

# Consider Him

Hebrews 12:1-3

Now faith is

- ✓ the assurance of things hoped for
- ✓ the conviction of things not seen

} For by it the people of old

- ✓ received their commendation

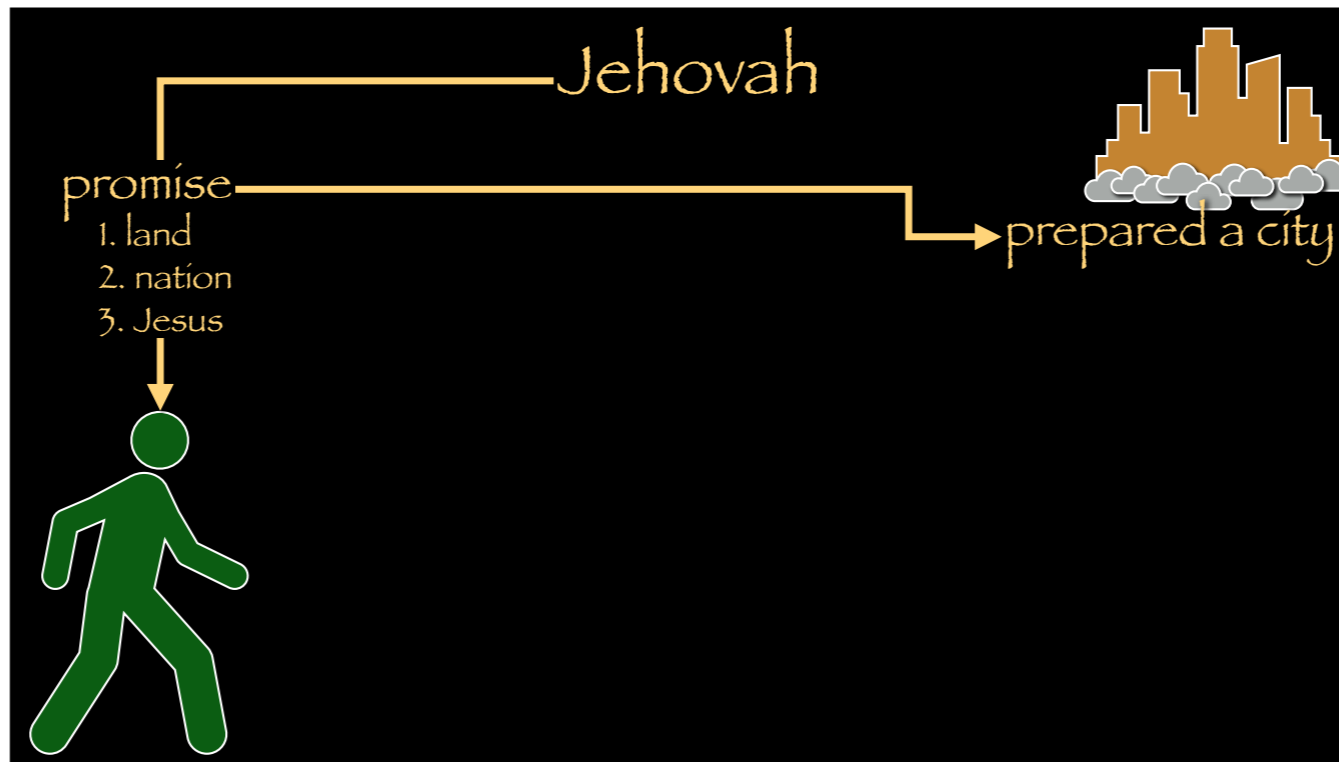
Hebrews 11:1-2

- Hebrews 11:1-2 (ESV) 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

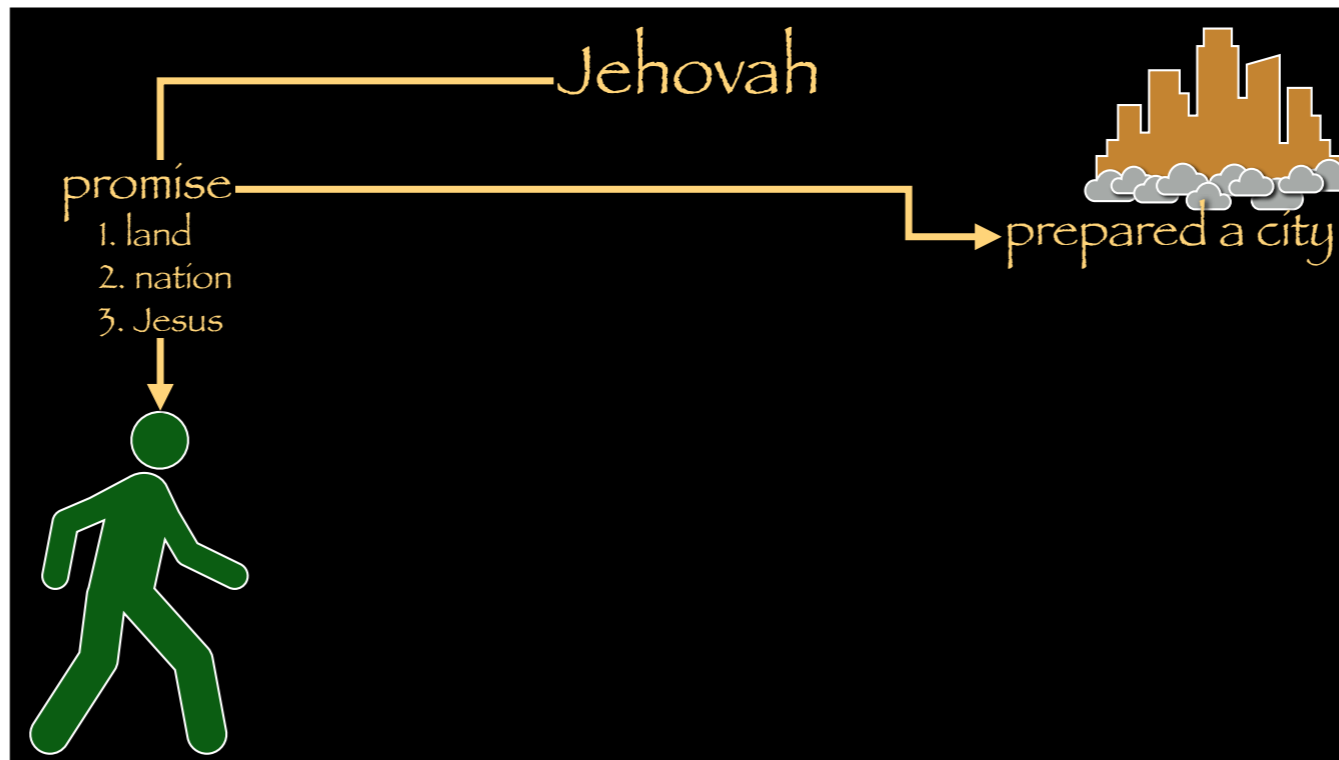
My  
FAITH → God's  
COMMENDATION



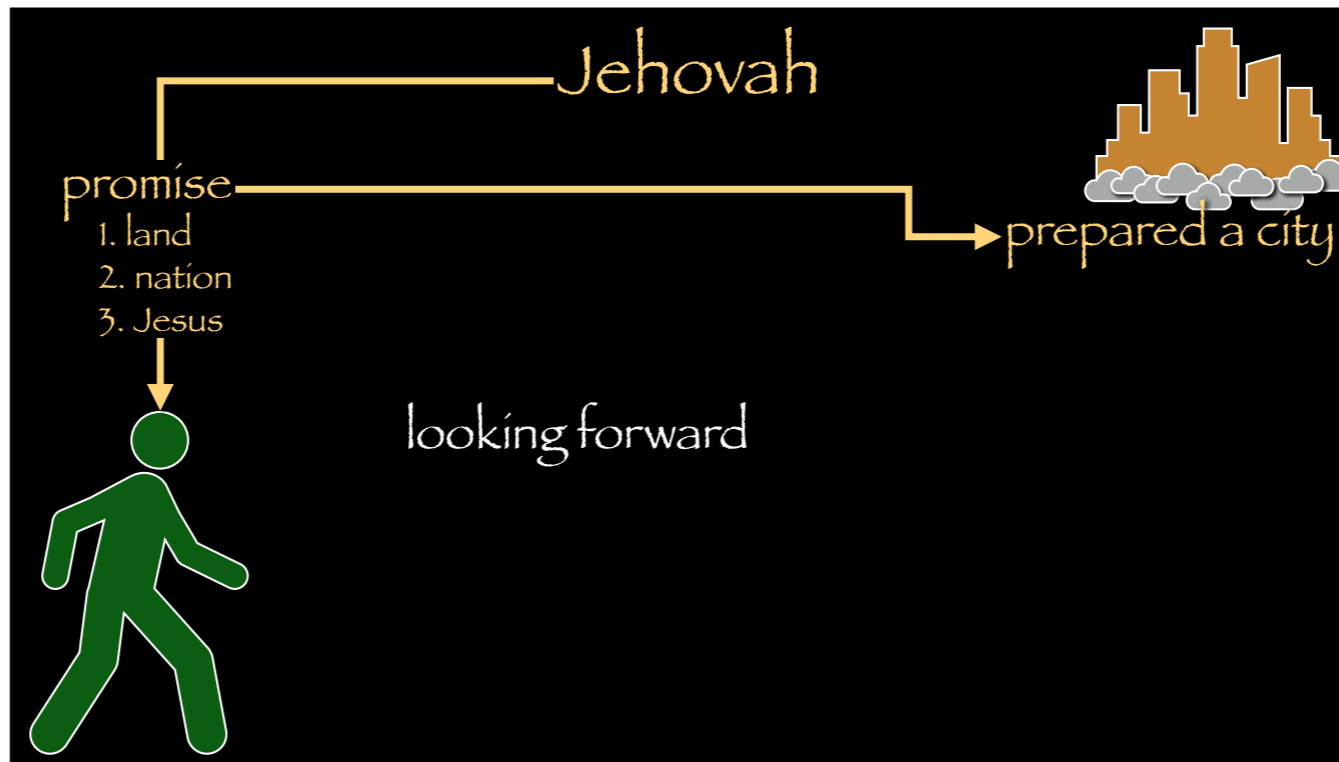
- Jehovah made promises to Abram.
- Abram obeyed ... went out **not knowing** where he was going
  - What did Abram know???
  - Just conversation with Jehovah as far as we know.



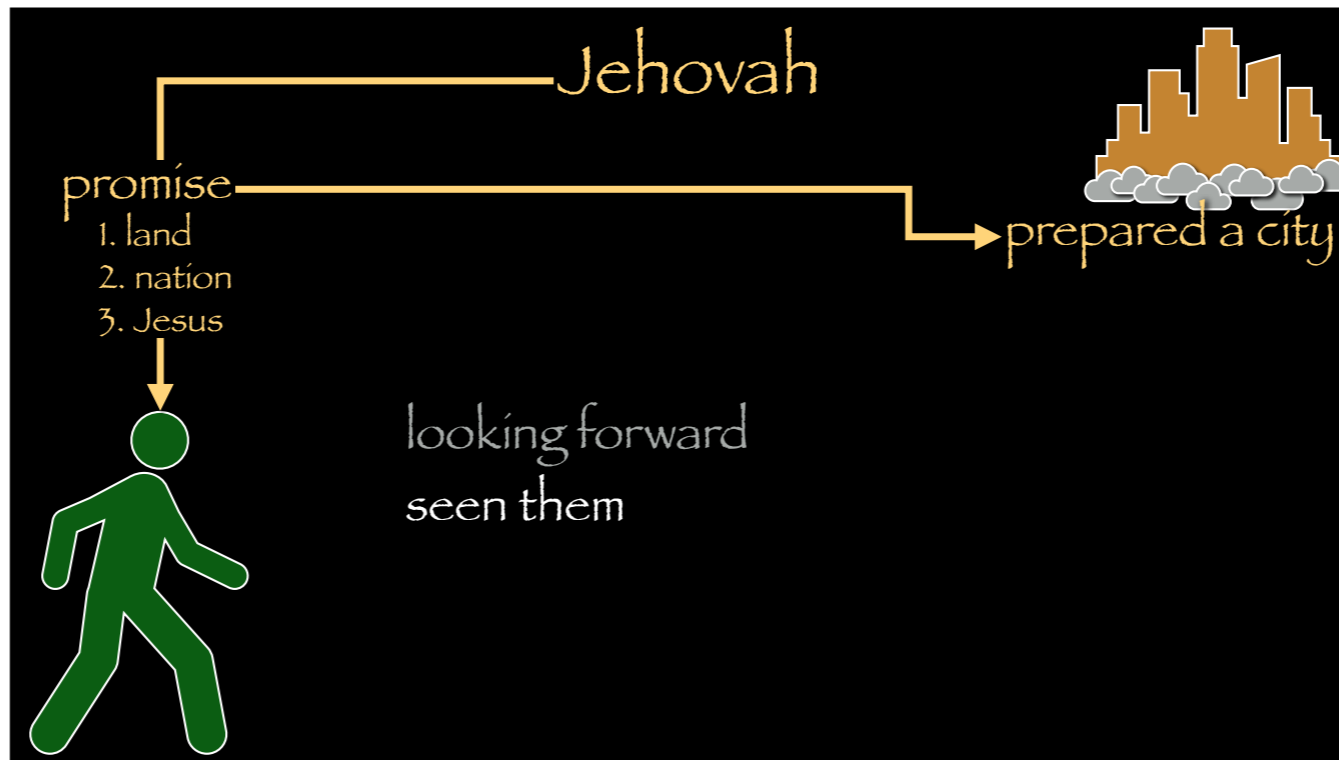
- Hebrews 11:10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- Hebrews 11:14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.
- Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.



- We believe in a God didn't just make promises, but keeps the promises in ways that we struggle to comprehend.
  - Do you note that God is not ashamed to be called our God?
    - For all our failures, and grumbling, and struggles?
  - Do you note that God anticipates our faith and prepares for us?
- This is vital for us to understand about Jehovah:
  - Assurance of things hoped for
  - Conviction of things not seen

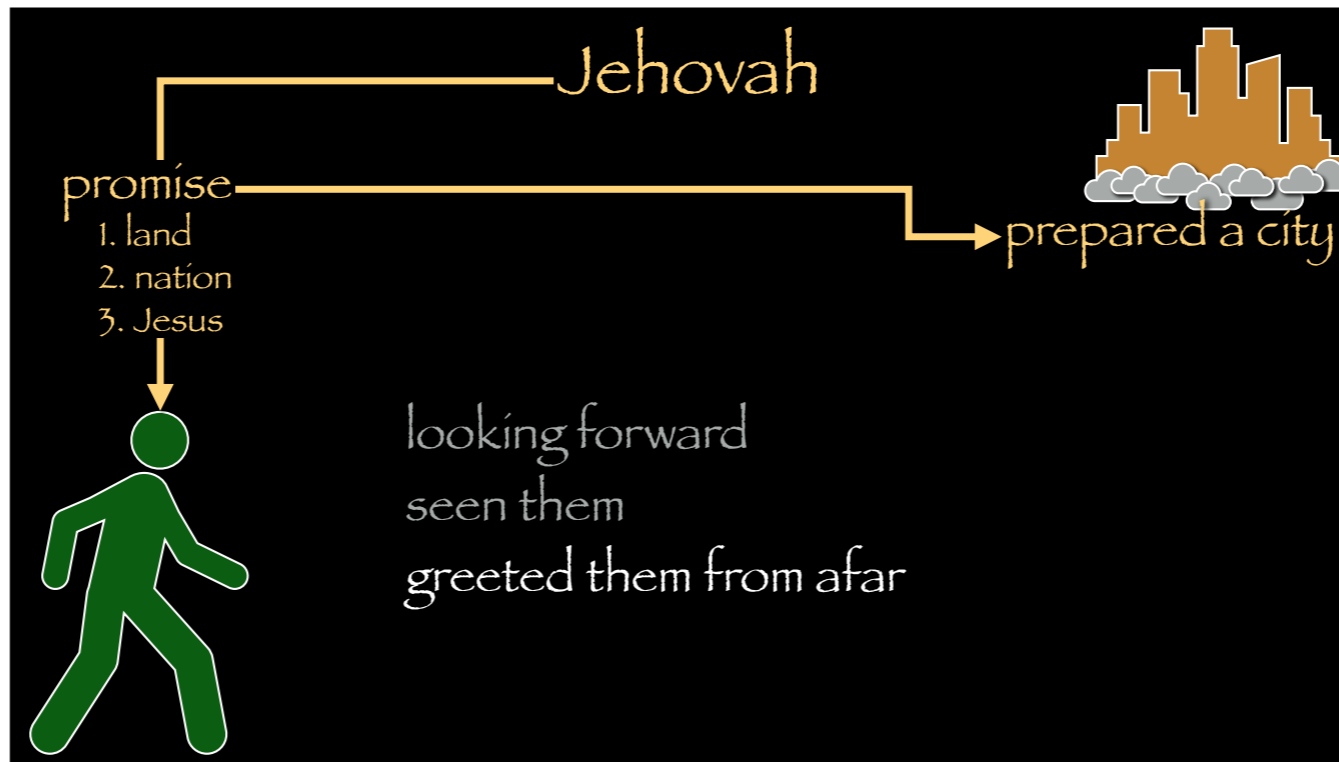


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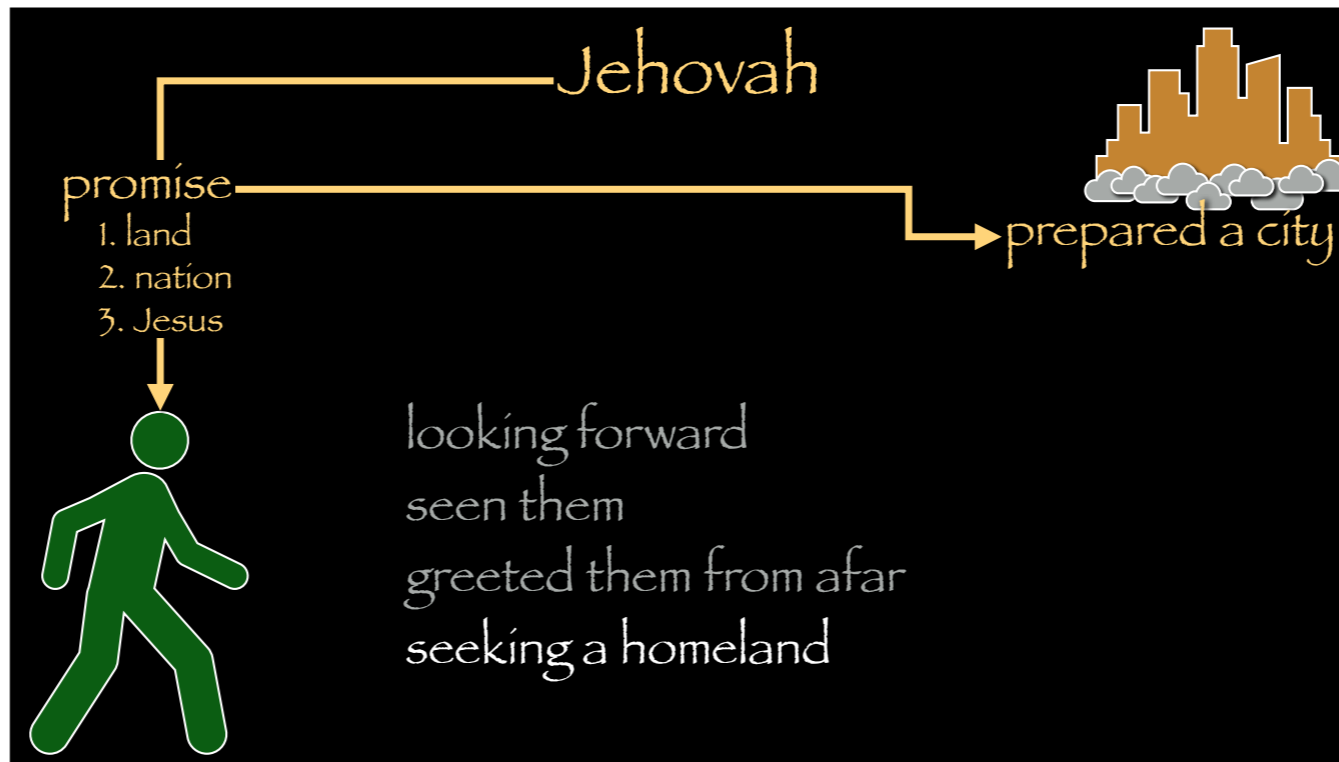


- Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

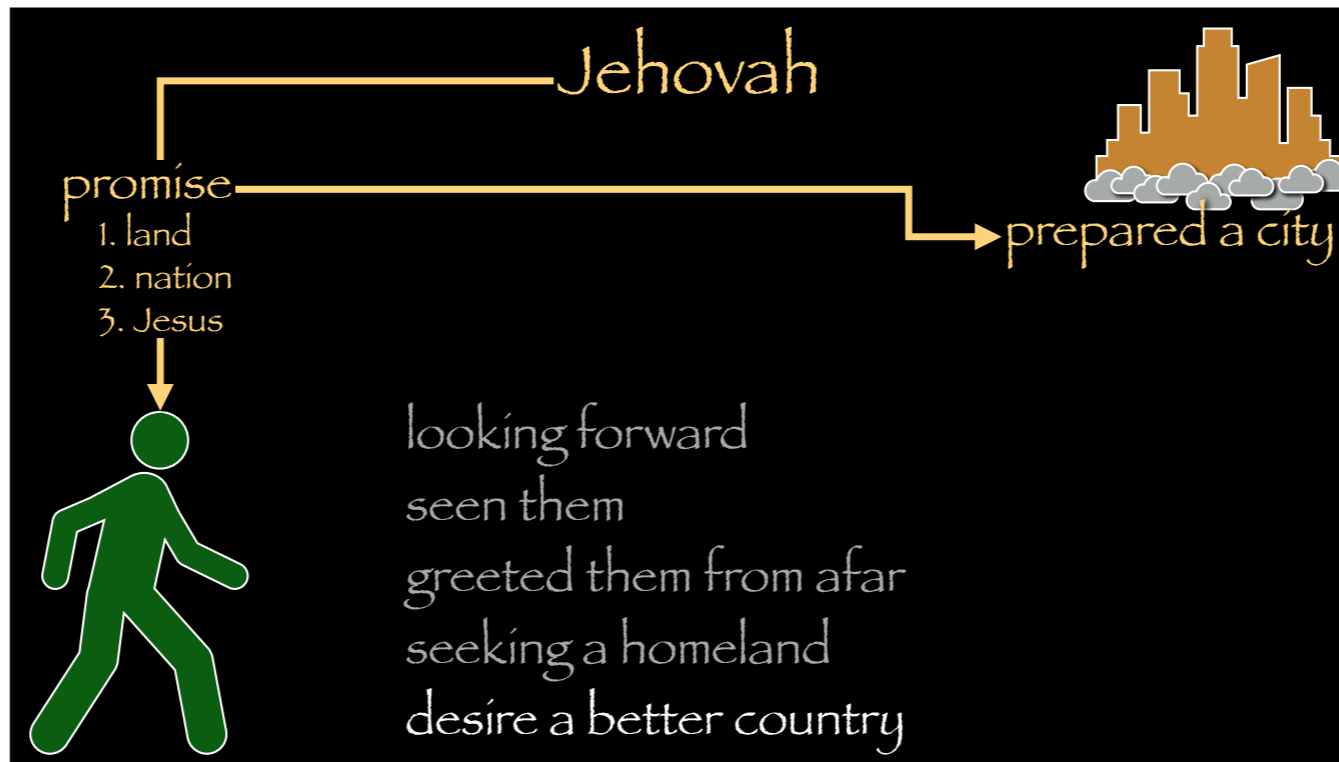




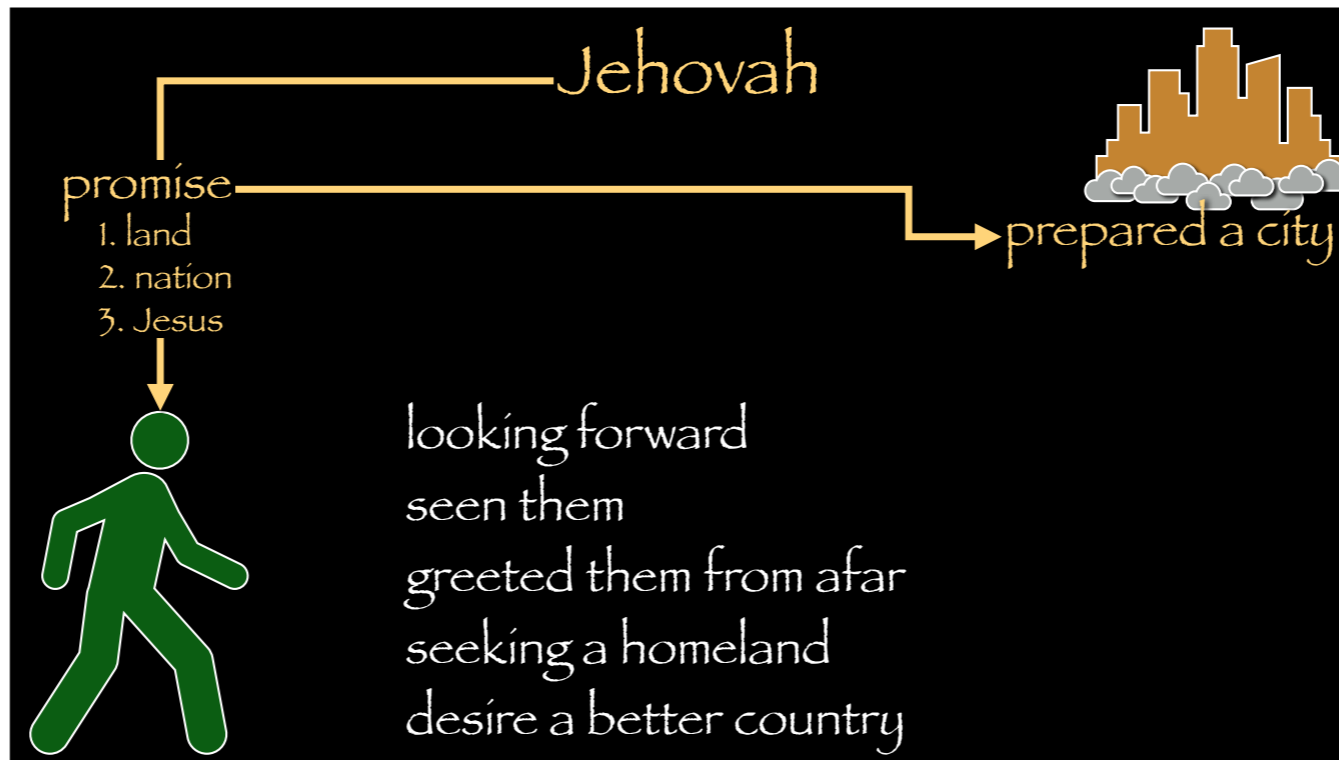
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- Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.



- What are we seeing here? Faith in Jehovah that leads to action.
  - (It's not just obedience because God said so, or fear of what will happen if I don't)
  - things hoped for
  - things not seen
- But why?
  - This is a lot of effort.
  - This was difficult
  - It was dangerous
  - It affect their family for generations.
- Why didn't they turn back (15) when they had opportunity?
  - We know how strong this pull is from looking at the Israelites in the wilderness.
  - Being slaves with some food was better than dying
    - and they really expected that they would die
    - They didn't have hope, and they didn't see anything to look forward to.



- What was different about Abraham and Sarah?
  - They “considered”
    - 11) 2233:
      - (CWSB Dictionary) to hold or esteem an individual in a particular light
    - 19) 3049
      - Thayer: to reckon, compute, calculate: to take into account
      - CWSB: to put together with one’s mind
      - Mounce: to infer, conclude, presume



- Hebrews 11:11 (ESV) 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.
- Sarah chose to esteem or honor that God was faithful and that she could depend on him to keep his promise



- This is much more complicated than it sounds in the text.
  - She suggested having a child through Hagar
    - “Jehovah has prevented me from bearing children” (Genesis 16:2)
    - “it may be that I shall obtain children by her” (Genesis 16:2)
  - She laughed
    - Genesis 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”



- She had seen Jehovah take care of them repeatedly
  - Traveling to the land of promise
  - Jehovah had taken care of her and Abraham in Egypt despite the half-truth Abraham told
  - Jehovah had provided for their increase while living in a more difficult environment when they separated from Lot
  - Jehovah had provided victory in battle when they rescued Lot
- Whatever else we struggle with, ultimately Sarah determined that Jehovah would do as he promised
  - Think noble thoughts of God!

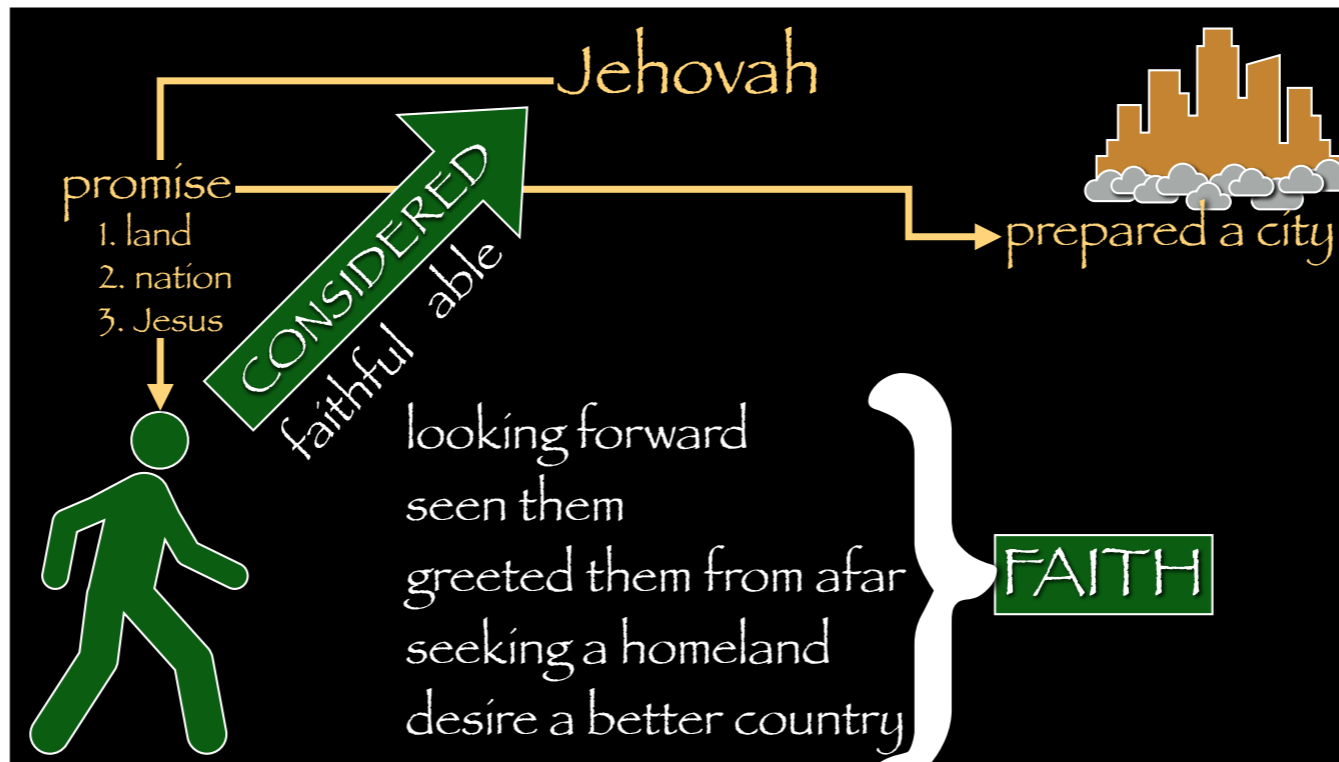




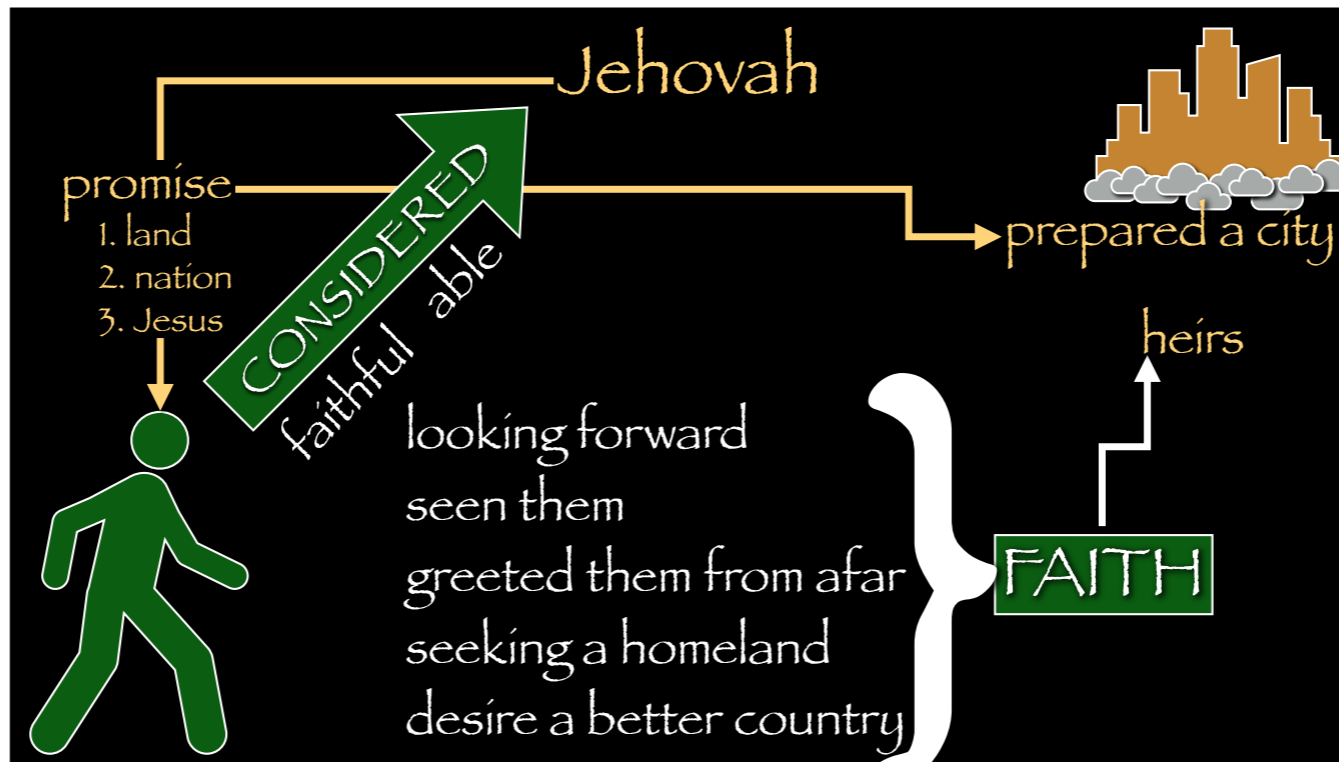
- Hebrews 11:19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.
- Abraham was asked to do the unthinkable
  - the child that God had promise, God asked him to sacrifice
    - God doesn't accept human sacrifice, life is precious
    - God specified that the promise was through Isaac
      - So if Isaac dies, how can God keep his promise?



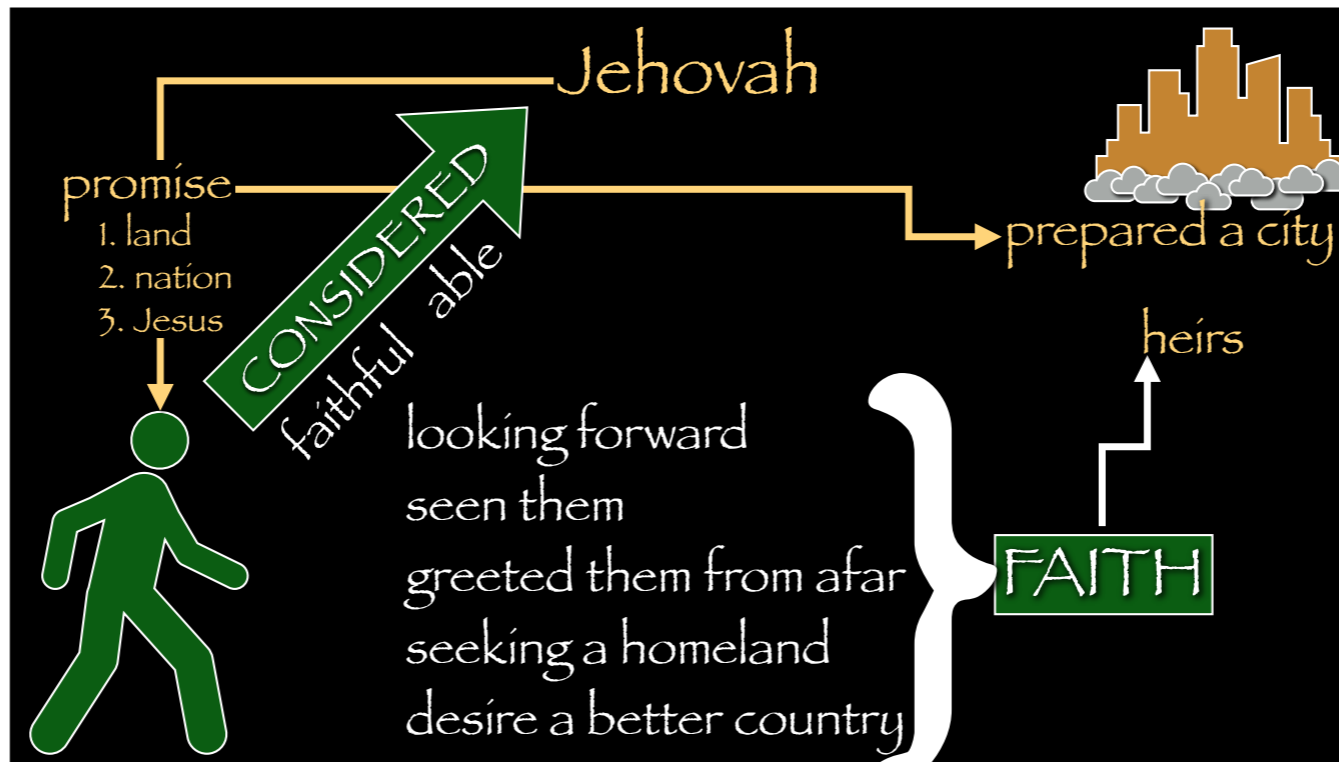
- Abraham thought carefully about this and the only solution he could conceive is that God would raise Isaac from the dead
  - As far as we know in the scriptures, that has happened yet. Never been seen before.
- What had Abraham seen?
  - God brought them to the promised land safely.
  - Took care of them in Egypt
  - Provided for them in the land.
  - Victory in battle against kings
- So God keeps his promises, he must be able to raise the dead.
  - Think noble thoughts of God



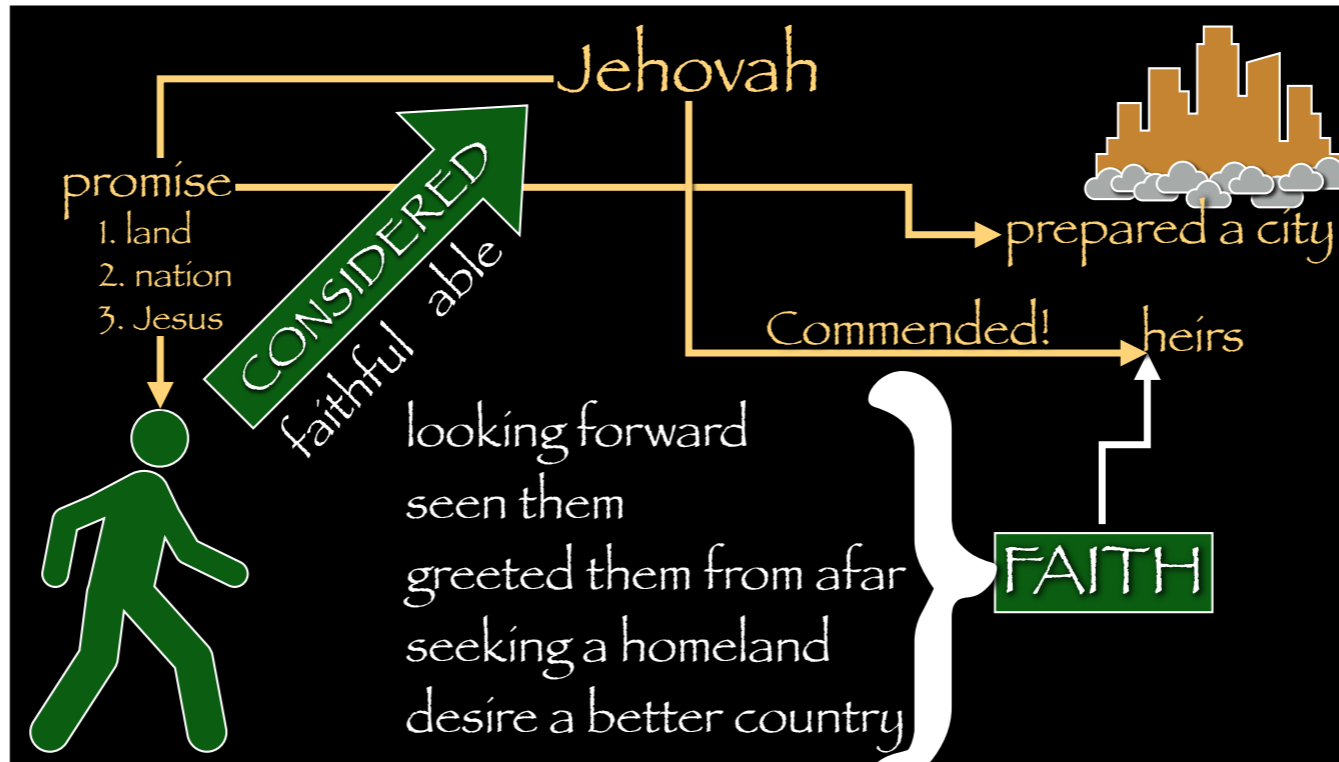
- When they considered who Jehovah is
- And when they lived in hope
- This is faith.



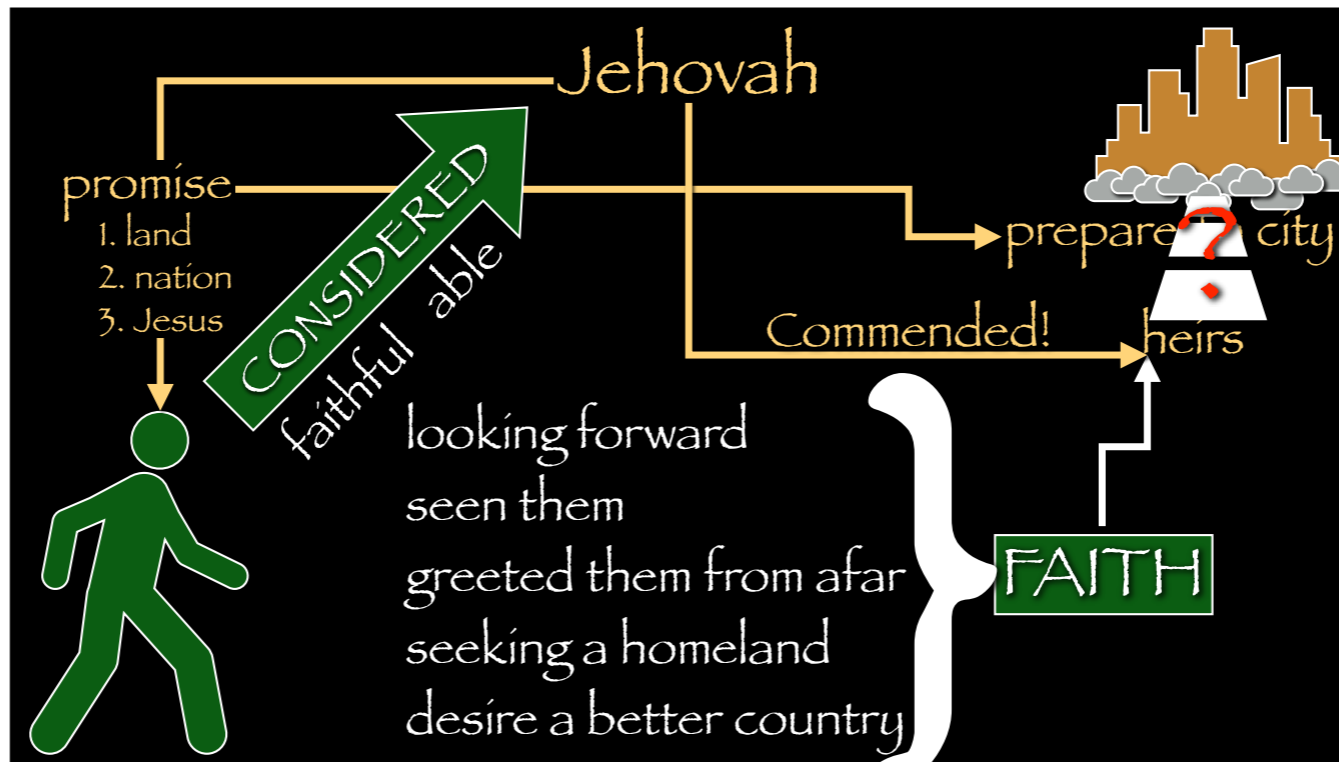
- Hebrews 11:9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.
- Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.



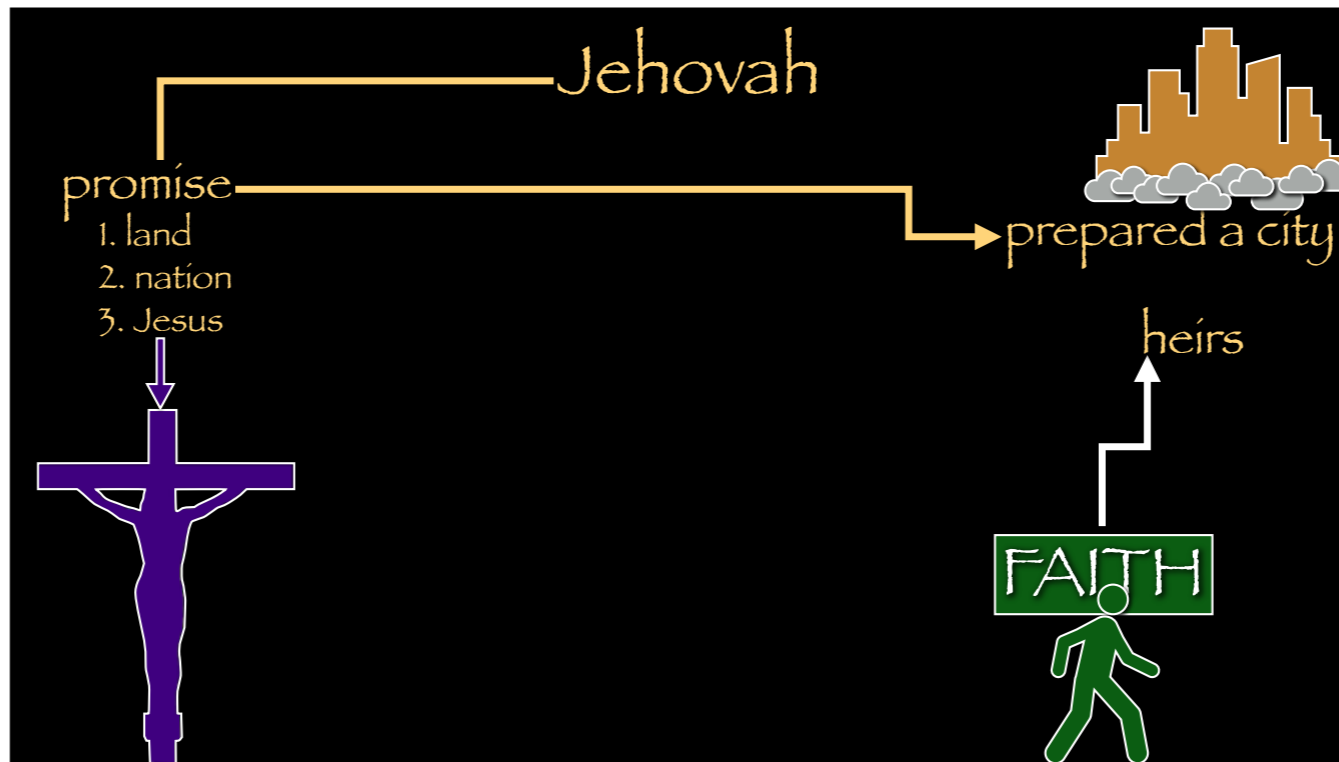
- Romans 8:15-17 (ESV) 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



- Commended
- Hebrews 11:39-40 (ESV) 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.
- Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

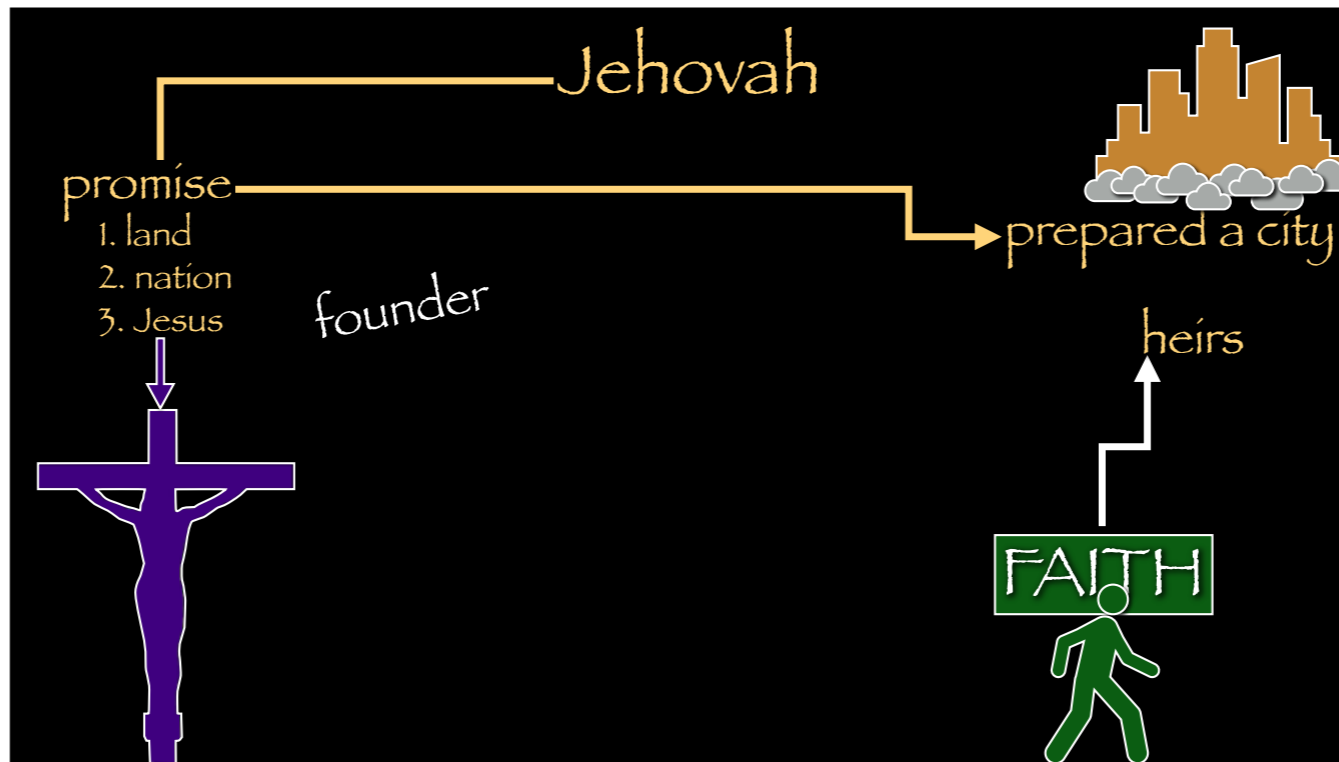


- 13 not having received the things promised,
- 39 did not receive what was promised
- 40 that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

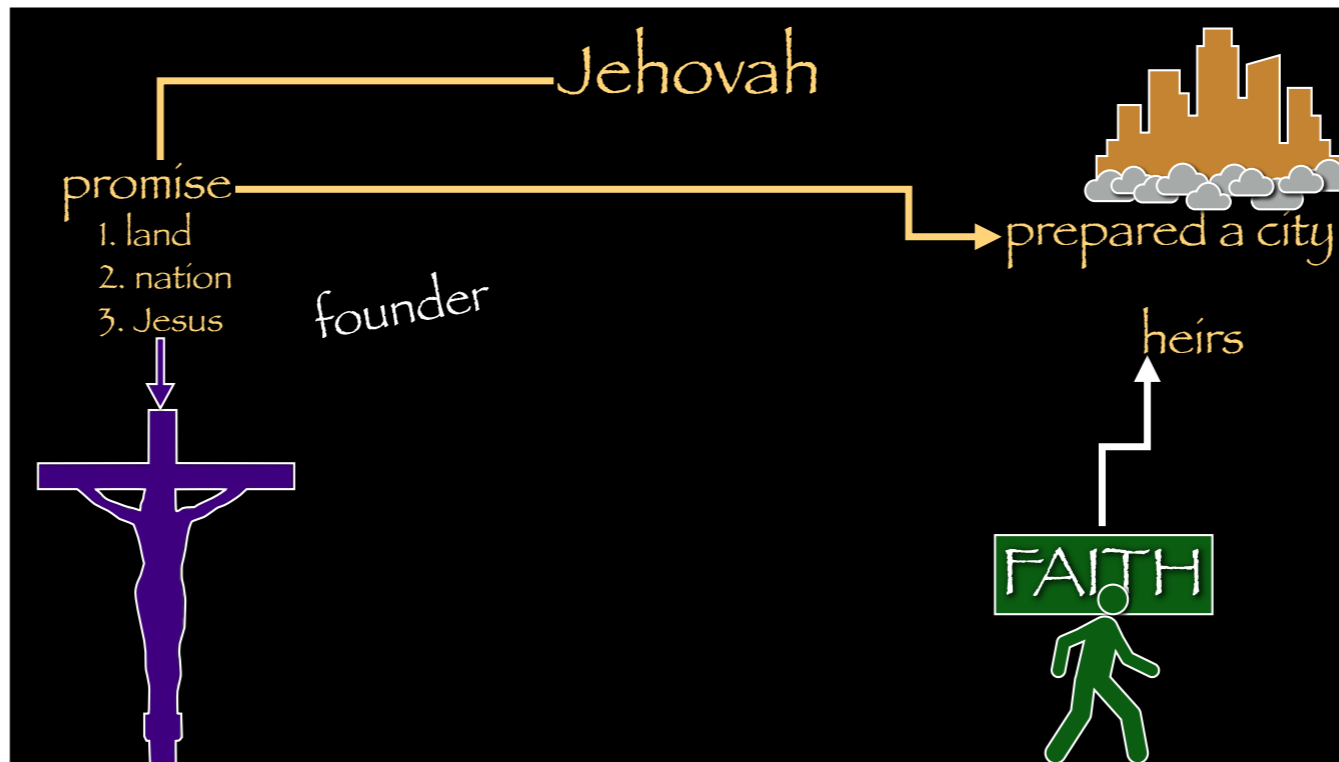


- Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- Jesus is not an addition to this list
  - His role is very different
  - And vital for us to understand



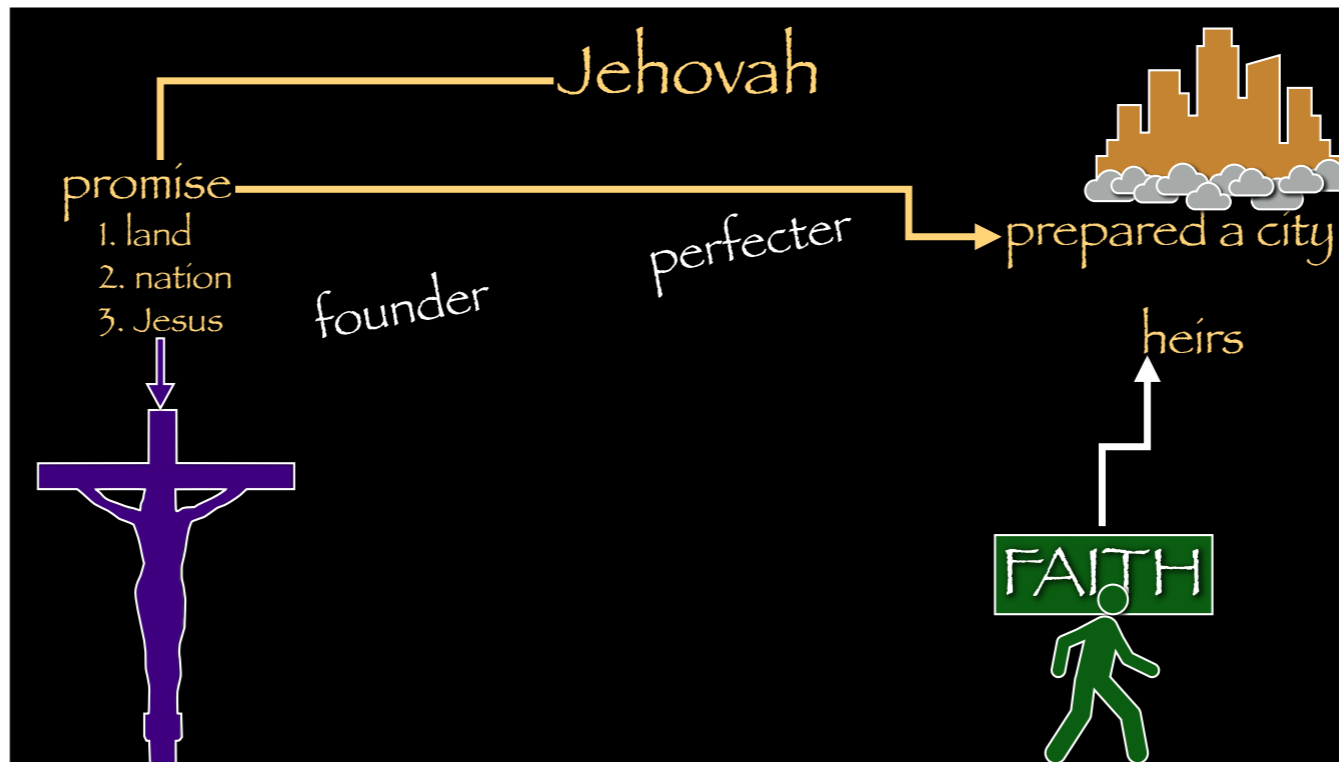


- founder
  - Thayer:
    - the chief leader, prince, of Christ
    - one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer
  - TDNT: both as its founder and as the first example when in his death he practiced his faith in God's love and its overcoming of the barrier of human sin (Heb. 12:2).

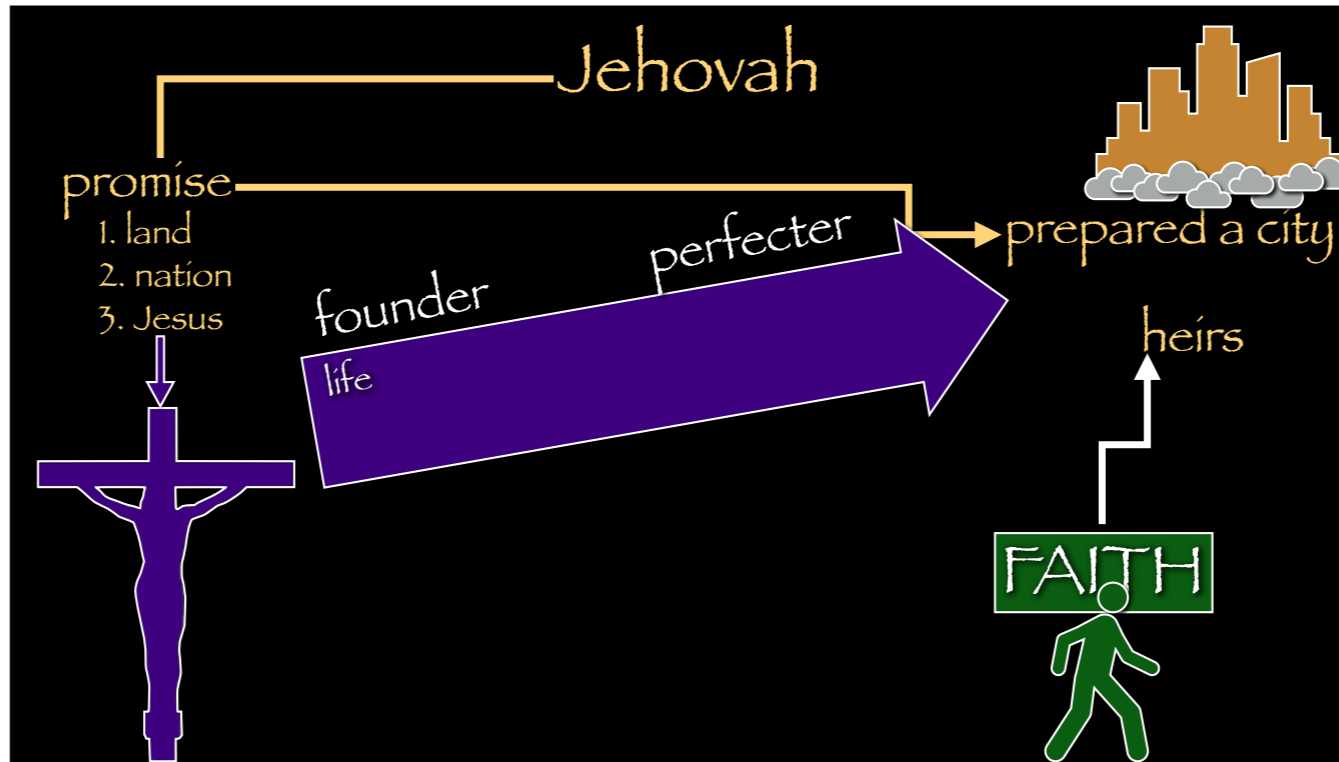


• Vine's dictionary:

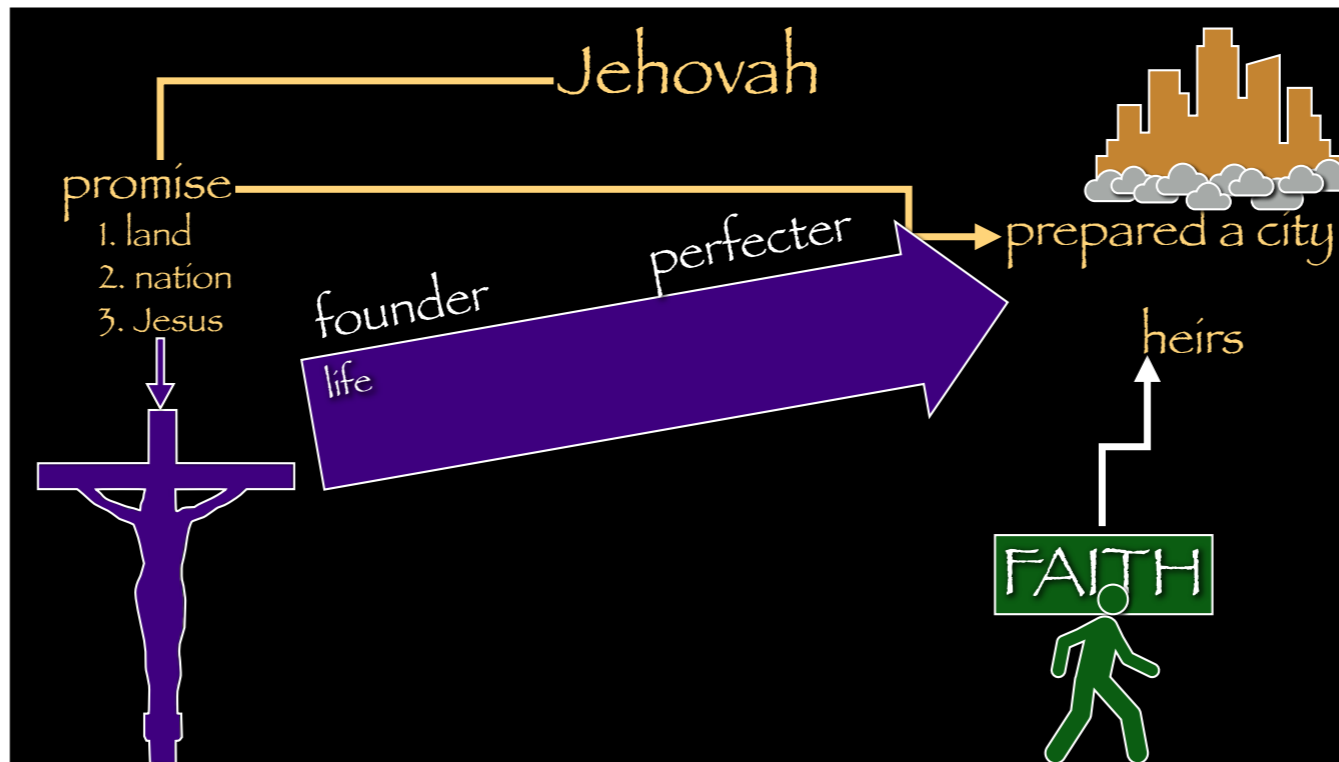
- He is represented as the one who takes precedence in faith and is thus the perfect exemplar of it.
- Christ in the days of His flesh trod undeviatingly the path of faith
- Thus He is the leader of all others who tread that path.



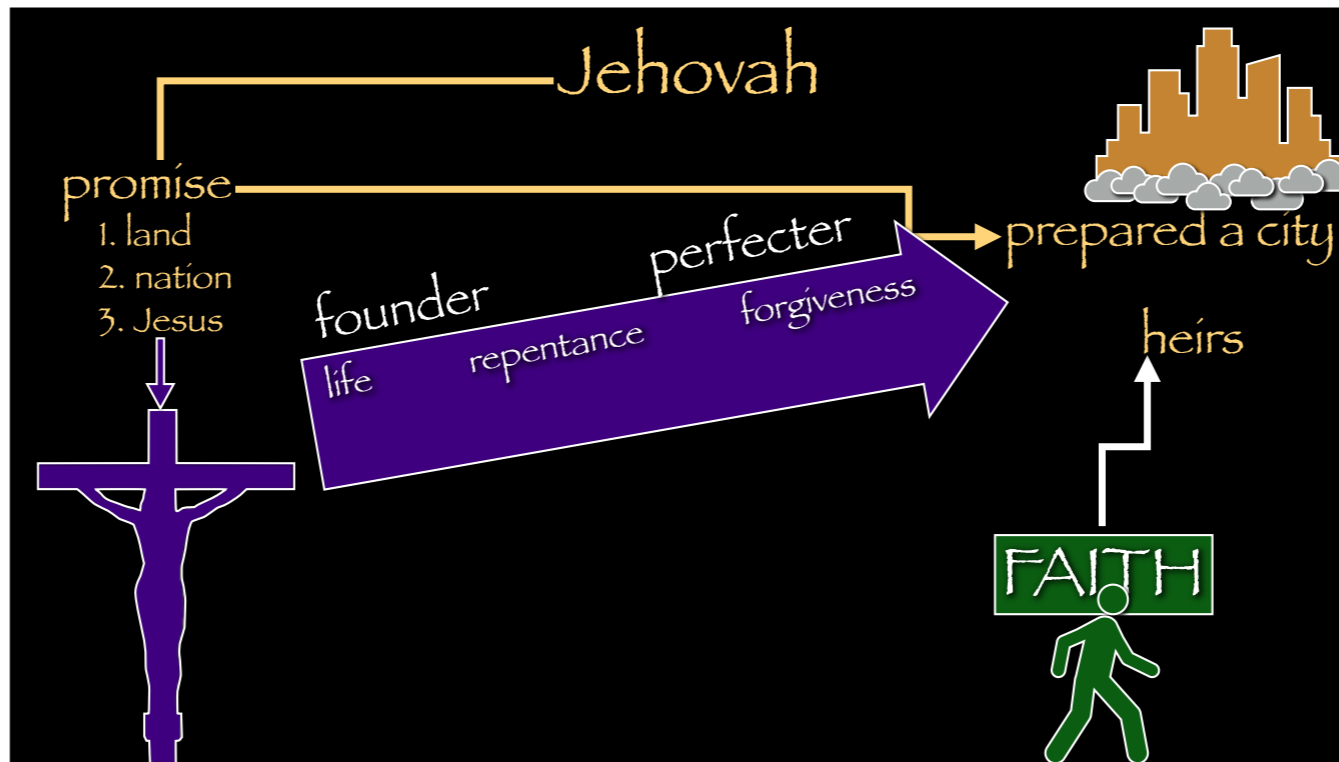
- perfecter
  - CWSB: A completer, perfecter, particularly one who reaches a goal so as to win the prize.
  - TDNT: d. In Heb. 11-12 the use is slightly different.
    - The fathers of faith were not made perfect (11:40) in the sense that they did not yet attain to the heavenly city.
    - But through Christ's saving work they now share in the consummation (12:23).
  - 2. The context supplies the meaning in Heb. 12:2. Jesus gives faith its perfect basis by his high-priestly work and thus completes it. At the same time, he exercises complete faith as demonstrated by his passion. [G. DELLING, VIII, 49-87]



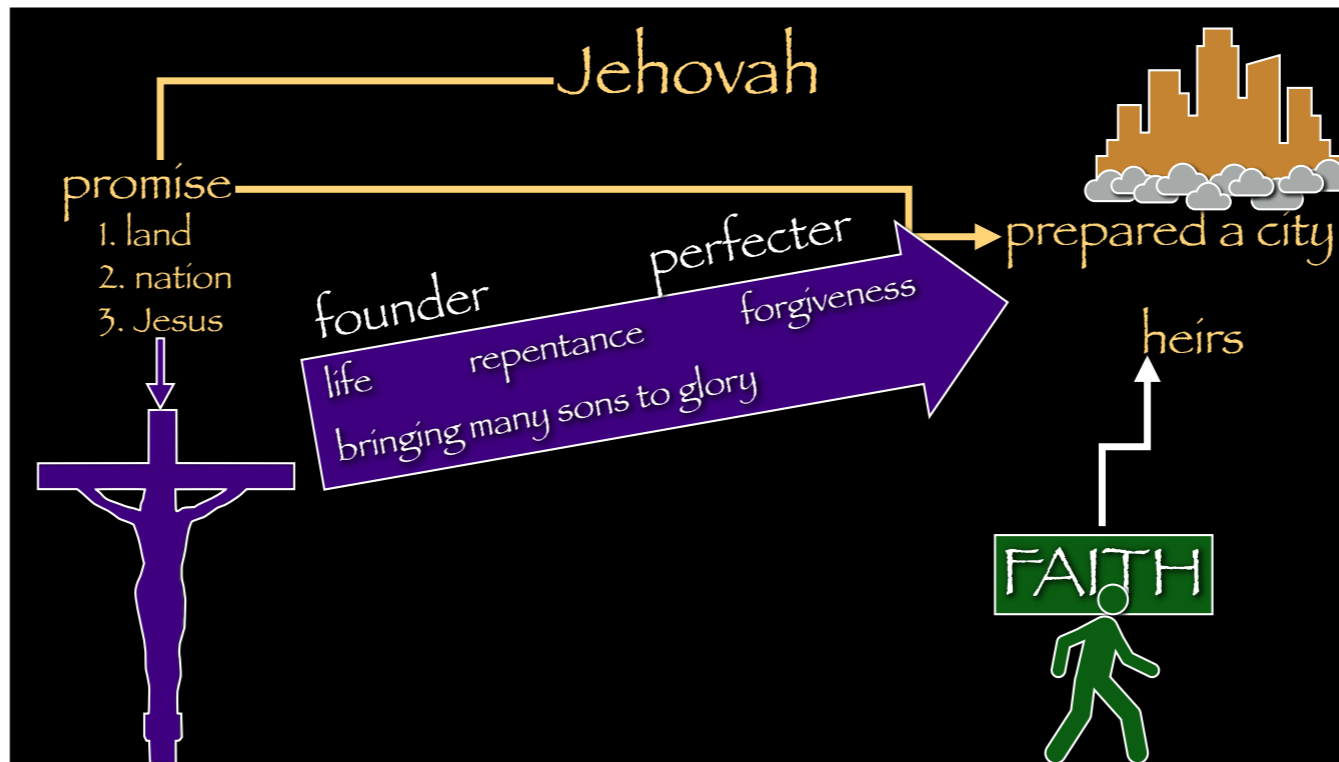
- Three other passages help us understand
- The Author of Life
  - Acts 3:14-15: But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.



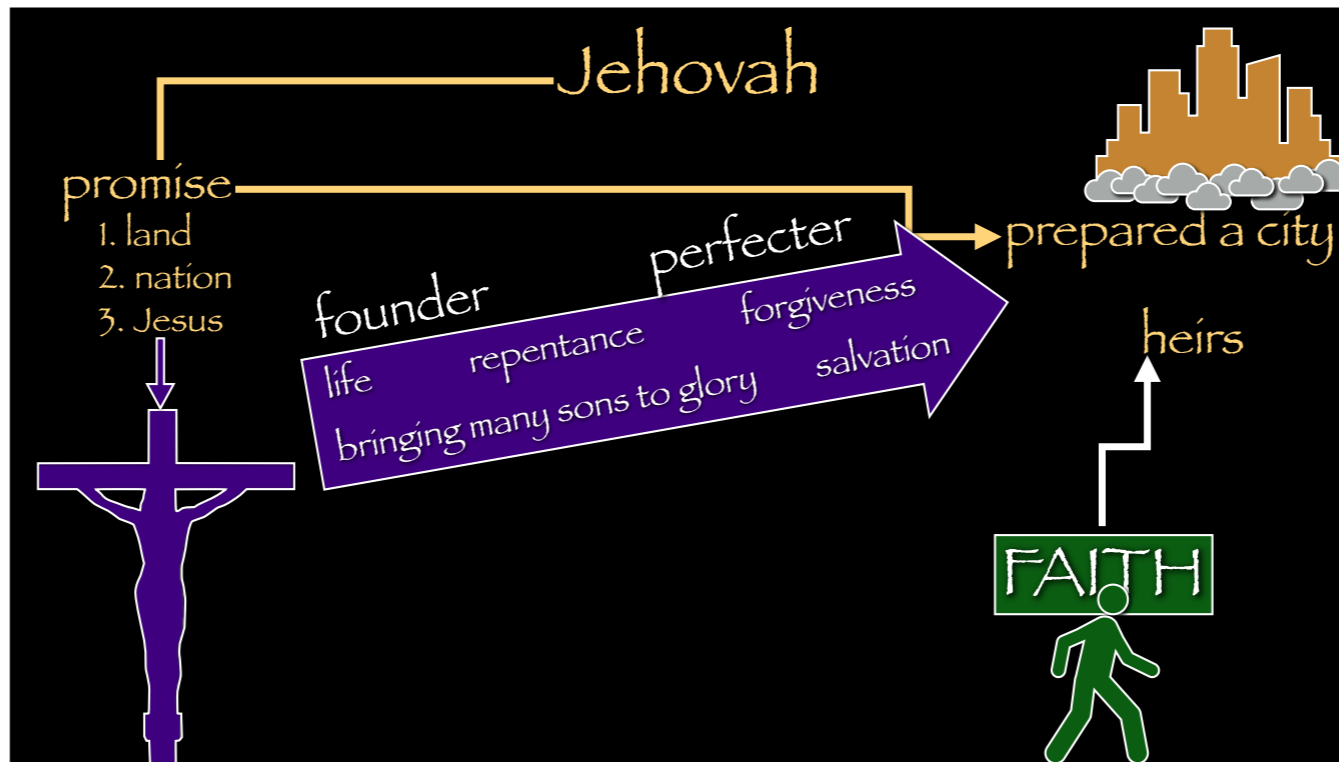
- This can consider a couple of ways
  - One that goes back to Jesus' role in creation: life to creatures and mankind
  - One that looks to the spiritual life we have in him: eternal life.
    - John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.
    - John 10:10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



- Acts 5:31: God exalted him at his right hand as **Leader** and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
  - The scriptures are very clear that it is God who takes the first steps toward reconciliation.
  - His love sought our salvation

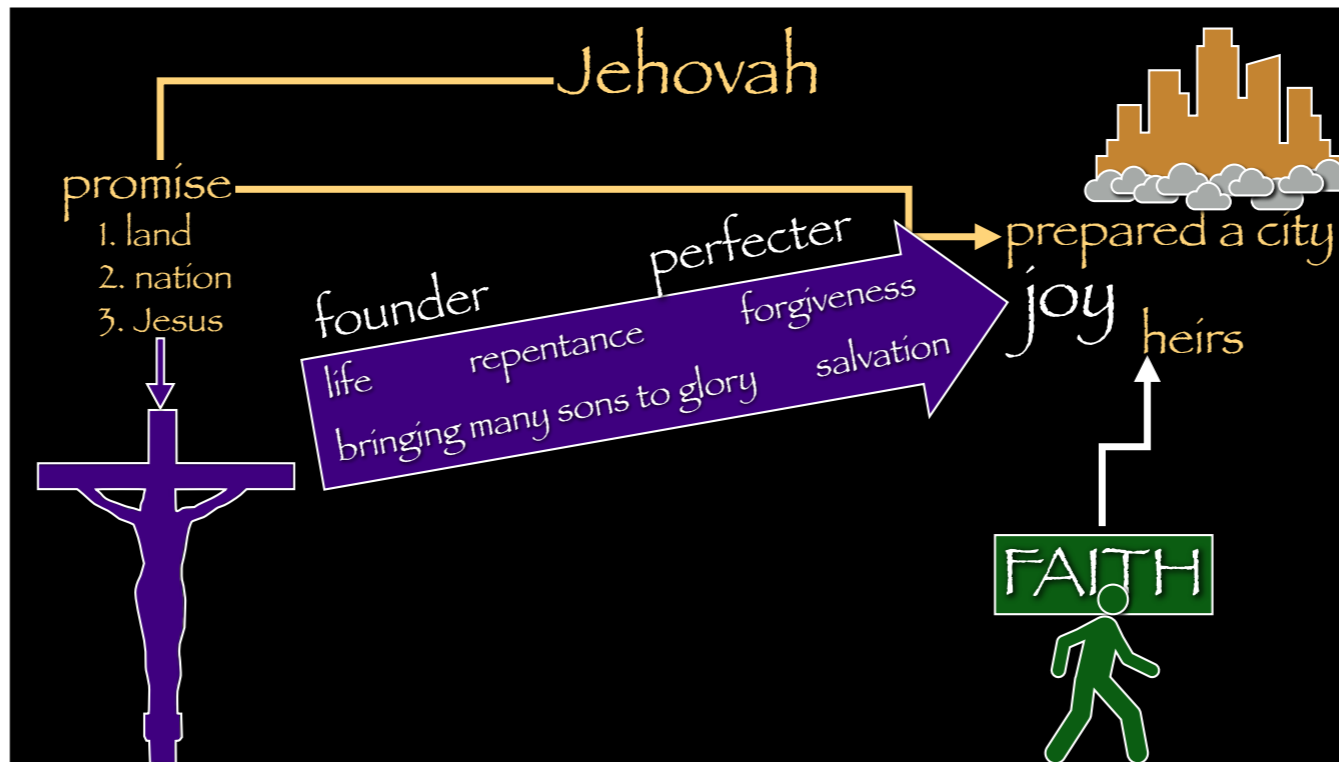


- Hebrews 2:10: For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make **the founder of their salvation** perfect through suffering.
- The whole point of this was bringing us to glory!
  - To be with him eternally, but also to be like him: glorious

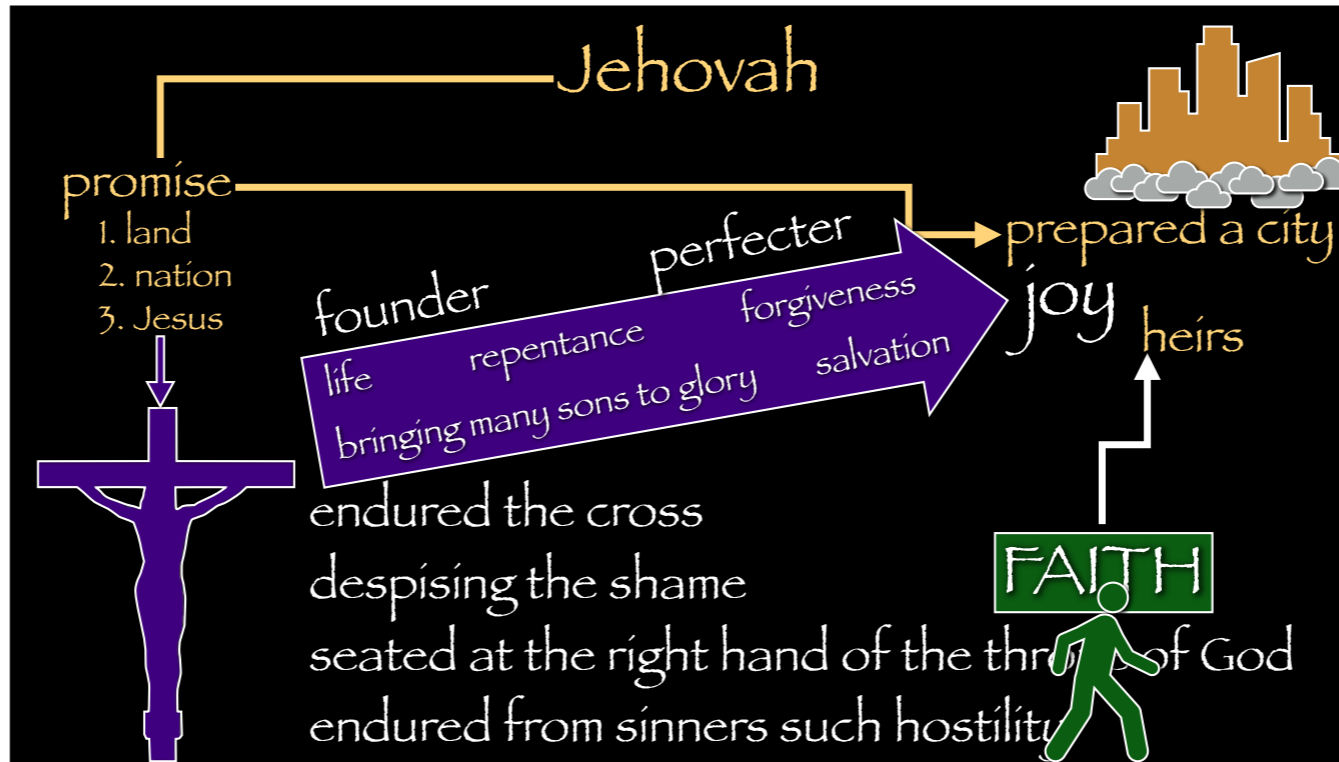


- Hebrews 2:10: For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.
- So he is the founder or leads to our salvation
- Through suffering (death on the cross is the simplest explanation) he completed our way to glory.
  - More on the suffering momentarily — really important point in our text.

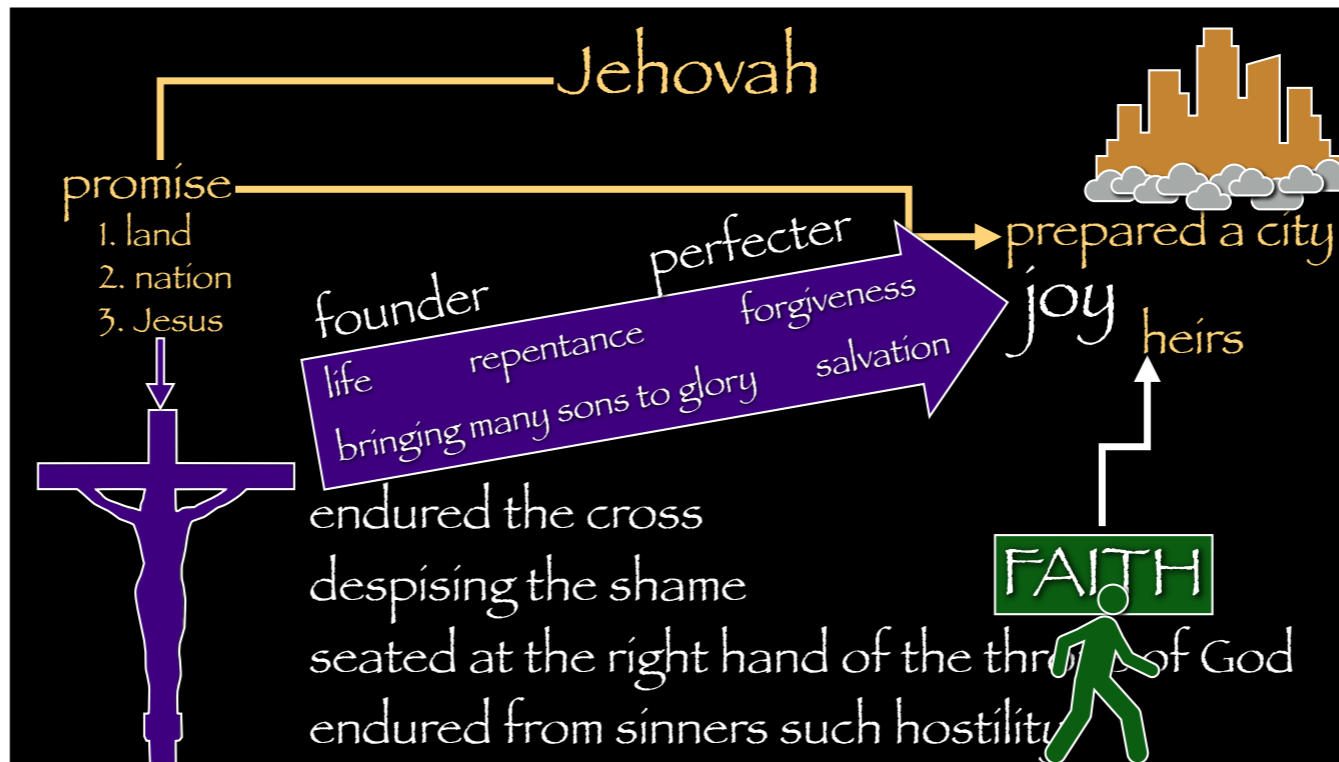




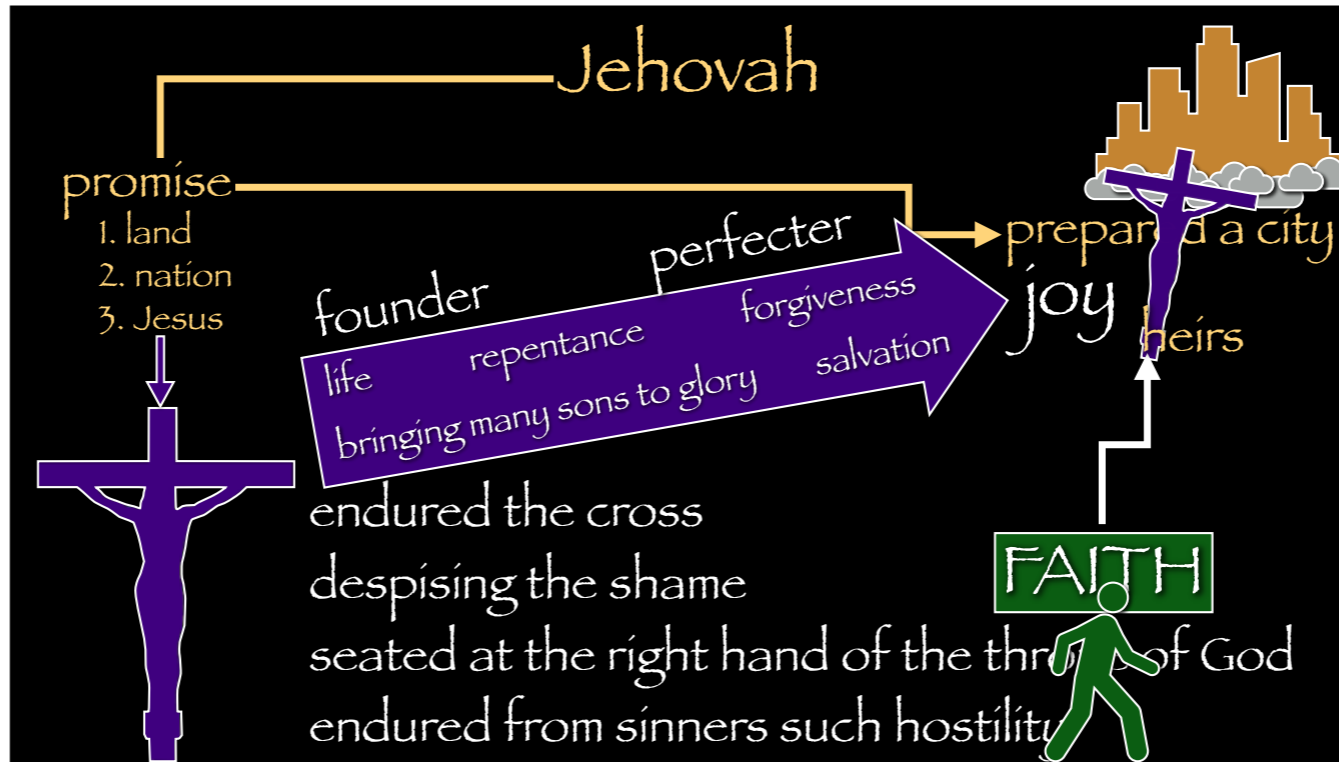
- 2 who for the joy that was set before him
  - What is this joy?
    - No longer suffering on this earth?
    - Going back to be with the father?
    - ALSO: Bringing many sons to glory!!!



- Hebrews 12:2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- Hebrews 12:3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.



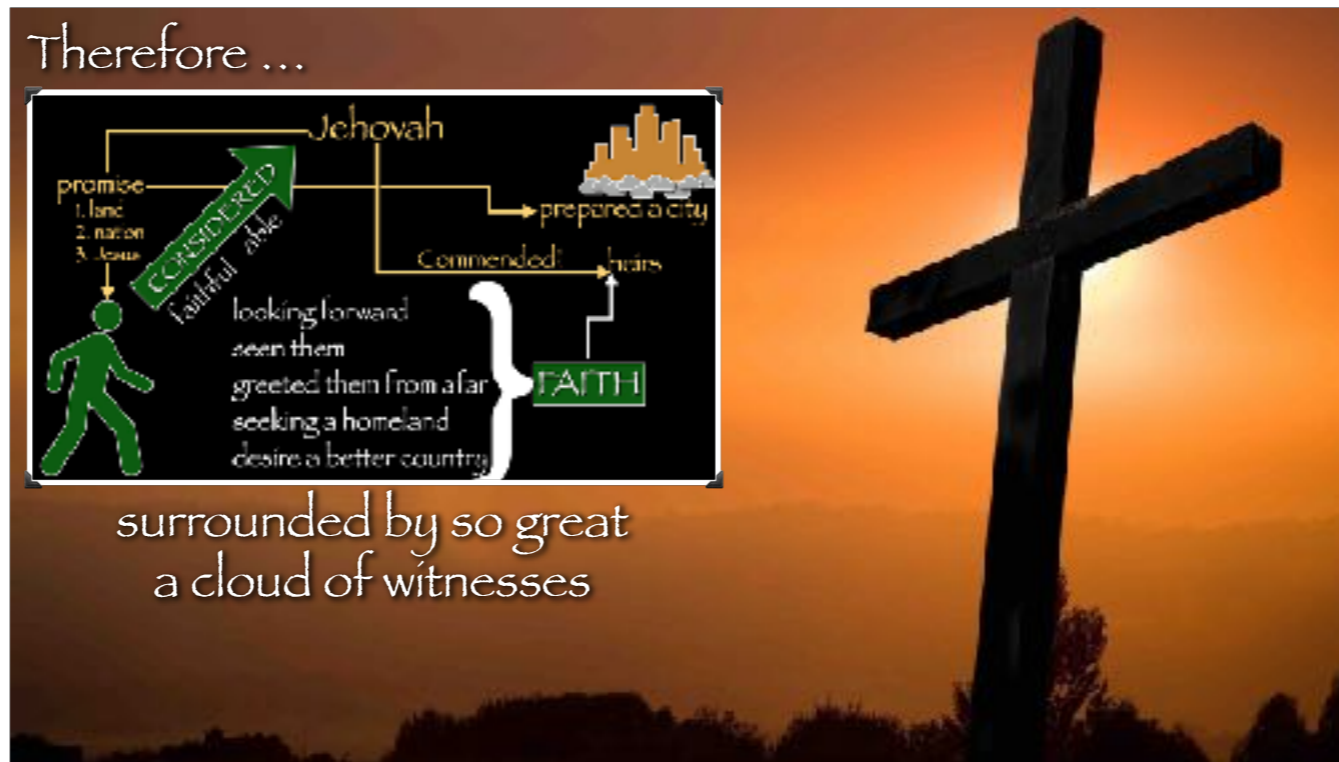
- How was Jesus able, and how willing, to endure these things?
  - Never think for a moment that going to the cross was an easy thing for our Lord
  - Physically, emotionally, spiritually
  - Just as Abraham and others of faith:
    - he looked beyond the struggles of this world and this life
    - he endured
    - he kept going



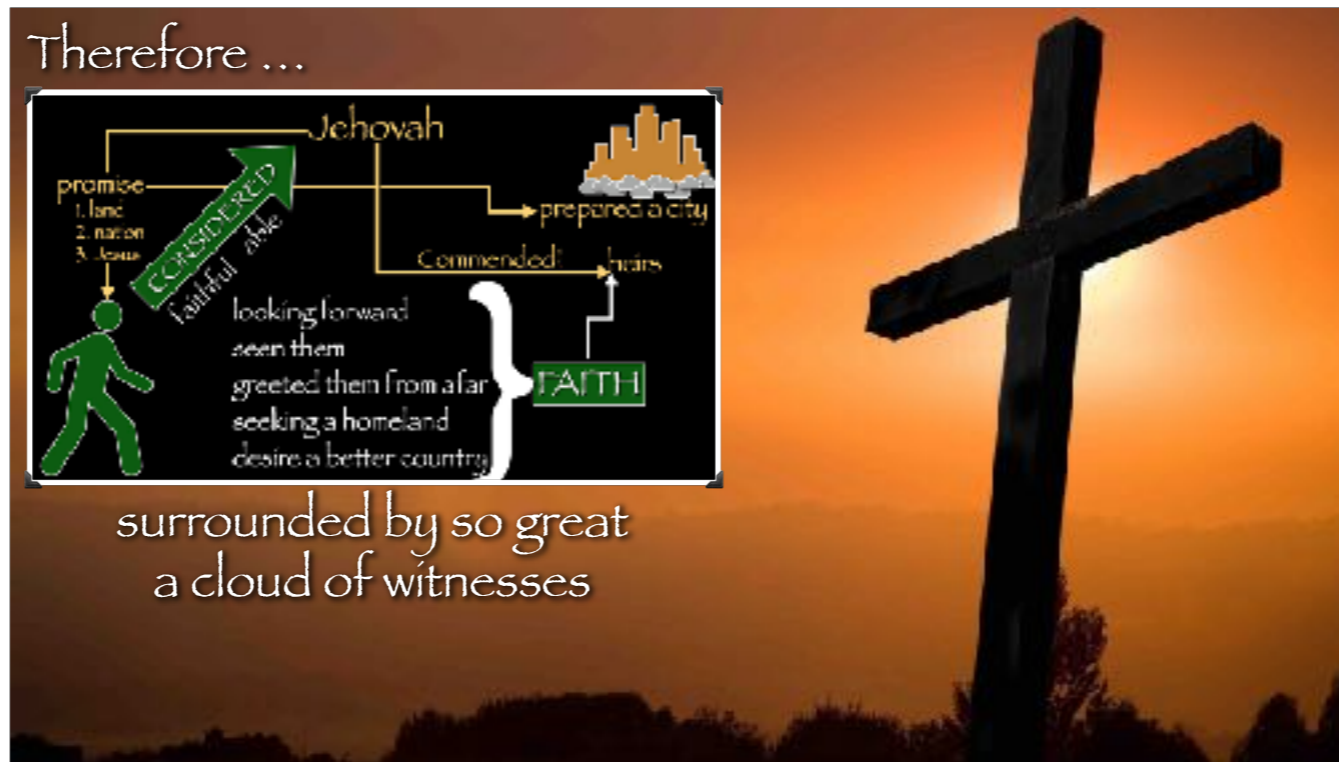
- So Jesus became the “bridge” between our faith and getting to the city God has prepared.
- Through Him, we can be glorious like him.



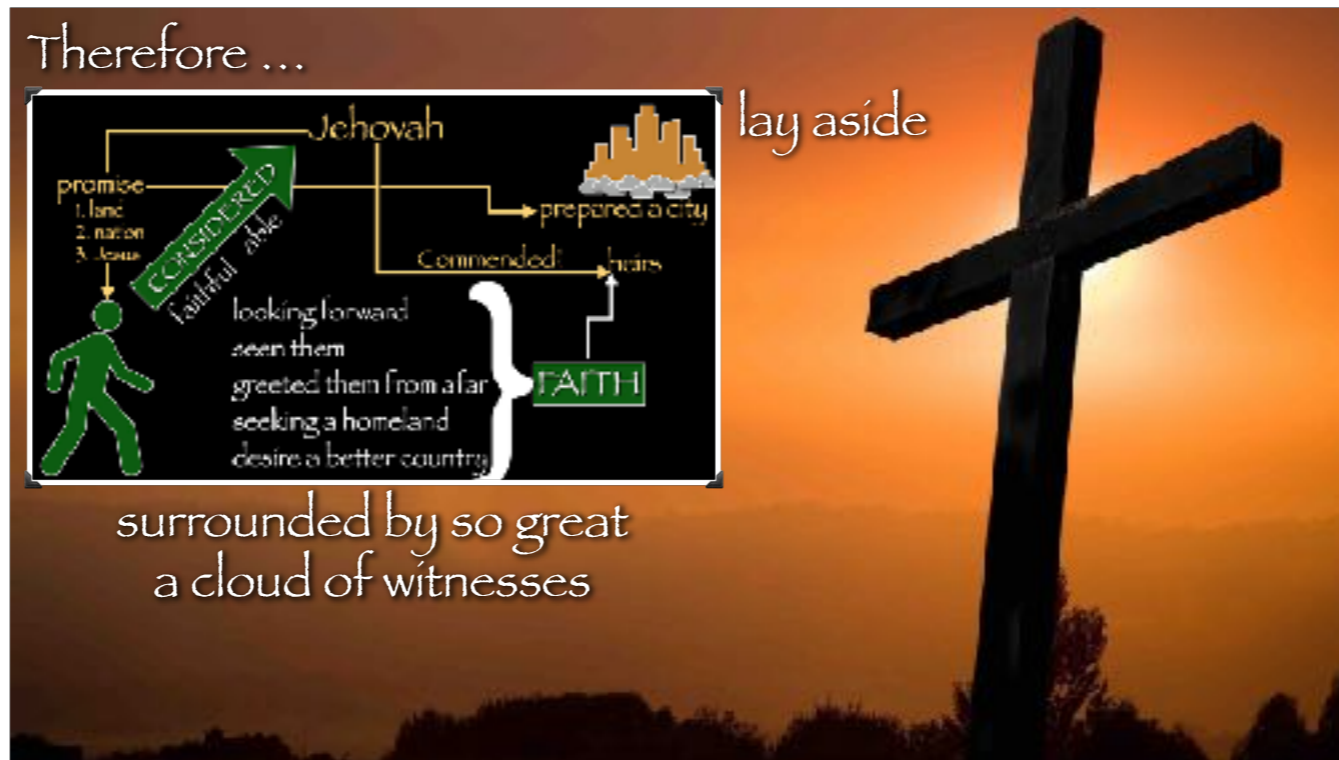
- Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,



- we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
  - This has often been explained as all the examples of faith being in an arena, up in the stands, cheering us on in our faith.
    - (They aren't watching us... we're supposed to watch them!)
  - More likely the "witnesses" are intended to be seen examples of what faith is
    - They testify to us of the nature of faith and the commendation of God

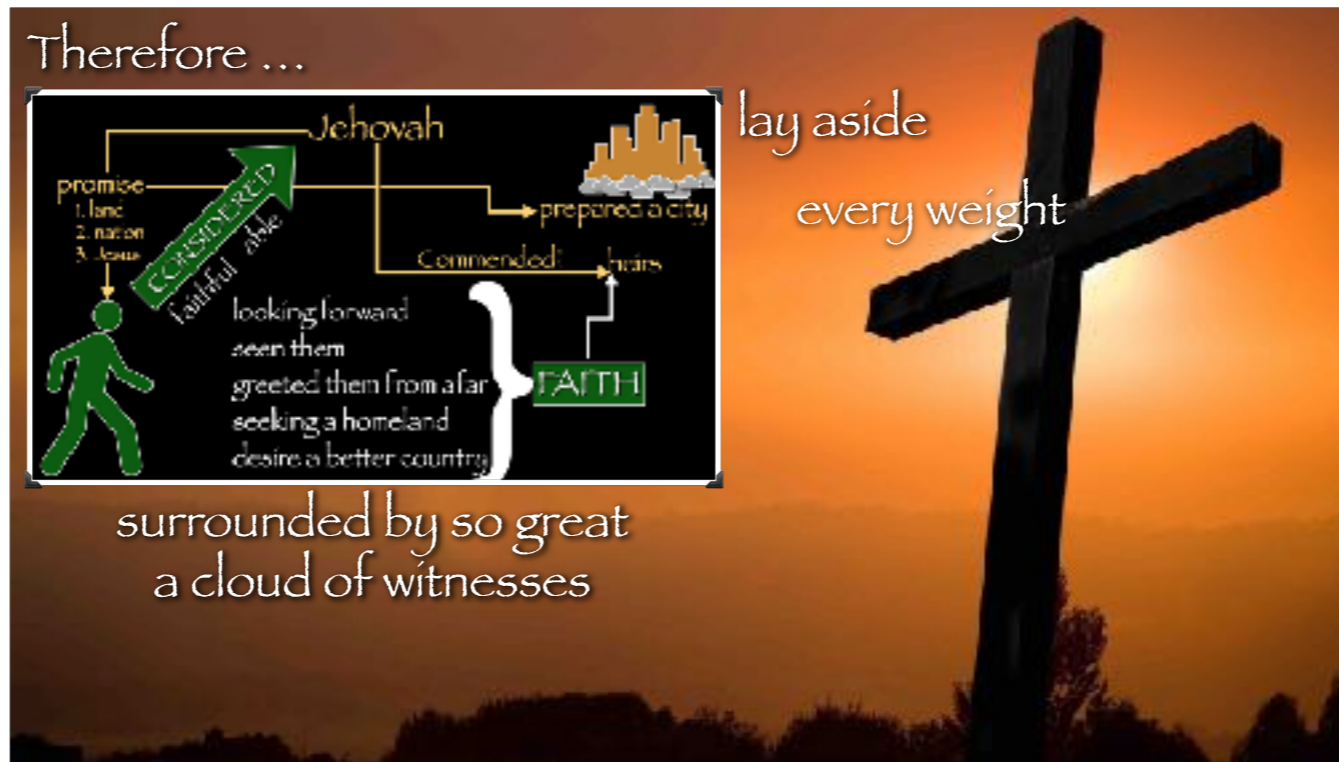


- What lessons are we to learn from the testimony of these people of faith?
  - these lessons are not all obvious, easily drawn. So I'm thankful for the help of the author
    - Generally we've drawn a different application than is given by author (it's not wrong, but there's more)
      - Faith requires obedience
  - as is often the case they are easier to say than do
    - because we struggle with fulfilling our desires
    - and sometimes all the spiritual things feel a very long way off
    - and we get focused on all the everyday stuff



- lay aside
  - NET: “get rid of”
  - NIV: “throw off”
- Faith requires letting go of some things
  - Back to Abraham:
    - Rich, family, living in a major city, worshipped other gods
      - Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.
    - Rich, living as a foreigner, tents, no land of his own





- “every weight and sin” is often understood as referring to one thing — sin.
  - I’m choosing to understand this as two different things
- weight
  - There are things in our life that are not sinful, but can keep us from pursuing God with all our heart, soul, and mind.
  - Family, career, wealth

Therefore ...

lay aside  
every weight

surrounded by so great  
a cloud of witnesses

- We have responsibilities in these areas, but we can't let them hinder us from following God
  - often we put trust in these things instead of God
  - Or we allow our responsibilities to be an excuse to neglect God
- I think these are particularly dangerous because they aren't specified as sinful, and they are easy to rationalize.

Therefore ...

The diagram shows a person walking towards a city. Above the person, a green arrow points right with the word 'CONSIDERED' written vertically. To the left of the person, the text reads 'promise 1. land 2. nation 3. Jesus'. Above the person, the name 'Jehovah' is written. To the right of the person, the text reads 'looking forward seen them greeted them from a far seeking a homeland desire a better country'. Above the city, the text reads 'prepared a city'. Below the city, the text reads 'Commended: heirs'. A green box with the word 'FAITH' is positioned below the person's path.

lay aside every weight sin which clings so closely

surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

• sin which clings so closely

- James 1:14-15 (ESV) 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by **his own desire**. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV) 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Therefore ...

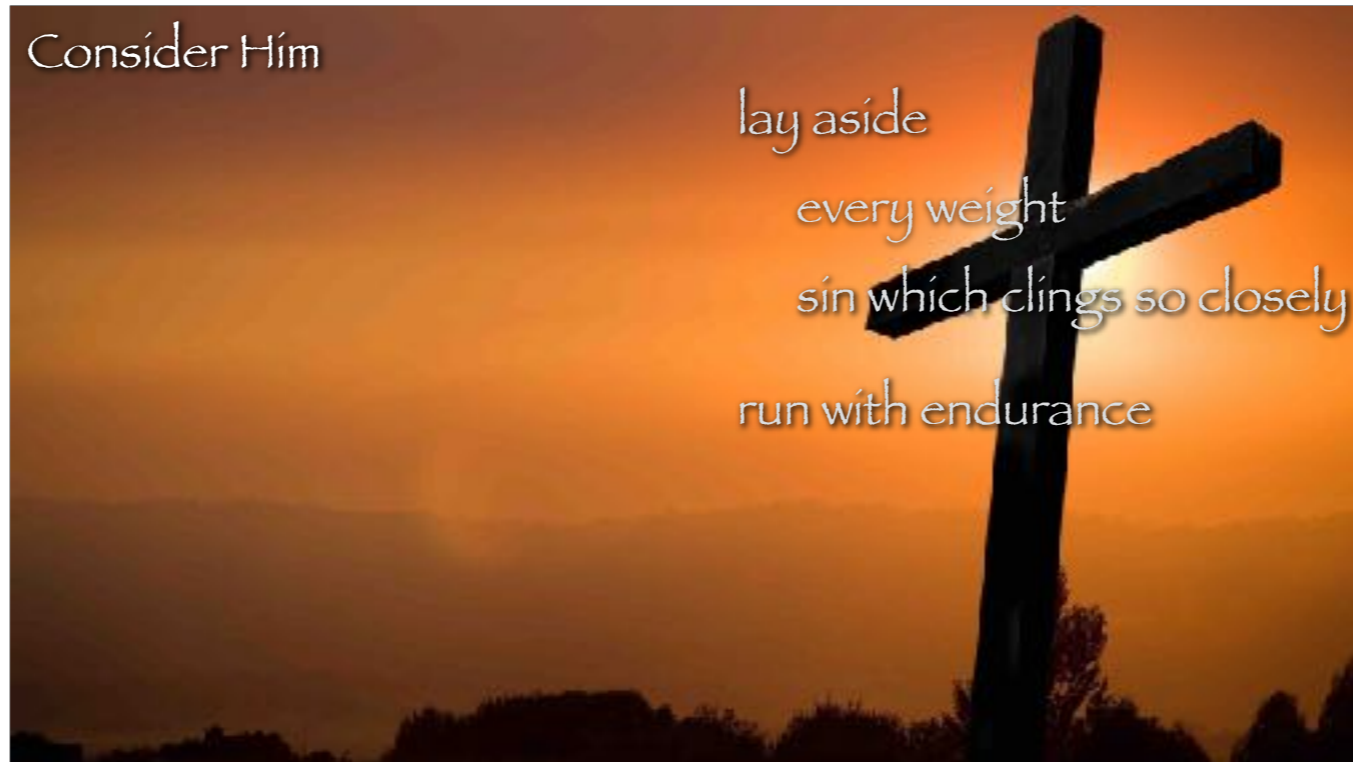
The diagram shows a person walking towards a city. Above the person, a green arrow points right with the word 'CREDENTIALS' written vertically. To the left of the person, the text 'promise' is followed by a list: '1. land', '2. nation', '3. Jesus'. Above the person, the name 'Jehovah' is written. To the right of the person, the text 'looking forward', 'seen them', 'greeted them from a far', 'seeking a homeland', and 'desire a better country' is written. To the right of the person, a green box contains the word 'FAITH'. Above the city, the text 'prepared a city' is written. To the right of the city, the text 'Commended: heirs' is written.

lay aside  
every weight  
sin which clings so closely  
run with endurance

surrounded by so great  
a cloud of witnesses

- run with endurance

- steadfastness, constancy, endurance
- Romans 5:1-5 (ESV) 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- Hebrews 10:36 (ESV) 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.



- Lessons from Jesus now ...
- Hebrews 12:3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
- Consider: think over, consider, ponder

Consider Him

Jehovah

promise  
1. land  
2. nation  
3. Jesus

founder  
the  
integrity from to glory

perfecter  
in  
savior

preparation a city  
joy  
stairs

endured the cross  
despising the shame  
seated at the right hand of the throne of God  
endured from sinners such hostility

FAITH

lay aside  
every weight  
sin which clings so closely  
run with endurance

endured from sinners  
such hostility

- endured from sinners such hostility
  - John 7:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.
  - John 15:18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
- No matter what Jesus did: teaching that amazed, healings, compassion, feeding
  - constantly tested, ridiculed, questioned
  - tried to kill
  - persecuted, tortured and killed



Consider Him

The diagram 'Consider Him' features a central cross on the left and a city on the right. A yellow line connects 'Jehovah' to the cross. A purple arrow labeled 'founder' points from the cross to the city, with 'perfecter' written above it. The arrow also contains the text 'the joy set before him' and 'endured the cross despising the shame seated at the right hand of the throne of God endured from sinners such hostility'. A green box labeled 'FAITH' is positioned below the arrow. To the right of the city, the text 'lay aside every weight sin which clings so closely run with endurance' is written. The background of the entire slide is a sunset with a large black cross silhouette.

promise  
1. land  
2. nation  
3. Jesus

Jehovah

founder

perfecter

the joy set before him

endured the cross  
despising the shame  
seated at the right hand of the throne of God  
endured from sinners such hostility

FAITH

lay aside  
every weight  
sin which clings so closely  
run with endurance

endured from sinners  
such hostility

- Hebrew writer is reminding us that even Jesus:
  - the founder and perfecter of our faith
  - he faced hatred and persecution and death
    - So we shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that our lives as disciples will be easy
- How did Jesus endure this hostility?
  - The joy set before him!

Consider Him

Jehovah

promise  
1. land  
2. nation  
3. Jesus

founder  
the  
endured the cross  
despising the shame  
seated at the right hand of the throne of God  
endured from sinners such hostility

perfecter  
joy  
praise

prepare a city  
praise

FAITH

lay aside  
every weight  
sin which clings so closely  
run with endurance  
you may not

endured from sinners  
such hostility

- you may not ...
  - When we think about Jesus what lessons do we learn?



Consider Him

Jehovah

promise  
1. land  
2. nation  
3. Jesus

founder

perfecter

prepare a city

joy

FAITH

endured the cross  
despising the shame  
seated at the right hand of the throne of God  
endured from sinners such hostility

lay aside  
every weight  
sin which clings so closely  
run with endurance  
you may not  
grow weary

endured from sinners  
such hostility

- don't grow weary
  - weary from constant work
- Jesus and the disciples are mentioned as having been tired
  - Even when they tried to get some rest, crowds followed ... and they worked more
  - Jesus would spend time in prayer
  - All day worship, all night healing
- It's not just possible to be tired of walking the walk ... it's constant and there's no break.
  - At home, at work, at school
  - Morning, noon, night
  - Keep on being a disciple, shining light
  - Enduring through hatred, being dismissed, and ridiculed

Consider Him

Jehovah

promise  
1. land  
2. nation  
3. Jesus

founder  
the  
integrity may come to glory

perfecter  
in patience  
in hope

preparation a city  
joy  
trials

endured the cross  
despising the shame  
seated at the right hand of the throne of God  
endured from sinners such hostility

FAITH

lay aside  
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sin which clings so closely  
run with endurance  
you may not  
grow weary  
fainthearted

endured from sinners  
such hostility

- Don't get fainthearted
  - despondent, "small souled"
- Hebrews 10:38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and **if he shrinks back**, my soul has no pleasure in him."
- Losing hope, forgetting the joy, not seeing the end
- Forgetting Jehovah keeps his promises (his timeline is not my timeline (feels too long))



- Your brother provides a way for your salvation ... endure like he did.
  - Bringing many sons to glory!
- Faith leads to God's commendation!



- Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV) 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV) 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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## Consider Him

Hebrews 11:1 - 12:3

Synopsis: The Hebrew writer reminds us of what faith really is. In this lesson we are reminded by looking at the faith of Abraham and Sarah. And also looking to Jesus. They teach us to lay aside what hinders us, and to endure, and not grow weary or despondent. Considering Jesus teaches us to endure and attain glory.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**