**“AND OTHERS . . .”**

**Hebrews 11:35-40**

**Revelation 6:9** “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:”

**INTRODUCTION**

This coming Week we celebrate a very special day on the Christian calendar -

**All Saint’s Day!**

Not Halloween!

A special day,

sort of a “Christian Memorial Day.”

A day we remember those who have suffered and died for their faith.

**I. THE OTHER SIDE OF FAITH vs. 35-37**

1. **Hebrews 11:35,36** “. . . and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance;

that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:”

1. Eleazar, an elderly Jewish scribe tortured by Antiochus Epiphanes, in

the Maccabean period between the Testaments - ***(2 Macc. 6:30)***

Forced to eat swine’s flesh, when refused, beaten to death

2. Seven brothers and their mother also tortured by Antiochus

Epiphanes - ***(2 Macc. 7:9-36)***

Compelled to eat swine’s flesh - all refused -

mocked, tortured and killed:

#1 - Tongue cut out & dismembered, still lived, boiled

in oil

#2 - scalped, cut out tongue & dismembered

#3 - 7 - cut out tongue & dismembered, and some

disemboweled

The mother - Forced to watch oldest to youngest slain, each time was mocked and told to renounce faith and to encourage sons to do the same.

She wouldn’t and each son told her not to bother, they would stay true to God.

Finally she met the same fate.

-- Such events would have been well known by the Hebrew readers

3. Micaiah, the prophet - **1 Ki. 22:24-28**

Imprisoned and tortured for speaking the truth to Zedekiah

4. Jeremiah, the prophet - **Jer. 20:1-3 -** beaten and put in stocks

**37:11-21 -** falsely accused, beaten, cast into prison

**38:1-13 -** falsely accused, beaten, cast into a dungeon

 where he sunk into the muck and mire (sewer)

**B. Some were:**

1. "Stoned" - Zechariah, son of Jehoida the priest

**2 Chronicles 24:20-22** “And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.”

2. "Sawn asunder" - the prophet Isaiah, according to tradition

3. "Tempted" - Daniel, as a youth - **Dan. 1:8-21**

4. "Slain with the sword" - Uriah the prophet

**Jeremiah 26:20-23** “And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah: And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death: but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt; And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, namely, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him into Egypt. And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.”

**Persecution under Mary Tudor (Bloody Mary) -**

Demanded the church return to Catholicism - many ministers refused, lost their churches, fled for their lives.

Many burned at the stake: ie - Hugh Latimer & Nicholas Ridley,

Latimer - “Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle by God’s grace in England as I trust shall never be put out.”

**The Boxer Rebellion in China (early 1900’s)**

Chinese pastor refused to deny Christ -

eyebrows, ears, & lips cut off - still refused - heart cut out.

14 yr. old daughter refused - suffered same fate.

2 Chinese women teachers refused to deny Christ

1’s feet were cut off & then killed w/ sword

The other - wrapped in cotton, soaked w/ kerosene, burned alive - in front of her pupils!

Kept shouting, “Keep the faith!”

City gates were closed so missionaries and Chinese Christians could not escape.

some driven back into homes/churches/clinics & burned alive inside the burning buildings

some were seen kneeling in prayer as flames surrounded them

(**FROM PG. 13,15 & 16 OF “BY THEIR BLOOD”)**

The bloodiest massacre took place in the ancient Shansi provincial capital Taiyuan where the gates of the walled city were closed to prevent the foreigners from escaping. Trapped in their residences were twenty-four adults and nine children, associated with the Baptist Missionary Society of

England, the CIM, and the small Sheo Yang Mission which operated the Schofield Memorial Hospital in a satellite town.

Violence exploded in late June, 1900. Mobs roamed the streets, setting fire to the compounds of the British Baptists and the Sheo Yang group. The missionaries and a group of Chinese believers linked hands and sought refuge in the Baptist boys’ school about a half mile away. After reaching the school, Edith Coombs of the Sheo Yang Mission suddenly realized she had left two Chinese schoolgirls behind, one of whom was very sick. Miss Coombs broke away and ran back to the blazing buildings to rescue them. As they were rushing out, the sick girl stumbled and fell. Miss Coombs bent to lift her and shield her from the brickbats being hurled by the mob. The mob moved in closer, forced them to separate, and drove the missionary back into the house. The mob and the Chinese girls she had tried to rescue last saw her kneeling in the flames.

The remaining thirty-two missionaries and children, along with their loyal Chinese friends, barricaded themselves in the boys’ school. Day and night stones pelted the walls and doors while the group inside waited and prayed behind barricades, hoping for rescue by the provincial governor, Yu-hsien, whose palace was a short distance away.

On July 9, 1900 soldiers arrived and escorted the missionaries to the courtyard of the governor’s palace where they joined twelve Catholic clergy. The missionaries, thinking they would now be saved, saw they were doomed when Yu-hsien stormed out waving his sword and shouting, “Kill Kill!"

The governor announced that the men would die first. George Earthing, one of the English Baptists and the father of three children, stepped forward. His wife clung to him, but he gently put her aside and knelt before the chopping block without a murmur. His head fell with one stroke of the executioner's sword.

The other men were killed one by one, then the women and children. The Farthing children hung on to their mother and had to be pulled away when she was ordered to kneel. Mrs. Lovitt was permitted to hold the hand of her little boy. "We all came to China to bring you the good news of salvation by Jesus Christ," she said in a firm voice. "We have done you no harm, only good. Why do you treat us so?" In a strange act of gentleness, a soldier stepped up and removed her spectacles before she and her son were beheaded.

The priests and nuns died with equal courage. Their bishop, an old man with a White beard, asked the governor, "Why are you doing this wicked deed?" Yu-hsien answered by drawing his sword and slashing the bishop across the face. Finally the Chinese Christians were brought forth to complete the carnage. Few escaped to report the tale of horror.

The bodies were left for the night where they had fallen and were stripped of clothing, rings and watches under cover of darkness. The next day the heads were placed in cages for a grotesque display on the city wall. Yu-hsien was without remorse and later crowed to the empress, "Your Majesty's slave caught them as in a net and allowed neither chicken nor dog to escape." The old woman replied, "You have done splendidly."

**C. Some wandered about:**

1. "In sheepskins and goatskins" - Elijah -

**2 Kings 1:8** “And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.”

2. "Being destitute, afflicted, tormented**"** - Israel during the dispersion -

**2 Kings 17:2-6** “And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him. Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents. And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.”

**2 Kings 18:9, 10** “And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it. And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.”

**Early Christians - (sometimes entire families!)**

stripped & wrapped in wet skins, sewn, & sent out.

No one was allowed to help them under penalty of death.

**Similar situation in USSR in mid 1970’s**

pastor’s son taken to mental hospital for “mental disorder” and was wrapped in wet cloth and turned on heat lamps to make him recant Christianity

\***Story of little girl who wouldn’t step on cross on front step of church\***

**This is what “All Saint’s Day” is about!**

It is a Christian “Memorial Day” to remember those who have given their lives for their faith.

**II. WHAT THESE PEOPLE RECEIVED BY THEIR FAITH... vs. 38-40**

**A. Certainly not the praise of the world! - Heb. 11:38**

1. Many had to wander in deserts and mountains, live in dens and caves

were killed, if not butchered

2. But in truth, the world is not worthy of them!

**B. They did obtain a good testimony... - Heb. 11:39a**

1. As stated regarding the elders in **Heb. 11:2**

2. As stated regarding Enoch - **Heb. 11:5**

**C. Yet they did not obtain "the promise" during their lifetime -**

**Heb. 11:39b-40**

1. They did receive *some* of the promises, such as the promised land -

cf. **Heb. 11:33**

2. But they did not receive "the" promise

a. They did not live to see the coming of the promised Deliverer

(Christ)

b. Nor did they experience the "perfection" which Christ now offers

1) The Law could not make them "perfect"

2) But Christ can!

**D. What they did not receive during their lifetime,**

**they did with the coming of Christ!**

1. For Christ died to redeem them as well as us!

**Hebrews 9:15** “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”

2. However, they are not complete without **US**! - **Heb. 11:40**

**CONCLUSION**

**A. Through faith, they truly overcame the world...**

1. Sometimes their victory was miraculous; often it was not

2. Their ultimate victory was that they "died in faith" - **Heb. 11:13-16**

-- And now, they enjoy the fruit of faith: bliss in the presence of the Lamb! -

cf. **Rev. 7:9-17**

**B. Through faith, we can also overcome the world...**

1. Faith in Jesus as the Son of God will give us the victory!

**1 John 5:4, 5** “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

a. Victory over the world's temptations

b. Victory over the world's persecutions

2. The victories we win may not be as impressive as those listed in this

chapter, but if we are "faithful unto death", the reward will be the same!

**Revelation 2:10** “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”