

An Analysis of the Logic of Hebrews 11:1-40

Expansion

11:1 **And:** Faith brings hope to reality; faith brings proof of invisible realities.

Explanation

11:2 **For:** Our presupposition = the Word of God created the ages from the invisible.

Examples

11:3-5 **By faith:** *Antediluvian* saints received God's commendation (proof).

Explanation

11:6 **For:** Faith assumes God exists and waits on God to prove what he has promised.(*)

11:7 **By faith:** *Diluvian* saints saw the world judged whilst being saved.

11:8-12 **By faith:** *Postdiluvian* saints obeyed God in hope of his promises.

Summary

11:13-16 **With faith:** These died without receiving the promises that God has prepared for them.

More examples

11:17-22 **By faith:** Abraham lived in tents in a land his descendants would inherit.

11:23-31 **By faith:** Moses and the Israelites sought and fought for a promised land.

11:32-38 **By faith:** Some elders won victories, whilst others were mistreated.

Application

11:39-40 **And:** God commended all of these, but they did not receive the promises that God has commended to us, making both them and us perfect.

(*) Classical scientific method:

Define terms and concepts (11:1): "faith, assurance, hope, reality, invisible, proof"

State research question (11:2, 4-5): "What leads to God's commendation?"

Identify presuppositions (11:3): "Visible outcomes have invisible causes."

Describe cause-to-effect theory (11:6): "God exists, and he rewards seekers"

State testable propositions: "faith → pleased → God"

Conduct test: "seek God" [The test applies only to God's actual promises, not to human wishes.]

Observe outcomes: "God rewards"

Thus, science = faith in testable theories. Faith = science applied to God's promises.

In the case of God's long-term promises, fulfillment may follow one's short life time.