

INTRODUCTION: The "wherefore" of our text looks back especially to the preceding (11th) chapter, Heb. These men of God, long dead, are not spectators of our action, but they are represented as persons:

1. Who bear witness of the faith which God demands of those who would follow him: Obedient faith.
2. They have become models for imitation by those who would serve God in every generation.
3. "This so great a cloud of witnesses," though a long time dead, "yet (testify) speaketh." Heb. 11:4, as is said of Abel.

THE TESTIMONY OF THESE WITNESSES:

*Innocent
Pragmatist
naturalist*

1. They speak to us of the power of faith. Examples:
 1. Samuel: His faith awakened him to hear the voice of the Lord when he called and to obey. Through his faith he:
 1. Became the faithful mouth piece of God in Israel.
 2. Became the uncompromising witness against the sin of Saul. (1 Sam. 3:10; 15:10-35.) Heb. 11:32-34
2. They speak to us of the (testify) accomplishments of faith. Examples:
 1. By faith the whole nation of Israel turned its back on Egypt. (Exodus chapters 1-14.) BY FAITH:
 1. They walked through the waters of the red Sea.
 2. The walls of Jericho fell down
 3. The sinful Rahab by obedient faith escaped the destruction of Jericho. (The accomplishments of faith could be multiplied.)
3. They speak (testify-Witness) to us of the sufferings of faith. Examples:
 1. Because of the faith in them men and women were mocked, scourged, like Joseph (Gen. 39) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:2) unjustly accused and cast into prison
 2. They were stoned to death (Stephen) sawn asunder, tempted, slain with the sword. Forced to wander in mountains, in caves and dens of the earth. They were destitute, homeless, friendless, hungry, afflicted and tormented: SO THAT LIFE WAS A DAILY SORROW AND SUFFERINGS, AND UNCEASING ANGUISH. Such was the suffering of human souls devoted to God. Such is the history of faith in a world for which the Son of God was born to die.

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