

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



Icon of Hermylaus, Maximos and Stratonicus -- January 13th

Faith of the Ancients

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible. ... By faith Noah, warned about what was not yet seen, with reverence built an ark for the salvation of his household. Through this he condemned the world and inherited the righteousness that comes through faith. ... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. ... All these died in faith. ... They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it

from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth ... By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. ... By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's fury, for he persevered as if seeing the one who is invisible. ...

Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect.

Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11