

HEBREWS 11:21

1. A faith that believed God's promises & worshipped God in the face of death	K. Jacob's Faith: A Worshipping Faith, 11:21 21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.
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DIVISION IV

THE SUPREME AUTHOR OF FAITH: JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON, 10:19–11:40

K. Jacob's Faith: A Worshipping Faith, 11:21

(11:21) **Introduction:** Jacob never saw the promised land given to Israel. In fact, his family was forced to Egypt because of famine. Yet he continued to worship God, ever believing and passing on God's promise—even as he was dying.

1 (11:21) **Jacob—Faith:** Jacob's faith was a faith that believed God's promises and worshipped Him in the face of death. The story in the Old Testament is as follows:

“And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed. And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. And thy issue, which thou begetteth after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance....And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God who fed me all my life long unto this day, the angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth” (Ge.48:1-6, 13-16).

Note three significant facts.

1. Jacob was dying when this event took place. He had lived a long life upon earth.
2. Jacob blessed both of the sons of Joseph; that is, he passed on the promises of God to them. He gave them an inheritance in the *land of promise* and in the *promised seed*. They had been born in Egypt; nevertheless, he passed the blessing of the promise down through them.
3. Jacob worshipped while he was dying, worshipped leaning upon his staff. The idea is that he was weak and frail, almost bedridden, finding it difficult to walk and move about. But he continued to arise and worship God, believing in the *promised land* and *promised seed* up until the very end.

The point is striking. Here was a man who never saw the promised land given to him. In fact, he saw the reverse. He and his family were forced out of Canaan (Palestine) and into Egypt because of famine. Yet, he continued to worship God, ever believing and passing on God's promises—even up to the very end, the end of death itself.

“Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me” (Ac.27:25).

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (He.11:6).

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone” (Js.2:17).

“The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate” (Ps.34:22).

“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed” (Ps.37:3).

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass” (Ps.37:5).

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Pr.3:5).

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength” (Is.26:3-4).