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Notice the repetition of the words "By faith". (5 Xs)

- The word "faith" is in every verse but the last one.
- cf. 10:38 (Habakuk 2:2) the just shall live by faith
- That's the point he's proving

:4 Abel (cf. Genesis 4:1-5)

- The Lord did not: respect (NKJV), accept (NLT), Favour (NIV) - why?
 - Several theories
 - Flocks vs. fruit. But - Ex & Lev = meal/grain offering
 - Death vs. life / blood vs. no blood
- Heb. 11:4 answers "why" = faith
 - Cain ≠ trust God for things hoped for / not seen (11:1)
 - It wasn't the sacrifice itself, but the faith w/which it was offered that pleased the Lord.
 - If Abel had brought produce & Cain an animal, the outcome would have been the same;
 - Abel accepted 'cuz of faith, Cain rejected 'cuz of absence of faith.
- When we approach God it must be in faith.
 - Our sacrifices & accomplishments don't mean anything, but faith means everything.
 - You can conquer every habit; serve, sacrifice & suffer 'till your blue in the face;
 - If it doesn't flow from faith, there's no value in any of it.
 - That's why Cain's offering wasn't accepted by God.

:5-6 Enoch (Genesis 5:18-24)

- (:5) 1st rapture
- (:6) W/o faith... ≠ works, habits, etc...
- Must believe... 2 (but not the only 2) requirements for pleasing God
 - ...that He is / i.e. God is real
 - ...rewarder of those who diligently seek Him / i.e. God is good
 - cf. +The Shack: certain circumstances (pain, tragedy, loss) make it hard to see how God is good
 - Ripples (cf. Joseph (Gen 37 - what you meant for evil, God meant for good (Gen. 50)

:7 Noah (Genesis 7-9)

- (:7a) First rain : (:7b) fear = reverence (NASB)
 - Believed God & acted - even though he'd never seen rain before!
 - in spite of unknown, ridicule, resistance
- heir of righteousness

:8-10 Abraham (Genesis 11:27-25)

- (:8) Left w/o knowing destination (Gen. 12:1-4a, Acts 7:2 (Stephen))
 - didn't follow instruction exactly re. Lot (:4b)
- (:9) Lived as a stranger in a land that would one day be his
- (:10) i.e. the promises of God