

Triumphant through Suffering

Judges 4 – 8; 11 – 16

And what more shall I say? For time will fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mocking and scourging, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

(Hebrews 11:32-38, NASB)

Hebrews 11:1-31 told us of the faith of Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others. They trusted God in spite of great difficulties. Because they did, they pleased God, and He gave them the honor of participating in His marvelous plan of salvation.

But the list is not complete—not by any means. There's not enough time to tell of all those who by faith were victorious over opposition and suffering. All the judges, all the godly kings from David on, the prophets—the list is too long to recount. Verses 33-35a give us an inspiring summary of just a few of their amazing feats.

Then in the middle of v.35, the writer turns a corner. He now begins a brief summary of some of the brutality to which these heroes were subjected. The suffering ranges from ill-treatment to truly horrifying death. He says that at least one was *sawn in two*! Why are these sufferings detailed like this?

The writer is not mourning the misfortune of these heroes. He is celebrating their victories!

The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18, NASB)

All these sufferings, long past, are now battles won for which they are enjoying rich, eternal rewards. These hardships are proofs of their faith and testimonies to God's faithfulness.

Momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. (2 Corinthians 4:17, NASB)

Don't feel sorry for them. And don't feel sorry for yourself when unjust suffering comes to you.

Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. (1 Peter 4:12-13, NASB)

Hymn: [The Blood-washed Pilgrim](#)

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