

DISCUSSION QUERIES
Hebrews 11:11-40

READ 11:1-3

- (A) In what way can we get God to make our hope reality?
- Our loyalty over time.
- (B) How can we find proof of invisible realities?
- Our trust in divine promises.
- (C) How does verse 2 help to explain verse 1?
- Scriptural case studies of those whom God commended.
- (D) How does verse 3 help to explain verse 1?
- Scriptural accounts of origins provides our theoretical framework.

READ 11:4-5a

- (E) In what way did God likely show his acceptance of Abel's offering?
- Think about Elijah's offering compared with that of the priests of Ba'al.
- (F) How does Abel yet speak?
- His story is preserved in the Holy Torah.

READ 11:5b-6

- (G) In what way was Enoch's departure a 'proof' of invisible realities.
- Elisha saw him being taken away by divine creatures.
 - He is commended in Holy Scripture.

READ 11:5-7

- (H) In what ways is biblical faith similar to the classical scientific method?
- Putting God's promises to the test and awaiting predictable outcomes.
- (I) How did Noah put God's Word to a scientific test?
- He believed, he obeyed, he waited, he verified outcomes.

READ 11:8-12

- (J) In what ways did Abraham's life style demonstrate biblical faith?
- He kept coming back to the promised land.
- (K) In what way did Abraham's hope become a reality?
- He begat a son with his sterile wife in their old age.

READ 11:13-16

(L) How soon must we see our hope realized to prove that we have true faith?

- Perhaps not until after our death, as with the saints of old.

(M) In what way did the ancient ones show their faith?

- They 'greeted' the future, dwelling as strangers on earth.

(N) What did they decline to do?

- Go back to their old ways.

READ 11:17-22

(O) In what way did Abraham see his hope realized, when everything seem lost?

- He believed in God's power to raise the dead.

(P) What did the patriarchs do by faith in future proof of unseen realities?

- They pronounced God's promised blessings upon their descendants.

READ 11:23-28

(Q) How did Moses regard rustic living and angry kings?

- God's reward means greater wealth than earthly treasure

(R) What does the phrase "the reproach of Christ" mean?

- In Greek, 'the anointed' probably describes 'the people of God', since verses 25 and 26 form a single sentence.

READ 11:29-31

(S) How did God show proof of invisible realities to those who obeyed him by faith?

- He performed undeniable, miraculous, public acts.

READ 11:32-38

(T) How did ancient believers live out their faith when God did nothing to rescue them?

- They endured in spite of ridicule, persecution, torture and even murder.

READ 11:39-40

(U) What was it that none of the ancient believers received that we have now received?

- We are perfected by a clean conscience, having direct access to God, and possessing the heavenly city.