

Verses 32-38: **listing of other Old Testament Heroes**

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

- The preacher continues. He had just talked about Rahab. Now it is like he wants to quickly mention a few more people
- He begins with a question. The question seems rhetorical.
- He says there is not enough time. This could give indication that this was a sermon preached, but I don't think I would take it to mean too much. It could just mean that his space is limited (or expensive) or the reader's time is limited.
- But he does go on to talk about several more. Only this time he says very little.
- Gideon and Old Testament judge: Judges chapters 6-8
- Barak was also in judges and worked with Deborah. Chapters 4-5
- Samson: Judges chapters 13-16
- David, this is King David
- Samuel last judge and a major prophet (1Samuel)
- The other prophets (many, he will list a few in a moment)

Hebrews 11:32-40

- Verse 33: these people “by faith.” They did major things, which the writer is about to mention, and they did them by faith.
- They conquered kingdoms. Everyone of them was involved in conquering Kingdoms. Samuel was the only prophet specifically mentioned and he conquered kingdoms through the prophets he anointed.
- They also performed acts of righteousness:
 - David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem and many other things
 - Samuel kept purity in Israel and anointed David King
 - Samson did some cleansing himself and Gideon did. In the beginning of Gideon’s judgment he took down alters to Baal.
 - Barak: he commanded a military
- These people also obtained promises:
 - They advanced the promises the Lord had given. They also were given promises from the Lord. King David especially.
 - In 2S am 7:11ff King David is given a major promise
 - Samson, David and Daniel were not harmed when they faced lions:
 - Judg 14:6; 1 Sam 17:34ff; Dan 6:22
- Now he mentions some people by what they did not even by name
- Dan 3:23 talk about Daniel’s friends who were not harmed in fire

The Israelites as whole as well as King David escaped the sword: Ex 18:4; 1 Sam 18:11; 19:10; 1 Kin ch 19; 2 Kin ch 6;¹

- Verse 34 also says that some were weak but were made strong and they became mighty in war. Samson was only successful because of the Lord. David defeated Goliath.
- Verse 35: Elijah and Elisha raised the dead 1Kin 17:23; 2 Kin 4:36f
- Some were tortured: the prophets were tortured, specifically Jeremiah. But they knew of a better resurrection.

¹*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Ge 1:1). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Hebrews 11:32-40

Joseph, Micaiah and Jeremiah all experienced persecution: Gen 39:20; 1 Kin 22:27; 2 Chr 18:26; Jer 20:2; 37:15²

- Verse 37 builds on this persecution:
 - Naboth was stoned
- Legend is that Isaiah was sawn in two
- 2 Kings 2:13: Elijah wore Hairy robes
- Verse 38: says these were men who the world was not worthy of. So, that is a strong statement about these people.
- Many are persecuted these days too. Jesus said that we will be persecuted as they were and He was.
- Matthew 21

Verses 39-40: **we receive the promise**

- These people did this by faith
- They didn't receive what was promised
 - I think this is Jesus and the resurrection
- God has provided this, Jesus for us.
- They are only made perfect in us (first century time period)

IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary:

²*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update*. 1995 (Ge 1:1). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Hebrews 11:32-40

11:40. “Made perfect” here refers to the consummation of salvation (1:14), the resurrection of the dead (11:35). All the righteous would be raised together at the very end of the age (Dan 12:2, 13).³

The Hall of Faith in [Hebrews 11](#)

OT person of faith	Reference in Hebrews 11	Reference in OT
Abel	11:4	Genesis 4
Enoch	11:5	Gen. 5:18–24
Noah	11:7	Gen. 5:29–10:32
Abraham	11:8–19	Genesis 12–25 ; etc.
Sarah	11:11	Genesis 12–23 ; Isa. 51:2
Isaac	11:17–20	Genesis 17–35 ; etc.
Jacob	11:21	Genesis 25–50 ; etc.
Joseph	11:21–22	Genesis 37–50 ; etc.
Moses	11:23–28	Ex. 2:10 and throughout the Pentateuch; etc.
Rahab	11:31	Josh. 2:1, 3; 6:17–25
Gideon	11:32	Judges 6–8
Barak	11:32	Judges 4–5
Samson	11:32	Judges 13–16
Jephthah	11:32	Judges 11–12 ; 1 Sam. 12:11
David	11:32	Ruth 4 ; 1–2 Samuel; etc.
Samuel	11:32	1 Samuel; 1 Chronicles 6; 9; 11; 26 ; 2 Chron. 35:18

resurrection ***Resurrection.** Although some scholars earlier in the twentieth century derived the idea of Jesus’ resurrection from Greek mystery cults, it is now widely understood that early Christian belief shared little in common with the Mysteries’ myths, which simply reenacted a seasonal revivification of fertility. Rather, Jesus’ resurrection was rooted in a Jewish hope, which in turn was rooted in notions of God’s covenant, promise and justice from early in Israel’s history. Most Palestinian Jews believed that God would resurrect the bodies of the dead (at least the righteous, and many believed also the wicked), at the end of the age (Dan 12:2). There was, however, never any thought that one person would rise ahead of everyone else; thus Jesus’ resurrection, as an inauguration of the future kingdom within history, caught even the disciples by surprise.

³Keener, C. S., & InterVarsity Press. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary : New Testament* (Heb 11:39-40). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.