

• Where faith leads...

**1. Faith leads us to obedience assured that God will keep his word**

• The assurance of things hoped for

**2. Faith leads the entire people to obedience assured that God will keep his word**

• What was true of Moses was true for the people

• The first generation of Israel was a nation of believers

• Hebrews' warnings are about continuing faith

Our writer jumps from Moses' decision to leave the palace to the events that took place forty years later, when Moses was eighty years old<sup>1</sup>.

**1. Faith leads us to do as God tells us in the assurance that he will keep his word.** <sup>28</sup>*By faith Moses kept the passover and the sprinkling of blood [on the doorposts], so that the angel destroying the firstborn sons might not touch them.* We remember the story. Moses was eighty years old; he had come to faith more than forty years previously. God was about to judge the entire land of Egypt, including Goshen where the people of Israel were living. God told Moses to take the blood of a lamb and put it on the doorposts and the top of the door so that blood was painted all around the doorway<sup>1</sup>. Those firstborn sons who sheltered under the blood of the lamb would be safe amidst judgement. It was Moses' faith that led to his obedience. He knew that God would keep his word. He utterly committed himself to what he knew – with total assurance – was about to happen. He had no doubts about the future. His faith was the assurance of things hoped for, and led him to totally obey God. Obedience arose in the life of Moses as the result of his assurance of faith.

**2. Faith leads the entire people of God to do as God tells them in the assurance that he will keep his word.** The same principle that is visible in the case of Moses was also obvious in the entire people of God at the time of the Passover. <sup>29</sup>*By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were travelling on dry land. The Egyptians when they tried to see if they could do it were drowned.* What was true of Moses was true of the people. For a short time the entire people of God had faith in what God was promising them. They march to the Red Sea in the confidence that God's word to them through Moses was totally trustworthy. We must take note of a very important matter here. The first generation of Israel was a nation of believers. It is only in the second generation that it can be said, 'Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel'<sup>1</sup>. This is very important in the understanding of the warnings of Hebrews. The warnings against unbelief are not warning about anyone's first faith<sup>2</sup>. Israel were heroes and heroines of faith to begin with! The warnings of Hebrews are about what is lost when there is no continuance of faith. First faith is faith in the blood of the lamb and it delivers us from Egyptian bondage and we never go back to it! Persistent faith brings us into Canaan and it may or may not be gained according to whether we have faith and patience. The people who were models of faith in the first instance are notorious for unbelief in the second phase of their life. 'The Lord after he had once for ever saved a people out of Egypt, in the second phase destroyed those who did not believe'<sup>3</sup>. For a short time the entire people had faith. That initial faith in the blood of the lamb saved them and made them to be God's people. Then their faith led them to do as God told them. They

<sup>1</sup> Exodus 7:7

<sup>1</sup> Exodus 12:7

<sup>1</sup> Romans 9:6

<sup>2</sup> see Hebrews 3:14

<sup>3</sup> Jude 5

• *Their continuing faith and obedience – something the Egyptians did not have – led to successfully crossing the sea*

**3. By faith dramatic victories are sometimes won**

• *In response to God's word with no visible signs*

**4. A new convert might be able to do great things for God – by faith**

• *Rahab – a new convert*

left Egypt as Moses had once left Egypt. True their faith very speedily became quite wobbly (we remember Exodus 14:11–12!). Nevertheless ‘the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea’ and it became dry ground as they did so. ‘The waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left’<sup>30</sup>. It was only by faith. The Egyptians did not have a word from God. They were not believing what God had said. Without faith they could not do what the Israelites had just done.

**3. By faith dramatic victories are sometimes won.** Forty years after the Exodus, Joshua led the people into the promised land. They had been kept out of it for forty years, because their faith had lapsed so badly and persistently. But now a new opportunity for faith arose with a new generation. <sup>30</sup>*By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.* The principles that are now familiar to us are all visible here. Faith was responding to a word from God. It involved marching round Jericho with no **visible** sign as to what would happen. But by persistence in believing God, the walls fell. Not all their victories were as dramatic as this. But when led into mighty events, mighty things can be done – by faith.

**4. A new convert might be able to do great things for God – by faith.** Our writer's next example is Rahab. She did something that made her a heroine of faith very soon after she had come to faith and before she had joined the people of God. <sup>31</sup>*By faith Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.* Rahab was only recently out of her sins (she was still being called a prostitute). She was a new convert. But her faith led her to act for God, to side with the people of God, and to achieve the greatest event of her life. It just goes to show that a new convert may achieve great things for God in the very earliest days of faith.

<sup>30</sup> Exodus 14:22



Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His *Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)* books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.



*These specially reformatted chapters "Slices of Bread" produced by Sovereign World Trust are available in three categories as set out below*

Slices for the Nations	Slices for Sponsors	Slices for Everyone / Slice of the Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For pastors, libraries and colleges in those parts of the world <b>where resources are scarce and unaffordable</b></li> <li>In the fullness of time the whole series will be made available <b>free of charge</b></li> <li>Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or available to download from the <i>Slices</i> web site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For those in more prosperous circumstances who <b>can afford to contribute to the development</b> of this material and its distribution with a <b>small monthly donation</b></li> <li>The same material as <b>Slices for the Nations</b></li> <li>Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or by download from the <i>Slices</i> web site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For those who wish to <b>sample</b> the material or dip into it from time to time, a <b>proportion</b> of the PTTB series is available <b>free of charge</b></li> <li><b>Slices for Everyone</b> (as a download) or <b>Slice of the Week</b> (attached to a weekly email)</li> <li>The remainder of the PTTB material is available to Sponsors and those eligible to receive <b>Slices for the Nations</b></li> </ul>

To subscribe please contact: [slicesofbread@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk](mailto:slicesofbread@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk) stating which category fits your situation. Further details are at [www.slices.org.uk](http://www.slices.org.uk)  
 Details of the availability of *Preaching Through The Bible* books and how they may be purchased can be found on [www.ibtr.org.uk](http://www.ibtr.org.uk)