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## Faith Pt 1 Lessons from Israel on faith

This is a study on the word "faith". In this teaching we establish three points– (i) The Lord God is faithful (worthy of our trust), ii) It is impossible to please God without faith, and iii) Baal is "a god" NOT faithful (he is NOT worthy of our faith). Faith in its various forms occurs 336 times.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our three points–

### 1. The Lord God is faithful (worthy of our trust)

"Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, [and] his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, [and] the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee" (Is.49: 7).

### 2. It is impossible to please God without faith

"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" (Heb 11: 6).

### 3. Baal is "a god" NOT faithful (he is NOT worthy of our faith)

"And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked" (1Kgs 18:27).

#### Illustration

God spoke with Israel (face to face with Moses –Ex 33:11)

The Lord promised to fight for Israel so He reduced their numbers from 32,000 to 300 for one battle– so they would not vaunt themselves– Judg.7: 2– 7.

Yet Israel trusted in Baal – Judg.10:10–14

#### Questions of the scriptures

- i) Why would Israel or any other, place their faith in a god that is deaf, dumb & blind?
- ii) If God honours His promises as only He can, why do so many who claim to be Christian not believe He has promised to preserve His words.
- iii) What is the consequences to a person's faith that does not believe God's promises to preserve His words?

#### Answers from the scriptures

- i) Because they bear the image of their god and so they themselves are deaf dumb and blind – Amos 5:26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.
- ii) "...because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words" (Jer 19:15).
- iii) I believe that a person's faith is directly proportional to the level of faithfulness that they believe God has. Therefore, for those who do not believe God's promise to preserve His words their faith is demonstrably reduced. NOTE: Jesus' disciples asked Him to "increase our faith" (Lk.17: 5).

Therefore, we as a body would be demonstrably stronger, against the devil, if everyone had faith in God's promise to preserve His words, and that He has done so in the AB1611. ALL of God's promises He will fulfil, because He is faithful. Trust Him!