



Something Better to Come

Hebrews 11:33-40

- Closing out our series on Stories of Faith. When I read and study the stories that are mentioned in Hebrews 11, I am encouraged in my faith.
- In the same way, hearing from different people in our congregation has greatly encouraged me in my faith. We are surrounded by so many stories of God's faithfulness. Sometimes, we just need to be reminded.
- We have this faith in God that changes everything about our lives. It's a faith that can remain steadfast, even in difficult times.
- Hebrews 11 – substance of things hoped for. Evidence of things not seen.

- When we are reminded of God being at work in the past and present, it helps us face the future with greater resolve.

Main Point: We can live with faith in Christ that helps us look to the future with hope.

- My story of faith began when I was a small child.
- Two instances that I look back on, knowing God was with me. Our house that caught fire. Falling in the pool before I could swim.

I. What God has done

- a. Creation
- b. The flood
- c. The laws of God
- d. Leading His people out of bondage
- e. The Passover
 - i. This is the meal that was being celebrated by Jesus and His disciples the night the Lord's supper was instituted.
 - ii. Everything about this meal pointed to the future fulfillment in Christ.

II. What was promised

Fulfilled Promises of God in the Bible

1. Promises to Individuals

- **Promise:** God would make Abraham a great nation, bless him, and give his offspring the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 15:18-21).

- **Fulfillment:** Abraham's descendants multiplied into Israel (Exodus 1:7); they conquered Canaan under Joshua (Joshua 21:43-45: "Thus the Lord gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers").
- *Evidence:* Joshua 23:14 summarizes: "Not one word has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you."
- **Promise:** Sarah would bear a son in old age (Genesis 17:15-19; 18:10-14).
 - **Fulfillment:** Isaac was born (Genesis 21:1-3: "The Lord visited Sarah as he had said... and Sarah bore Abraham a son").
 - *Evidence:* Hebrews 11:11 reflects on this as faith in God's promise-keeping.
- **Promise:** God would preserve a remnant of David's line and establish his throne forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 89:3-4).
 - **Fulfillment:** Jesus, a descendant of David, was born as the eternal King (Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:29-36). The resurrection confirms the throne's permanence (Acts 13:34).

2. Promises of Deliverance and Protection

- **Promise:** God would deliver Israel from Egyptian slavery and bring them to the Promised Land (Exodus 3:7-10; 6:6-8).
 - **Fulfillment:** The Exodus occurred via plagues and the Red Sea parting (Exodus 12-14); entry into Canaan (Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1-5).
 - *Evidence:* Deuteronomy 7:8-9: "It is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers."

- **Promise:** Protection for those who trust Him (e.g., Psalm 91:1-16: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High... I will deliver him”).
 - **Fulfillment:** Seen in stories like Daniel in the lions’ den (Daniel 6:22: “My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths”) and Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in the furnace (Daniel 3:25-27).

3. Messianic Prophecies (Fulfilled in Jesus)

These are promises of a coming Savior, detailed in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New.

Promise (OT)	Fulfillment (NT)	Key Details
Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)	Matthew 1:18-25	“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.”
Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	Matthew 2:1-6	“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.”
Descendant of David, eternal kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5)	Luke 1:32-33; Revelation 22:16	“Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David.”
Suffering Servant: Pierced for transgressions, silent before accusers (Isaiah 53:3-12; Psalm 22)	Mark 15:3-5; John 19:34-37; 1 Peter 2:22-24	“He was pierced for our transgressions... By his wounds we are healed.”

Promise (OT)	Fulfillment (NT)	Key Details
Resurrection on the third day (Hosea 6:2; Psalm 16:10; Jonah 1:17 as type)	Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4	“You will not abandon my soul to Sheol... For Christ died... was buried... raised on the third day.”

- *Overall Evidence:* Acts 13:32-33: “What God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.”

4. Promises to Israel and Nations

- **Promise:** Israel would be scattered for disobedience but regathered (Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Ezekiel 36:24).
 - **Fulfillment:** Babylonian exile (2 Kings 25), then return under Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-4). Modern regathering (1948 onward) is seen by many as ongoing fulfillment (though debated theologically).
 - *Evidence:* Ezekiel 37 (valley of dry bones) symbolizes national restoration.
- **Promise:** All nations blessed through Abraham’s seed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18).
 - **Fulfillment:** The Gospel spreads to Gentiles via Christ (Galatians 3:8, 14: “In you shall all the nations be blessed”).
- Spurgeon on God’s promises to Israel in Ezekiel 37 in 1864.
 - The meaning of our text, as opened up by the context, is most evidently, if words mean anything, first, that there shall be a political restoration of the Jews to their own land and to their own nationality. And then, secondly, there is in the text and in the context a most plain declaration that there shall be a spiritual restoration--in fact a conversion--of the tribes of Israel.” “Israel is now blotted out from the map

of nations. Her sons are scattered far and wide. Her daughters mourn beside all the rivers of the earth. Her sacred song is hushed--no king reigns in Jerusalem! She brings forth no governors among her tribes. But she is to be restored! She is to be restored 'as from the dead.'

5. General Promises of Faithfulness

- God promises to never leave or forsake His people (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5).
 - **Fulfillment:** Recounted throughout history, e.g., in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21-22) and in Christ's promise (Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always").
- **Thematic Verse:** 2 Corinthians 1:20 – "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him [Christ]."

III. What is to come

- a. Marriage supper of the lamb
- b. Revelation 19