35) Examples of faithful saints who experienced victory on earth
  - (11:36-38) Examples of faithful saints who experienced hardship and suffering on earth

(11:39) All these lived on earth by faith and did not receive what was promised—a better country, a better family to belong to...

(11:40) ...since, it will be all the saints together, including us, who receive "something better."

We will all be made perfect together through Christ, our great High Priest.

*From Laurin:*

vv. 1-3 The author **orients us** to the Lord Jesus Christ by showing him as the origin of our faith

vv. 4-38 The author **encourages and instructs us** on living **BY faith** in all circumstances

vv. 39-40 The author **challenges us** to remain steadfast in keeping the faith by pointing us to a future hope and promise

## UNIFYING THEME

*From Ann:* God commends faith in his promises as evidenced in the lives of many Old Testament saints whose hope was in an unseen future reward.

*From Laurin:* **BY faith**, men and women throughout redemptive history have been taking steps forward with the **assurance** of the hope they have and the **certainty** of what they do not see, and we celebrate our union with them through faith in Christ Jesus, who he is, and what he promises.

## AUTHOR'S AIM

*From Ann:* The pastor aims to illustrate what it looks like to live by faith in God's promises of a future permanent "better country" (*with access to his presence by means of the Great High Priest, the subject of the preceding seven chapters*) and by this to encourage and persuade the Hebrews of the immense value of persevering in faith regardless of earthly suffering.

*From Laurin:* The author of Hebrews' aim is to orient us, encourage and instruct us, and challenge us in what it is to live BY faith in such a way that we join with the great cloud of witnesses to receive the Lord's commendation.