

Through the Bible

HEBREWS-III

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

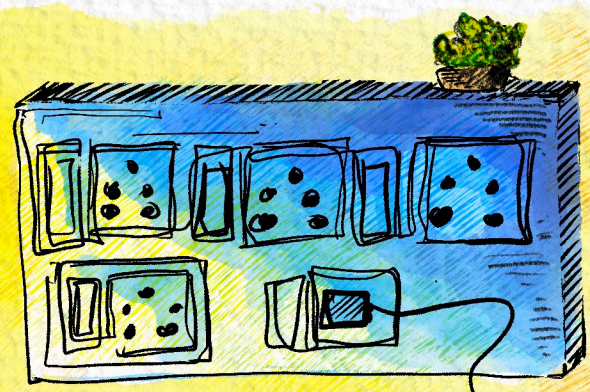
COPYRIGHT ZAC POONEN AND VINAY KURUVILLA

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

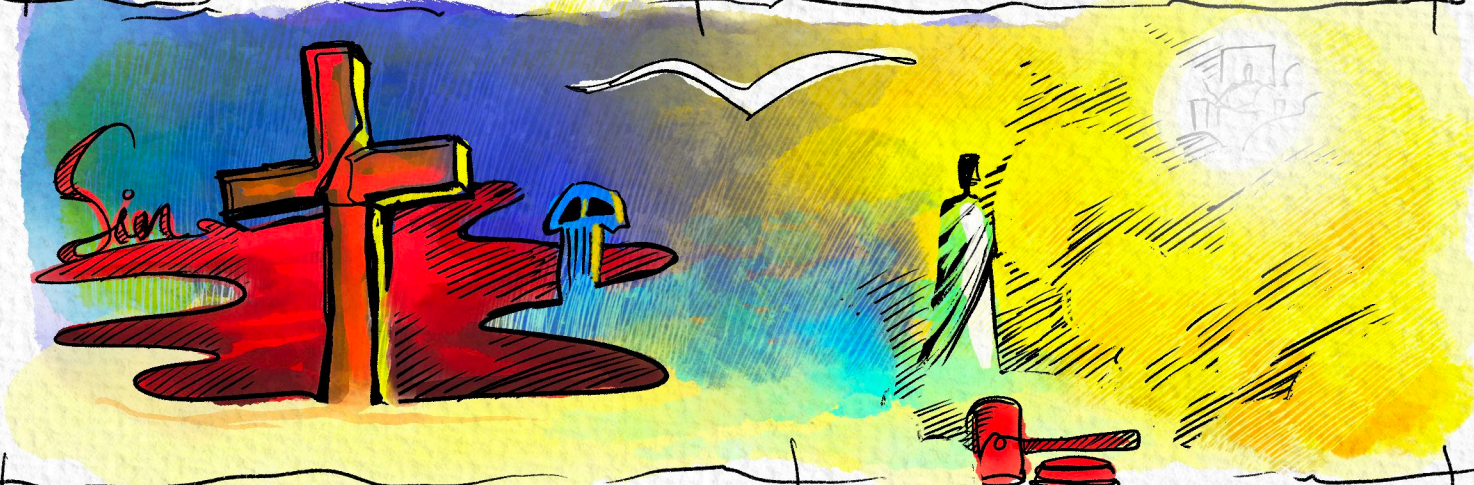
69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA



IN 9:14, WE ARE TOLD THAT **JESUS CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF UP WITHOUT ANY BLEMISH TO GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER. IF WE SEEK FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER AND SUBMIT TO IT AS JESUS DID, WE TOO CAN OVERCOME TEMPTATION AS HE DID.**



IT IS JUST LIKE THE **ELECTRIC POWER** THAT WE HAVE IN OUR HOUSES THAT **POWERS UP** SO MANY **GADGETS.**

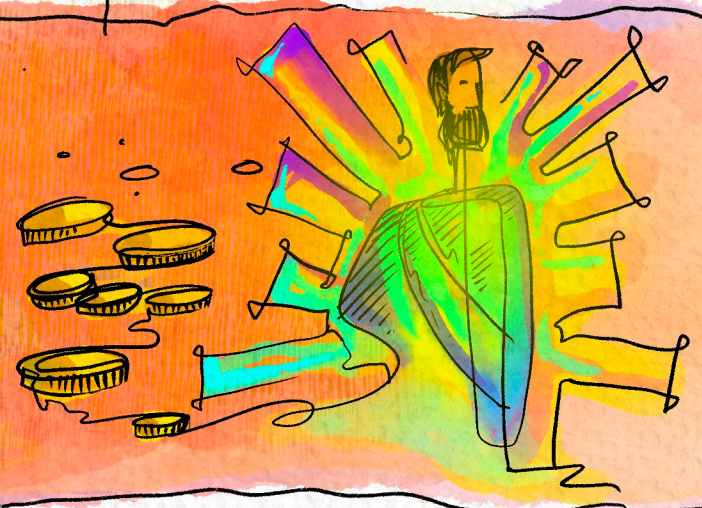


JESUS' BLOOD CLEANSSES OUR CONSCIENCE NOT ONLY FROM SIN BUT ALSO FROM DEAD WORKS (9:14). THEY MAY APPEAR GOOD BEFORE MEN. BUT THEY ARE WORKS DONE WITHOUT LOVE, JOY, FAITH, ZEAL, THEY'RE DONE FOR PERSONAL GAIN, AND MERELY TO EASE ONE'S CONSCIENCE, ETC.

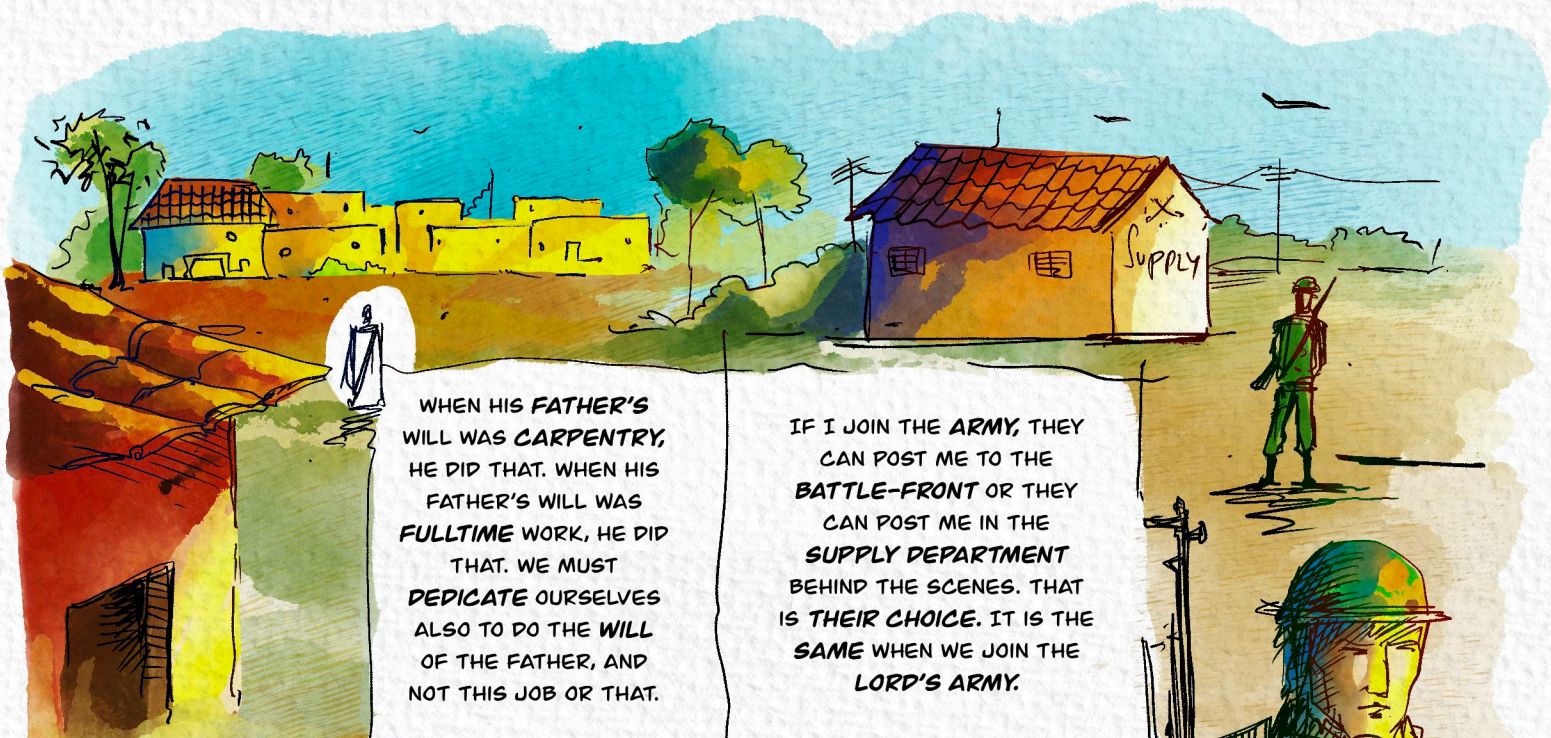
9:27 TEACHES US THAT THERE IS NO SECOND CHANCE TO REPENT AFTER DEATH. GOD WAITS UNTIL A MAN DIES BEFORE HE JUDGES HIM. HE HOPES THAT THE MAN WILL IMPROVE ANY TIME BEFORE HE DIES.



BUT MOST OF US JUDGE PEOPLE LONG BEFORE THEY DIE -- BECAUSE WE DON'T HOLD OUT ANY HOPE FOR THEM! LET US LEARN TO FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

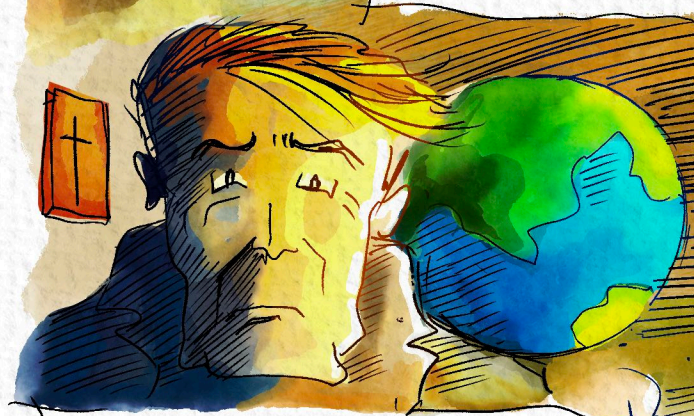


IN 10:5, WE READ THAT "GOD DOESN'T WANT OUR OFFERINGS." UNDER THE OLD COVENANT, THE EMPHASIS WAS, "PAY YOUR TITHES TO THE LEVITES." IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE EMPHASIS IS, "GIVE YOUR BODIES TO GOD" (ROMANS 12:1). JESUS SAYS, "I HAVE COME (TO EARTH), TO DO YOUR WILL O GOD"(10:7)

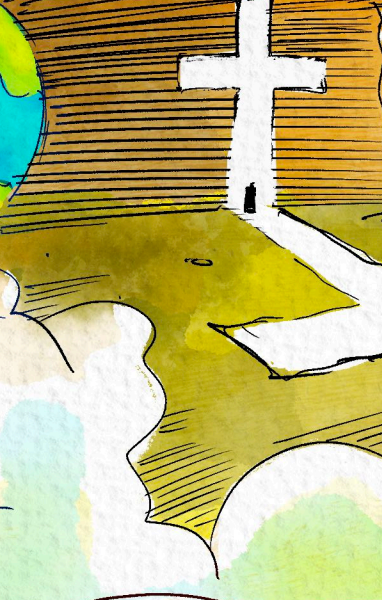


WHEN HIS FATHER'S WILL WAS CARPENTRY, HE DID THAT. WHEN HIS FATHER'S WILL WAS FULLTIME WORK, HE DID THAT. WE MUST DEDICATE OURSELVES ALSO TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER, AND NOT THIS JOB OR THAT.

IF I JOIN THE ARMY, THEY CAN POST ME TO THE BATTLE-FRONT OR THEY CAN POST ME IN THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT BEHIND THE SCENES. THAT IS THEIR CHOICE. IT IS THE SAME WHEN WE JOIN THE LORD'S ARMY.



10:19--25 SPEAKS ABOUT A NEW AND LIVING WAY THAT JESUS INAUGURATED FOR US TO ENTER INTO THE IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF GOD AND LIVE THERE PERMANENTLY.



MANY PEOPLE HAVE GONE OUT INTO FULL-TIME MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY WORK WITHOUT A CLEAR CALL FROM GOD. THEY END UP FRUSTRATED AND DISCOURAGED.

THIS IS THE EVER-FRESH WAY OF THE CROSS, THE WAY OF DEATH TO SELF AND TO OUR OWN WILL, OFFERING OUR BODIES TO DO GOD'S WILL ALONE EVERY DAY.



WE ARE NOT TO RUN THE RACE LOOKING AT THE WAY BUT AT JESUS (HEBREWS 12:1). RUNNERS NEVER LOOK AT THE ROAD THEY ARE RUNNING ON. THEY ARE ALWAYS LOOKING IN FRONT TOWARDS THE FINISH LINE.



THAT LAST PHRASE IN 10:22 MEANS THAT EVERY SIN THAT WE COMMITTED WITH OUR BODIES HAS BEEN SET RIGHT. WE HAVE APOLOGISED TO ALL THE PEOPLE WE HURT IN ANY WAY, WE HAVE RETURNED MONEY THAT WE CHEATED PEOPLE OF, ETC.

WE NOW "HOLD FAST TO THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE AND DO NOT WAVER".



WE NOW THINK OF OUR FELLOW-BELIEVERS AND "CONSIDER HOW TO STIR THEM UP TO LOVE". WE NO LONGER LIVE FOR OURSELVES; AND WE SEEK TO "FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE", AWAITING THE RETURN OF OUR LORD EAGERLY (10:23--25).

CHRISTIANS BACKSLIDE WHEN THEY STOP SEEKING TO MOVE FORWARD. AN AIRCRAFT IN THE SKY STAYS UP AS LONG AS IT IS MOVING. IF IT TURNS OFF ITS ENGINES AND STOPS, IT IMMEDIATELY BEGINS TO FALL.



THE WRITER THEN WARNS US ABOUT OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE WHO WERE PUNISHED WITHOUT MERCY WHEN THEY SINNED (10:28).



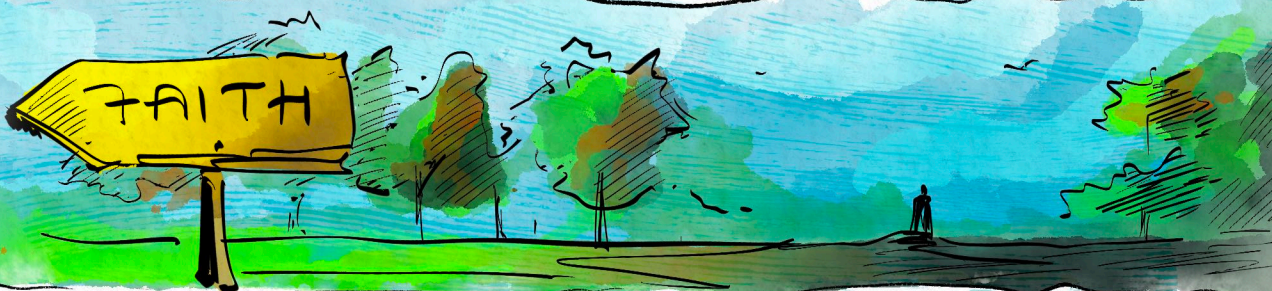
SINCE GOD HAS CALLED US WITH A MUCH HIGHER CALLING THAN THEM, OUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE GREATER IF WE TAKE SIN LIGHTLY NOW -- FOR THAT AMOUNTS TO TRAMPLING CHRIST UNDER OUR FEET, TREATING THE BLOOD OF JESUS AS SOMETHING CHEAP AND DESPISING THE HOLY SPIRIT'S VOICE.



HE THEN GOES ON TO SAY THAT WE MUST BE WILLING TO **SUFFER** FOR CHRIST'S SAKE (10:32--34). WE SHOULD NOT BE **OCCUPIED** WITH THESE **EARTHLY THINGS**. WHEN **PERSECUTION** COMES, WE MAY **LOSE** MANY **EARTHLY THINGS** AND LOSE OUR **HONOUR** TOO. WE MAY NOT GET **JOBS** EASILY BECAUSE WE ARE **CHRISTIANS** SEEKING TO BE **UPRIGHT**, WE MAY NOT GET **PROMOTIONS**. PEOPLE MAY TURN **AGAINST** US AND THEY MAY **TEAR DOWN** OUR **CHURCH BUILDINGS**.



IF WE **LIVE** IN THE **MOST HOLY PLACE** WITH **GOD**, WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE THESE THINGS **JOYFULLY** (10:34). THEY WILL **NOT DISTURB** US, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE A MUCH **BETTER** POSSESSION IN HEAVEN.



BUT INSTEAD OF GOING THIS WAY IF WE **SHRINK BACK**, THEN THE **LORD** WILL HAVE **NO PLEASURE** IN US (10:38). IF YOU LIVE BY **FAITH**, YOU WILL MAKE **PROGRESS**. THE **OPPOSITE** OF LIVING BY **FAITH** IS **SHRINKING BACK** (10:38). SO WE SEE FROM THAT VERSE THAT ALL **BACKSLIDING** IS PRIMARILY A **FAILURE** OF **FAITH**.



THEN IN CHAPTER II, HE **EXPANDS** ON THE SUBJECT OF **FAITH**. EVEN THE **OLD TESTAMENT** SAINTS LIVED BY **FAITH**.

ABEL OFFERED A **SACRIFICE** TO **GOD** BY **FAITH** (11:4). ABEL HAD SUCH **FAITH** AND SO HE GAVE THE **BEST** HE HAD TO **GOD**, BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT WOULD **PLEASE** **GOD** (GENESIS 4:4). **CAIN** ON THE OTHER HAND GAVE A **CHEAP OFFERING** TO **GOD** (GENESIS 4:3).



ENOCH ALSO WALKED WITH GOD BY FAITH FOR 300 YEARS (HEBREWS 11:5). HE WALKED BY FAITH IN AN **UNSEEN GOD**, PLEASING HIM, WHEN ALL OTHERS WERE LIVING ONLY TO PLEASE **THEMSELVES**. GOD TESTED ENOCH FOR 300 YEARS AND THEN **TOOK HIM UP TO HEAVEN**.



DO YOU WANT TO PLEASE GOD? THEN YOU MUST BELIEVE TWO THINGS ABOUT HIM: FIRST, THAT HE **REALLY EXISTS** UP THERE IN HEAVEN; AND SECONDLY THAT HE **REWARDS ALL THOSE WHO SEEK HIM DILIGENTLY** (HEBREWS 11:6).



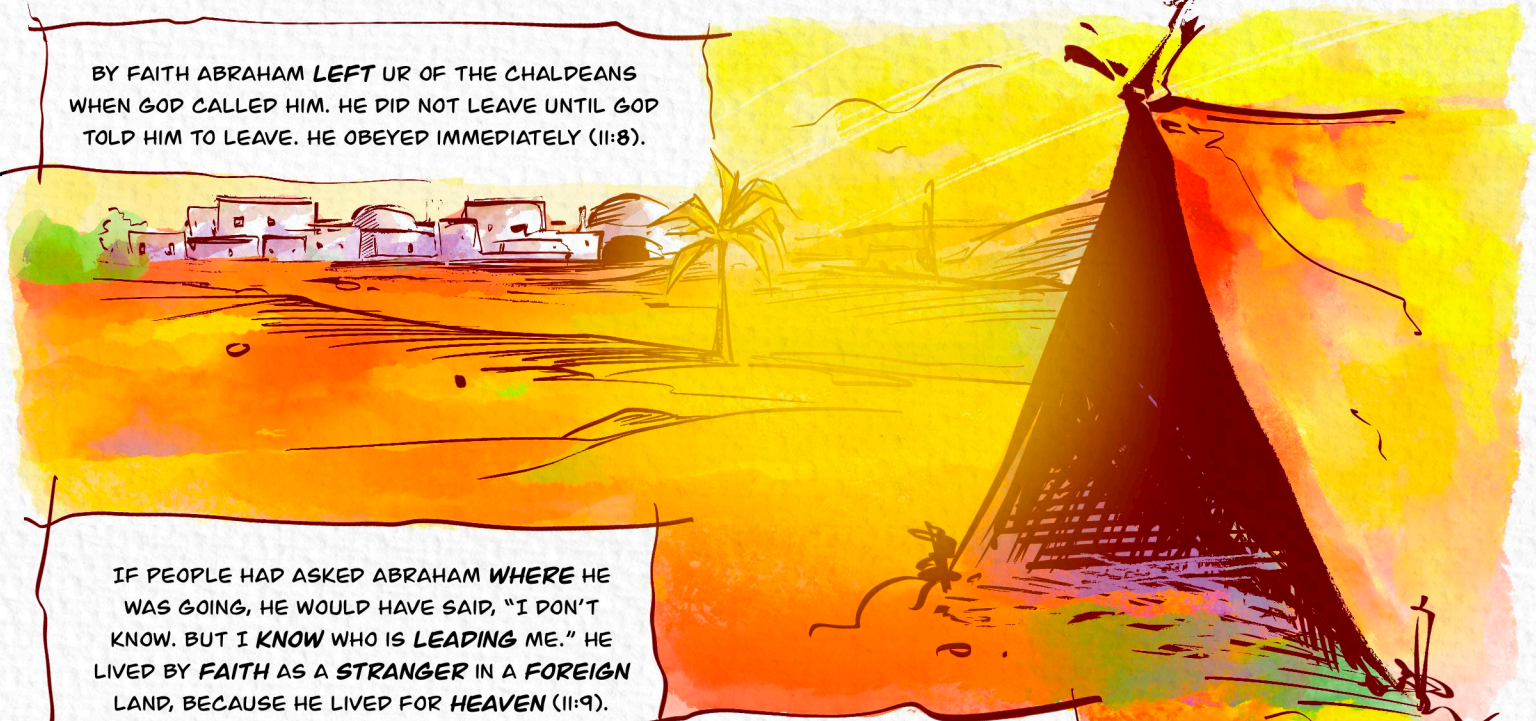
IF THE **RULER** OF MY COUNTRY WERE MY **FATHER**, ANY TIME I HAD A PROBLEM I WOULD JUST RING HIM UP. THERE ARE CERTAIN PROBLEMS LIKE **SICKNESS** ETC., THAT EVEN **POWERFUL RULERS** CANNOT SOLVE. BUT YOUR **HEAVENLY FATHER** CAN.

NOAH ALSO LIVED BY FAITH (11:7). WHEN PEOPLE SAW NOAH **SELLING HIS PROPERTY** AND **SPENDING ALL HIS SAVINGS** TO MAKE THE ARK AND **PREACHING** THAT **GOD'S JUDGEMENT** WAS GOING TO COME ON THE WORLD -- THAT WAS A **CONDEMNATION** OF THE **WORLD'S LIFESTYLE**.



LET US DEVELOP THE **HABIT** OF GOING TO GOD **FIRST** AT ALL TIMES, WITH OUR PROBLEMS -- BOTH **BIG** AND **SMALL**.

BY FAITH ABRAHAM LEFT UR OF THE CHALDEANS WHEN GOD CALLED HIM. HE DID NOT LEAVE UNTIL GOD TOLD HIM TO LEAVE. HE OBEYED IMMEDIATELY (11:8).



IF PEOPLE HAD ASKED ABRAHAM WHERE HE WAS GOING, HE WOULD HAVE SAID, "I DON'T KNOW. BUT I KNOW WHO IS LEADING ME." HE LIVED BY FAITH AS A STRANGER IN A FOREIGN LAND, BECAUSE HE LIVED FOR HEAVEN (11:9).

THESE PEOPLE DIED IN FAITH WITHOUT RECEIVING THE PROMISE (11:13). ABRAHAM GOT A SON. BUT GOD TOLD ABRAHAM THAT ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WOULD BE BLESSED THROUGH HIM. HE DIDN'T SEE THAT HAPPEN BUT IT IS FULFILLED TODAY.

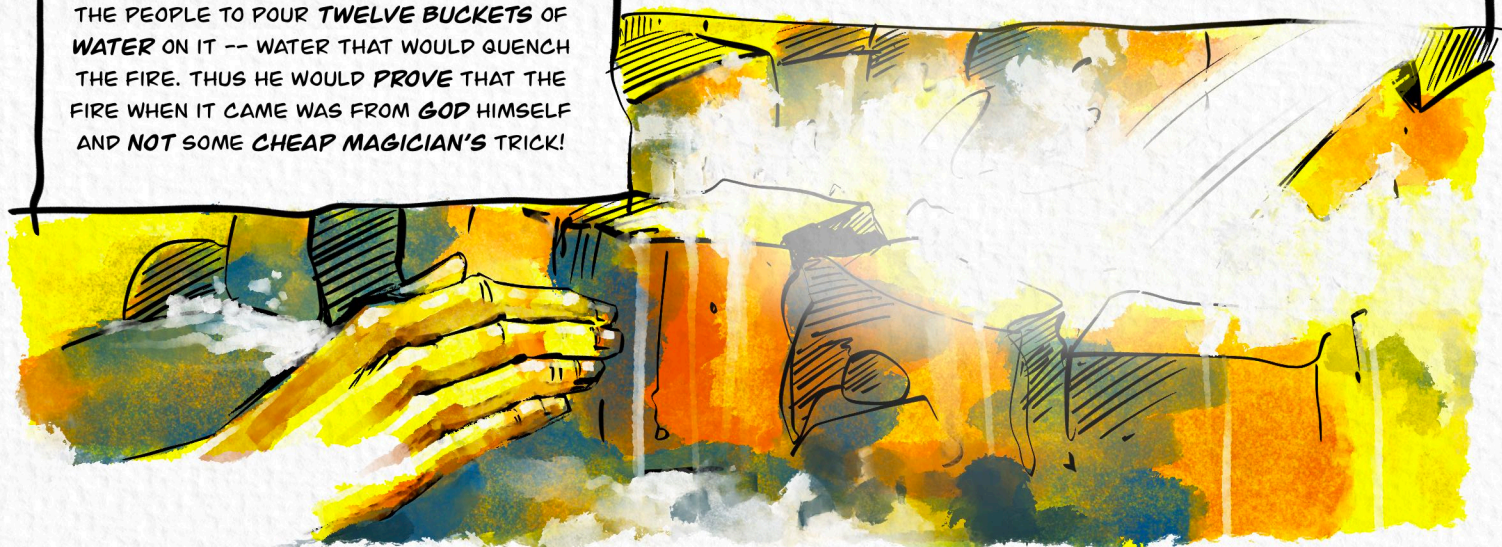



BY FAITH HE AND SARAH RECEIVED THE ABILITY TO HAVE A CHILD, WHEN HE WAS IMPOTENT AND SHE WAS BARREN.




GOD MAKES HIS SERVANTS DO THINGS AT TIMES THAT OTHERS CANNOT UNDERSTAND. WHEN ELIJAH WANTED TO CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN ON THE ALTAR, HE FIRST ASKED THE PEOPLE TO POUR TWELVE BUCKETS OF WATER ON IT -- WATER THAT WOULD QUENCH THE FIRE. THUS HE WOULD PROVE THAT THE FIRE WHEN IT CAME WAS FROM GOD HIMSELF AND NOT SOME CHEAP MAGICIAN'S TRICK!

BY FAITH ABRAHAM ALSO OFFERED UP ISAAC, WHEN GOD ASKED HIM TO DO THAT. GOD WAS TESTING ABRAHAM TO SEE IF HE WOULD PUT HIS LOVE FOR GOD ABOVE HIS LOVE FOR ISAAC. ABRAHAM BELIEVED THAT GOD WOULD RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD AND STILL FULFIL HIS WORD (11:19).






WE THEN SEE HOW **ISAAC** AND **JACOB** BLESSED THEIR CHILDREN BY **FAITH** (11:21). WE CAN BLESS OUR CHILDREN CONCERNING THEIR **FUTURE**, BECAUSE WE HAVE **TAUGHT** THEM AND **LED** THEM IN THE **WAYS** OF **GOD**.

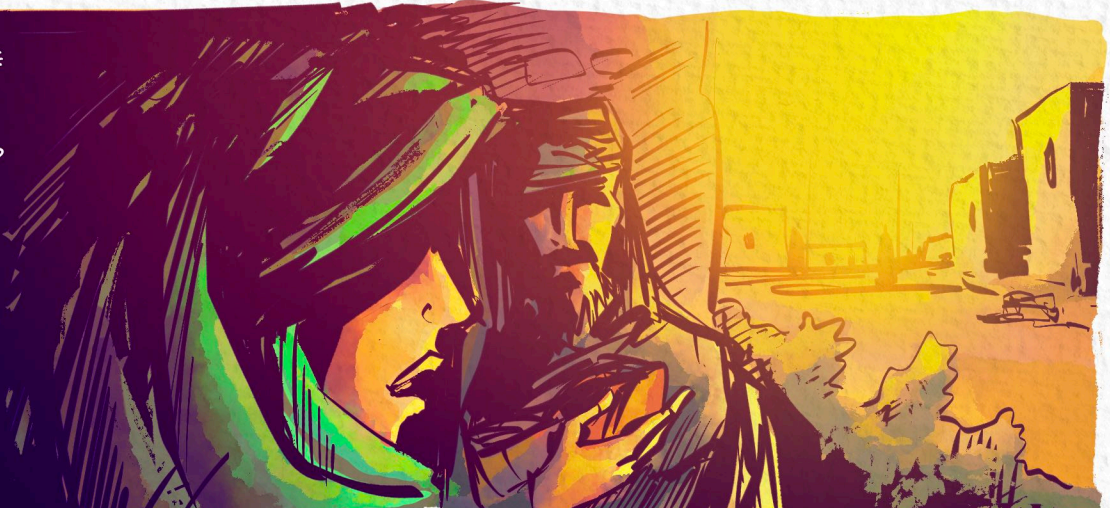


ONE OF THE **GREATEST** MIRACLES THAT **GOD** DOES IS WHEN HE **BREAKS** THE **SOULISH** **STRENGTH** OF A MAN AND MAKES HIM **LEAN** IN **HELPLESS** **DEPENDENCE** UPON HIM ALONE.


IN A CHAPTER, WHERE THE MANY **MIGHTY** ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEN OF **FAITH** ARE LISTED, WE READ OF **JACOB** WHOSE **MAIN** ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS THAT HE **LEANED** UPON A **STAFF!** AT **PENIEL**, **GOD** HAD DISLOCATED HIS THIGH AND BROKEN HIS **HUMAN STRENGTH** AND RENAMED HIM **ISRAEL**. THAT **STAFF** ON WHICH **JACOB** **LEANED** THEREAFTER INDICATED HOW HE WAS NOW A **BROKEN MAN**, **LEANING** ON **GOD** ALONE FOR **HELP**.



BY **FAITH** **JOSEPH** PROPHESED THAT THE **ISRAELITES** WOULD GO BACK TO **CANAAN**, AS **GOD** HAD PROMISED, AND WOULD **NOT STAY** IN **EGYPT** (11:22).

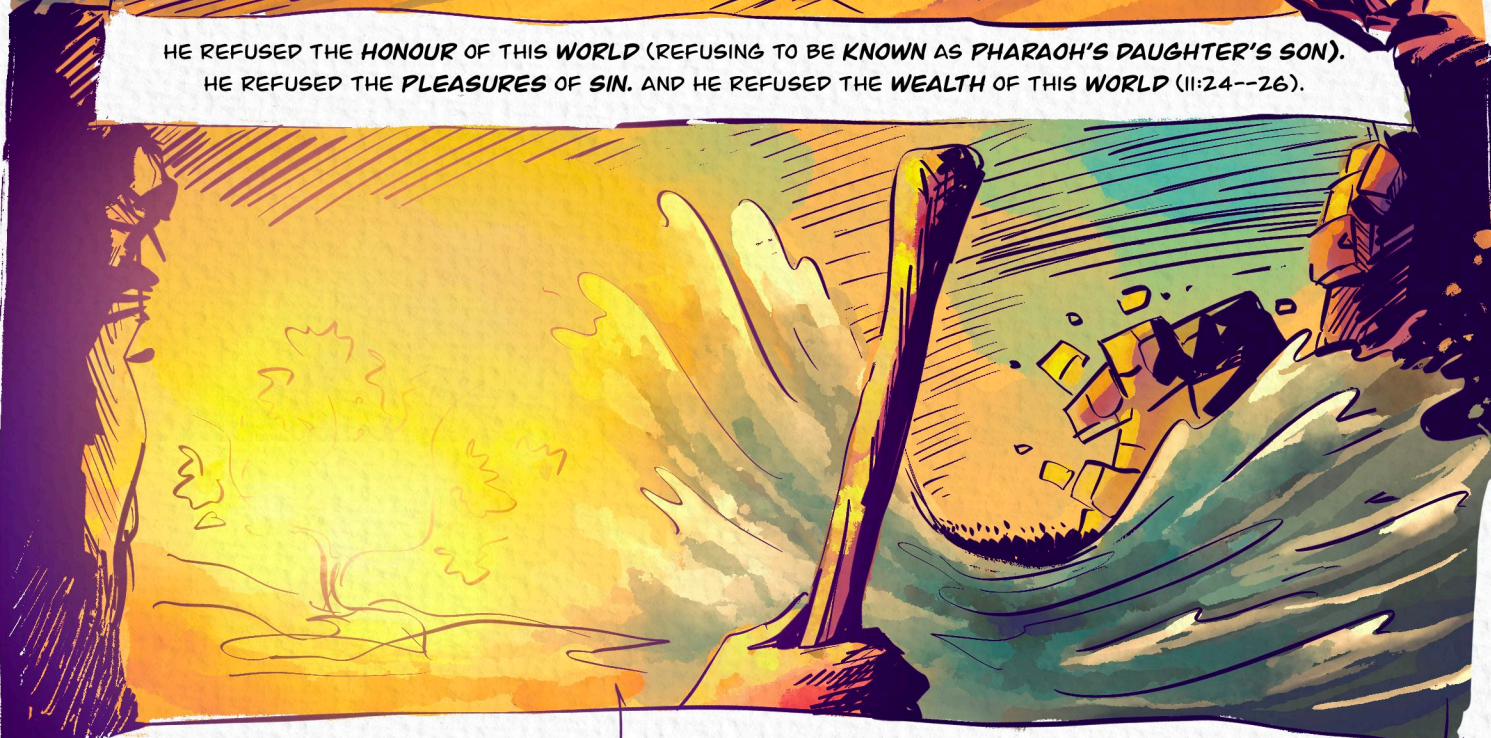


WE SEE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE FAITH OF PARENTS IN 11:23 -- **MOSES'** PARENTS SAW THEIR CHILD AS A **BEAUTIFUL** CHILD AND HID HIM, WITHOUT BEING AFRAID OF PHARAOH'S EDICT TO KILL ALL MALE BABIES. WE TOO AS PARENTS NEED TO SEE **OUR** CHILDREN AS BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN WHO CAN **FULFIL** GOD'S PURPOSES.



THOSE PARENTS HAD ALSO PUT SUCH **FAITH** INTO MOSES' HEART WHEN HE WAS **YOUNG**, THAT WHEN HE **GREW** UP, HE TOOK **THREE** IMPORTANT DECISIONS BY **FAITH**.

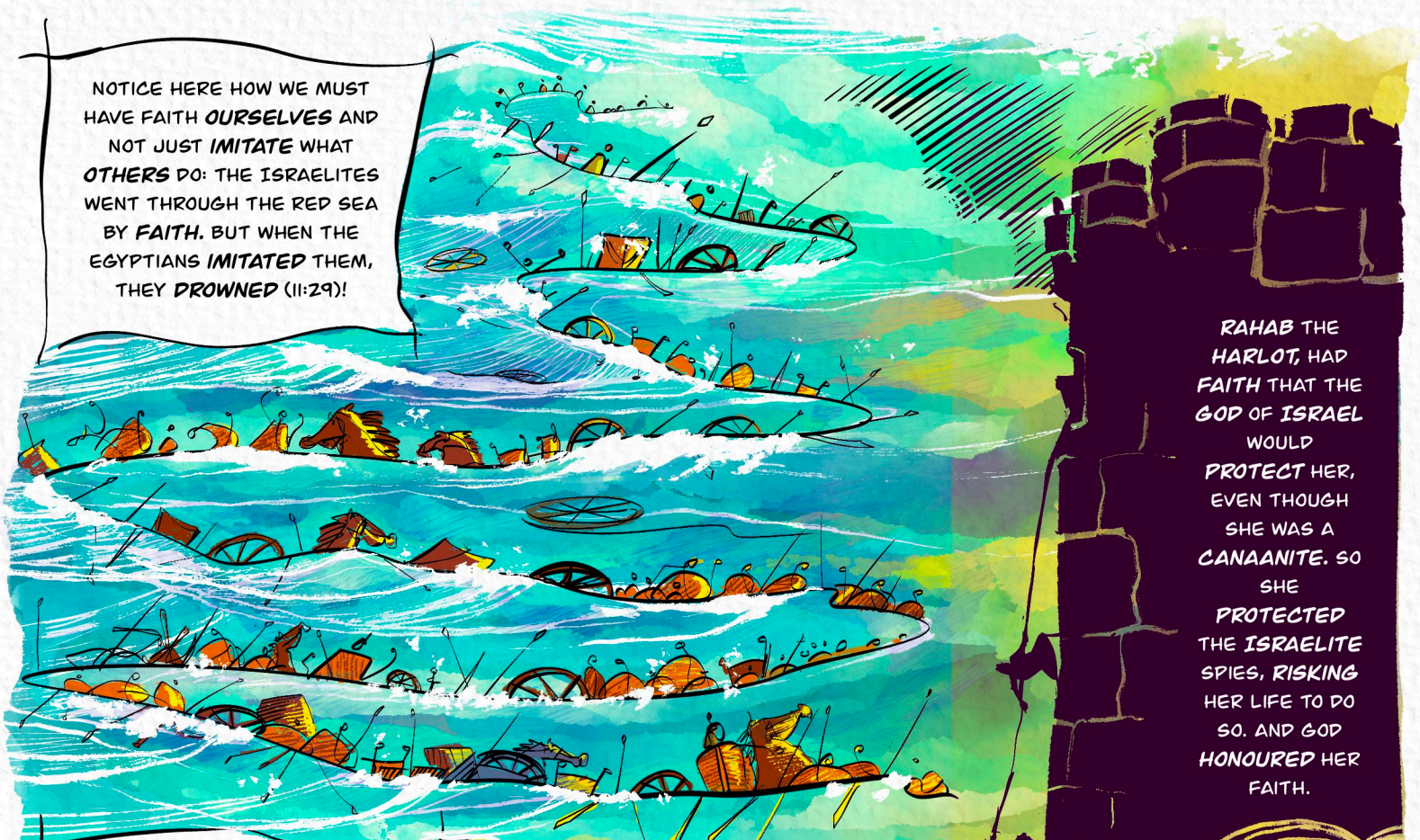
HE REFUSED THE **HONOUR** OF THIS **WORLD** (REFUSING TO BE **KNOWN** AS **PHARAOH'S** DAUGHTER'S SON). HE REFUSED THE **PLEASURES** OF **SIN**. AND HE REFUSED THE **WEALTH** OF THIS **WORLD** (11:24--26).



INSTEAD OF THOSE, MOSES **CHOSE** THE **REPROACH** OF THE **MESSIAH** (CHRIST) WHO WAS **GOING** TO **COME** ONE DAY.

THEN THE WRITER GOES ON TO MENTION SOME OTHER WONDERFUL THINGS THAT MEN OF **FAITH** ACCOMPLISHED -- SPLITTING THE **RED** SEA AND PULLING DOWN THE **WALLS** OF **JERICO** (11:29, 30).

NOTICE HERE HOW WE MUST HAVE FAITH **OURSELVES** AND NOT JUST **IMITATE** WHAT **OTHERS** DO: THE ISRAELITES WENT THROUGH THE RED SEA BY **FAITH**. BUT WHEN THE EGYPTIANS **IMITATED** THEM, THEY **DROWNED** (11:29)!

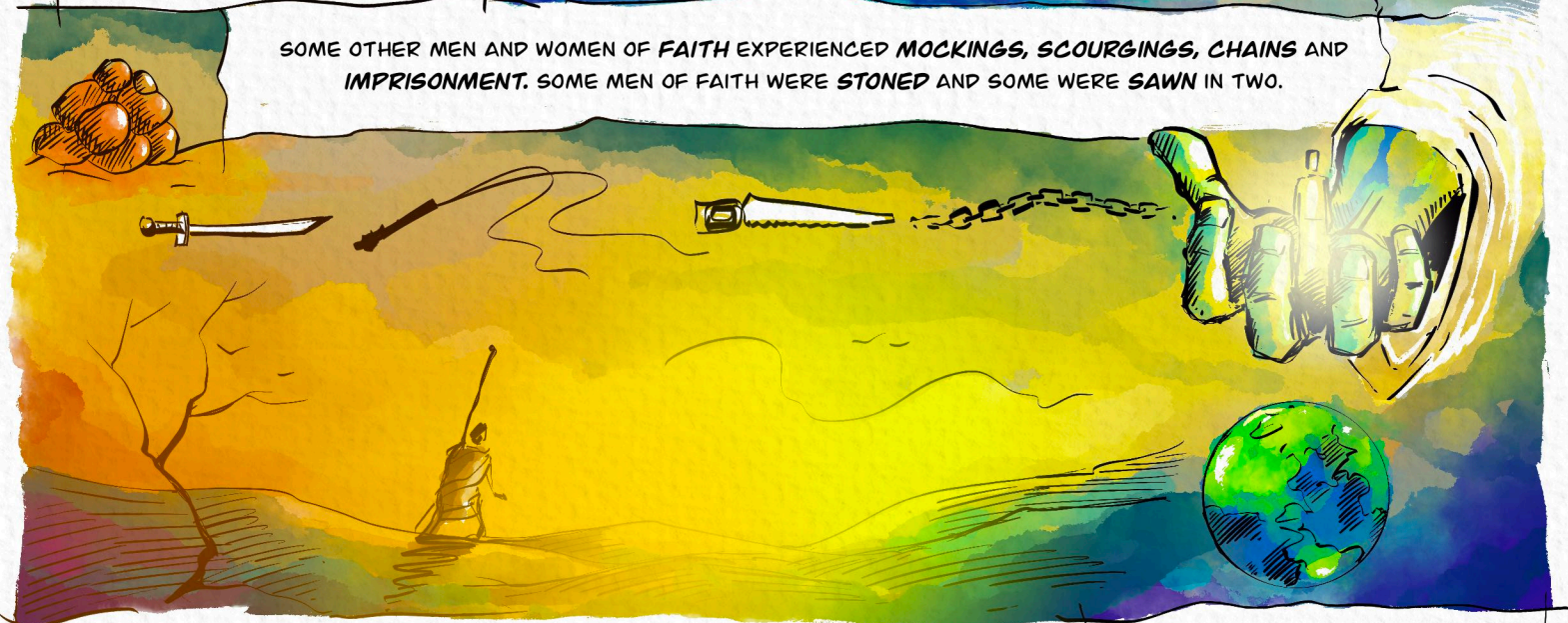


RAHAB THE HARLOT, HAD FAITH THAT THE **GOD OF ISRAEL** WOULD **PROTECT** HER, EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS A **CANAANITE**. SO SHE **PROTECTED** THE ISRAELITE SPIES, **RISKING** HER LIFE TO DO SO. AND **GOD** HONoured HER FAITH.

WE SEE **ONE** SIDE OF FAITH -- FAITH TO ACCOMPLISH **AMAZING MIRACLES** IN 11:31--35.. BUT THERE IS **ANOTHER** SIDE TOO. THERE WERE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD **EQUAL FAITH** WHO **NEVER** EXPERIENCED ANY SUCH THINGS.

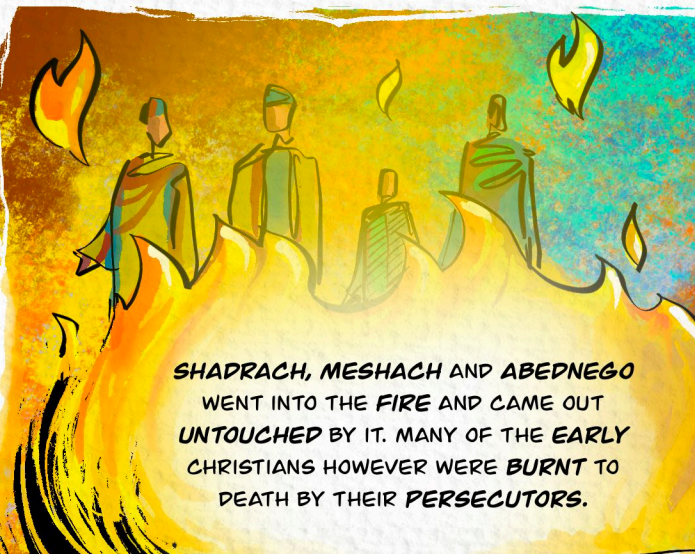


SOME OTHER MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH EXPERIENCED **MOCKINGS, SCOURGINGS, CHAINS** AND **IMPRISONMENT**. SOME MEN OF FAITH WERE **STONED** AND SOME WERE **SAWN** IN TWO.

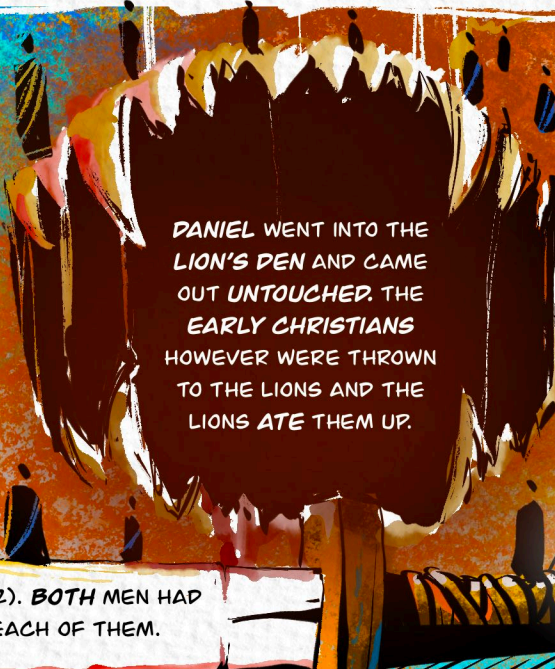


SOME OTHER MEN OF FAITH WERE PUT TO **DEATH**, SOME **WANDERED** ABOUT IN **SHEEPSKINS** AND **GOATSKINS**, **DESTITUTE** AND **AFFLICTED** AND **ILL TREATED**. THEY WANDERED ABOUT IN **DESERTS** AND **MOUNTAINS** AND **CAVES** AND IN **HOLES** IN THE GROUND. ALL OF THESE WERE **EQUALLY** MEN OF FAITH AS THE ONES **MENTIONED** EARLIER WHO EXPERIENCED **MIRACULOUS** DELIVERANCES.

CARNAL BELIEVERS WILL VALUE THE **FORMER** OVER THE **LATTER**. BUT **GOD** SEES THEM ALL AS PEOPLE OF WHOM THIS **WORLD** IS **NOT WORTHY**. THEY ARE ALL **TOO GOOD** FOR THIS WORLD.



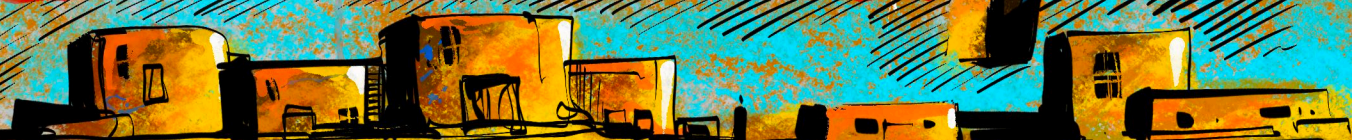
SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO WENT INTO THE FIRE AND CAME OUT UNTOUCHED BY IT. MANY OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS HOWEVER WERE BURNT TO DEATH BY THEIR PERSECUTORS.



DANIEL WENT INTO THE LION'S DEN AND CAME OUT UNTOUCHED. THE EARLY CHRISTIANS HOWEVER WERE THROWN TO THE LIONS AND THE LIONS ATE THEM UP.




JAMES WAS BEHEADED, BUT PETER ESCAPED (ACTS 12). BOTH MEN HAD EQUAL FAITH. BUT GOD'S WILL WAS DIFFERENT FOR EACH OF THEM.




BUT IT THEN GOES ON TO SAY THAT GOD HAS PROVIDED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US NOW IN THE NEW COVENANT -- SOMETHING FAR SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING THAT THESE MEN LISTED HERE IN CHAPTER II EXPERIENCED.



BETTER

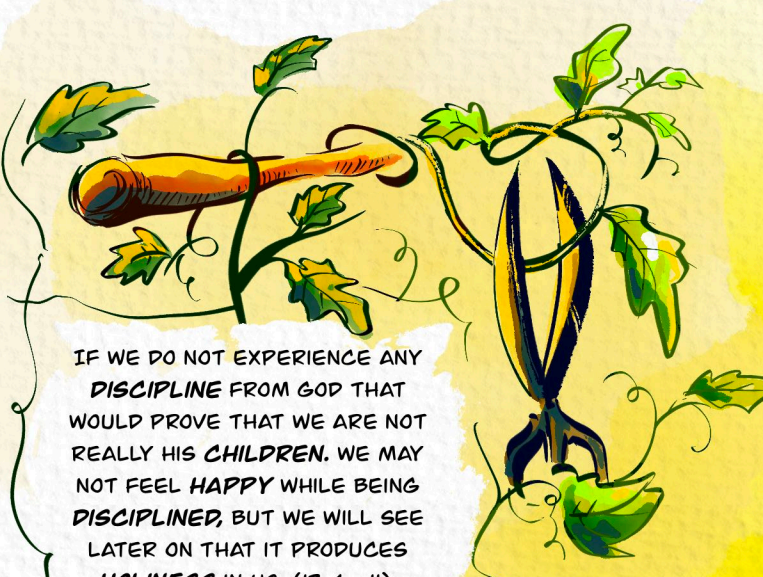


OUR FAITH IS "LOOKING AWAY FROM EVERYONE ELSE UNTO JESUS" (12:2), BECAUSE HE IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.

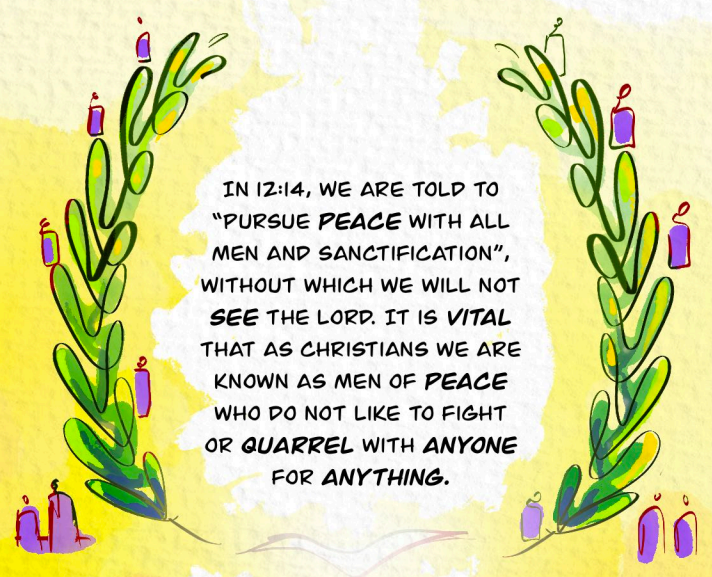


WHEN MANY ENEMIES OPPOSE YOU CONSIDER HIM WHO HAD SO MANY ENEMIES OPPOSING HIM (12:3). YOU HAVE NOT YET RESISTED TO THE POINT OF SHEDDING BLOOD LIKE HE DID, IN STRIVING AGAINST SIN (12:4).

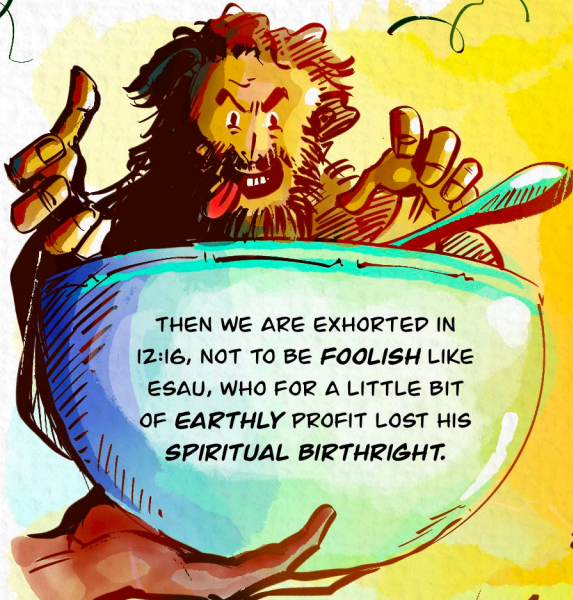
THE RACE OF FAITH IS SOMETHING IN WHICH YOU CAN'T STAND STILL. THE TIME IS SHORT AND SO YOU HAVE TO RUN. IF YOU FALL DOWN, GET UP AND CONTINUE RUNNING.



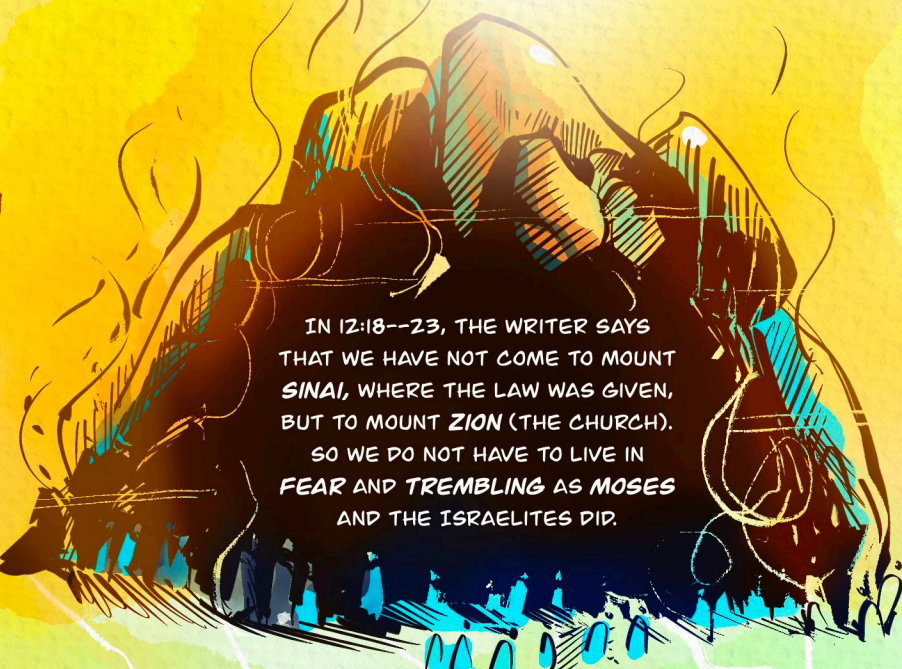
IF WE DO NOT EXPERIENCE ANY **DISCIPLINE** FROM GOD THAT WOULD PROVE THAT WE ARE NOT REALLY HIS **CHILDREN**. WE MAY NOT FEEL **HAPPY** WHILE BEING **DISCIPLINED**, BUT WE WILL SEE LATER ON THAT IT PRODUCES **HOLINESS** IN US. (12:4--11).




IN 12:14, WE ARE TOLD TO "**PURSUPE PEACE** WITH ALL MEN AND **SANCTIFICATION**", WITHOUT WHICH WE WILL NOT **SEE** THE LORD. IT IS **VITAL** THAT AS **CHRISTIANS** WE ARE KNOWN AS **MEN OF PEACE** WHO DO NOT LIKE TO **FIGHT** OR **QUARREL** WITH ANYONE FOR ANYTHING.




THEN WE ARE EXHORTED IN 12:16, NOT TO BE **FOOLISH** LIKE **ESAU**, WHO FOR A LITTLE BIT OF **EARTHLY PROFIT** LOST HIS **SPIRITUAL BIRTHRIGHT**.



IN 12:18--23, THE WRITER SAYS THAT WE HAVE NOT COME TO **MOUNT SINAI**, WHERE THE **LAW** WAS GIVEN, BUT TO **MOUNT ZION** (THE **CHURCH**). SO WE DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE IN **FEAR** AND **TREMBLING** AS **MOSES** AND THE **ISRAELITES** DID.



IN 12:24, THE **BLOOD** OF **JESUS** IS **CONTRASTED** WITH THE **BLOOD** OF **ABEL**. THE **BLOOD** OF **ABEL** CRIED FOR **JUDGEMENT**, THE **BLOOD** OF **JESUS** CRIES FOR **MERCY**.



IN 12:25--29, WE READ ABOUT THE **KINGDOM** THAT GOD IS BUILDING -- THE **CHURCH** -- THE ONLY THING THAT WILL REMAIN **FOREVER**. **EVERYTHING** ELSE WILL BE **SHAKEN** AND **DESTROYED**.

THE WRITER REMINDS US THAT OUR GOD IS A **CONSUMING FIRE**. SO WE MUST SERVE HIM **NOT WITH THE FEAR** THE ISRAELITES HAD AT **SINAI**.

BUT WITH **REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR** -- AS **JESUS HAD** (HEBREWS 5:7).

IN CHAPTER 13, THE WRITER CONCLUDES WITH SOME CLOSING EXHORTATIONS. "**LOVE THE BROTHERS. SHOW HOSPITALITY TO ANYONE WHO COMES TO YOUR HOUSE.**"

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE **SUFFERING** AND CHRISTIANS WHO ARE BEING **ILL-TREATED** AND IN **PRISON. SUFFER WITH THEM AND ENCOURAGE THEM.**

KEEP YOUR **MARRIAGE PERFECTLY PURE. DON'T EVER HAVE SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE, BECAUSE GOD WILL JUDGE ALL SUCH PEOPLE**" (13:1--4).

PEOPLE WHO HAVE PUT THEIR **CONFIDENCE IN MONEY, GOLD, REAL ESTATE, PROPERTY** OR ANYTHING ON THIS EARTH WILL FIND THEIR LIVES **SHAKEN. YOU CAN HAVE PROPERTY, BUT DON'T LET YOUR TRUST BE IN THAT.**

BE **CONTENT AND PERFECTLY SATISFIED** WITH WHATEVER **GOD** HAS GIVEN YOU (13:5). DON'T **RUN AFTER MONEY** BECAUSE **GOD** HAS SAID THAT HE WILL **NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.**

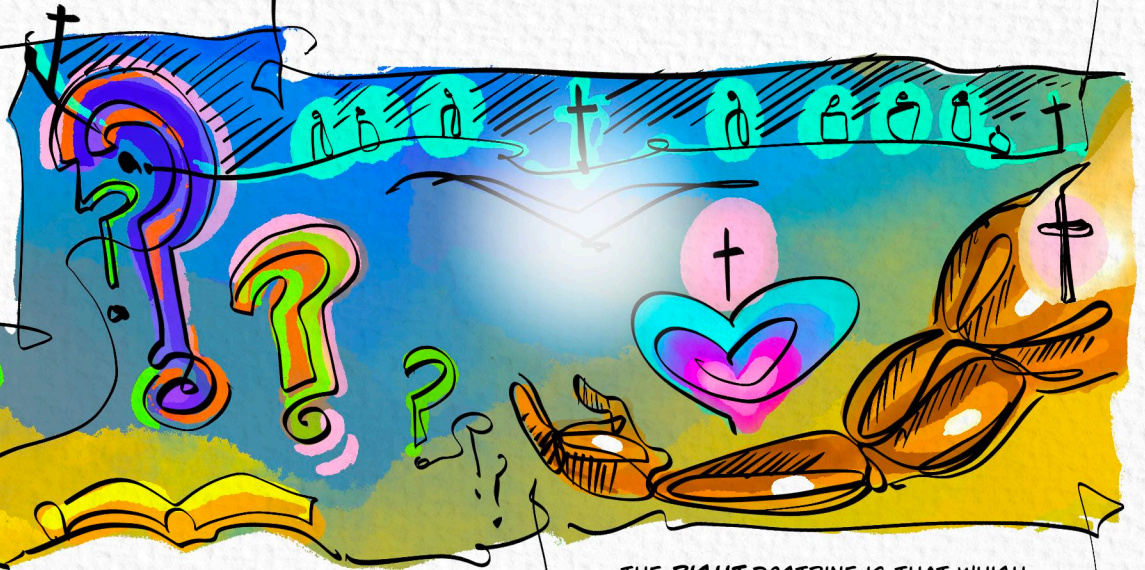


FOR THEN YOU CAN **BOLDLY** SAY IN EVERY SITUATION, "THE LORD IS MY **HELPER**. I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. **WHAT** CAN ANY **MAN** DO TO ME" (13:6). THEN WE WILL LIVE **WITHOUT FEAR** OF ANY PERSON OR ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.



IN 13:7 WE ARE COMMANDED TO **OBSERVE** THE LIFE OF **OLDER GODLY MEN** WHO HAVE LED US AND TO SEE THE **GOOD RESULTS** THAT COME FROM THEIR LIVES -- AND TO **FOLLOW** THEIR EXAMPLE.

SINCE "JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME **YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER**", HE WHO LED THEM AND BLESSED THEM CAN LEAD YOU AND BLESS YOU AS WELL.



THE WRITER WARNS US NOT TO BE OCCUPIED WITH **STRANGE DOCTRINES** THAT HAVE **NOT BROUGHT GODLINESS** TO THOSE WHO PREACH THEM.

THE **RIGHT DOCTRINE** IS THAT WHICH WILL "**STRENGTHEN YOUR HEART WITH GRACE**" SO THAT YOU DO **NOT SIN** (13:9).



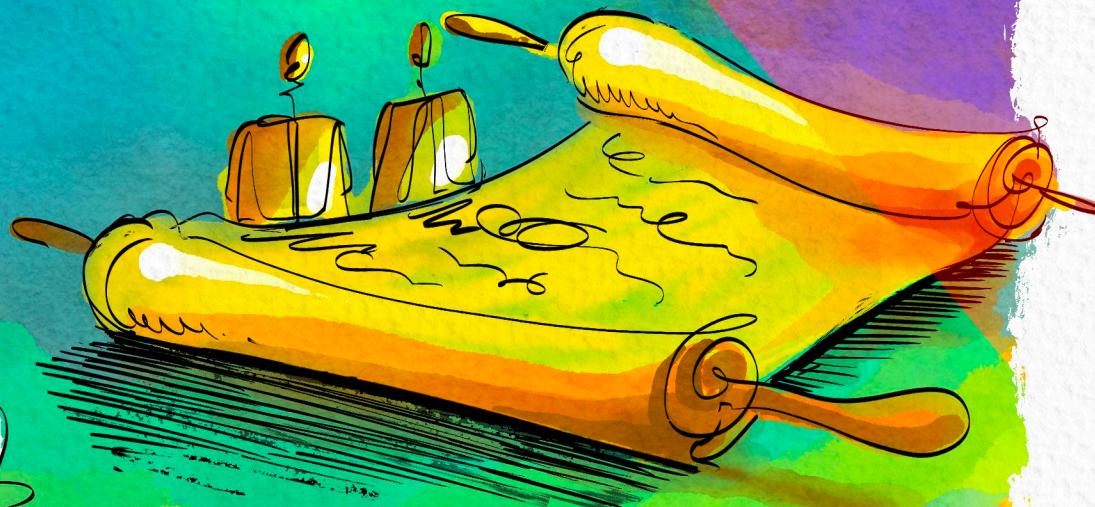
FOLLOWING JESUS WILL ALWAYS INVOLVE, IN EVERY GENERATION "**GOING OUTSIDE THE CAMP** (BOTH OF THE **WORLD** AND OF **RELIGIOUS** (BUT **UNSPIRITUAL**) CHRISTIANS) AND BEARING THE **REPROACH OF CHRIST**" (13:10--13).



LET US LEARN TO OFFER A **SACRIFICE OF PRAISE TO GOD AT ALL TIMES** (13:15).

IN 13:17, WE ARE COMMANDED TO OBEY OUR **CHURCH-LEADERS**. WE MUST **RESPECT, VALUE AND SUBMIT** TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED BY GOD IN **SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY** OVER US.

THE WRITER ASSUMES THAT ALL BELIEVERS WILL HAVE SOME SUCH **SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY** OVER THEM AS THEIR **LEADERS**. THOSE LEADERS HAVE TO GIVE AN **ACCOUNT TO GOD** ONE DAY ABOUT YOU.



THE **CONCLUDING BLESSING** IN THE LETTER IS: "NOW THE **GOD OF PEACE**, WHO BROUGHT UP FROM THE **DEAD** THE **GREAT SHEPHERD** OF THE **SHEEP** THROUGH THE **BLOOD** OF THE **ETERNAL COVENANT**, EVEN **JESUS** OUR **LORD**, **EQUIP** YOU IN EVERY **GOOD THING** TO DO HIS WILL, WORKING IN US THAT WHICH IS **PLEASING** IN HIS SIGHT, THROUGH **JESUS CHRIST**, TO WHOM BE THE **GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN**" (13:20, 21).