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Hebrews 11:17-22

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his one and only son; ¹⁸ *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED." ¹⁹ He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

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Hebrews 11:17-22

²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

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THE HALL OF FAITH

Unexpected Entries: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

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Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

- Inseparable from Abraham's "resurrection" faith
- Their faith is displayed as they were dying
- They continue the emphasis on faith as living with certainty that God will fulfill His promises

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Faith in the Face of Death

1. Isaac's Blessing of His Sons

- Isaac passed on to Jacob, not Esau, nothing other than the promise God gave to Abraham – "things to come" (Gen. 27:29; 28:3-4)
- Esau serves as a warning of the fate awaiting those who turn away (Heb. 12:16-17)

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Faith in the Face of Death

2. Jacob's Blessing of Joseph's Sons

- he looked beyond death to the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham through the generations (Gen. 48:15-16)
- in his weakness he worshipped – the goal of his faith was in the future promise of God

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Faith in the Face of Death

3. Joseph's Dying Command

- by faith he remembered, trusted in and acted upon the future promise of God (c.f. Gen. 15:13-14)
- he desired to continue to identify with God's people after his death – he will inherit the future God had for them, including the resurrection

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Faith in the Face of Death

➤ Application

- God's promise of resurrection life in Christ and inheritance of the heavenly City will be our only hope and trust in our dying
- Think often of your death in order to live wisely in the present (c.f. Ps. 90:12)

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