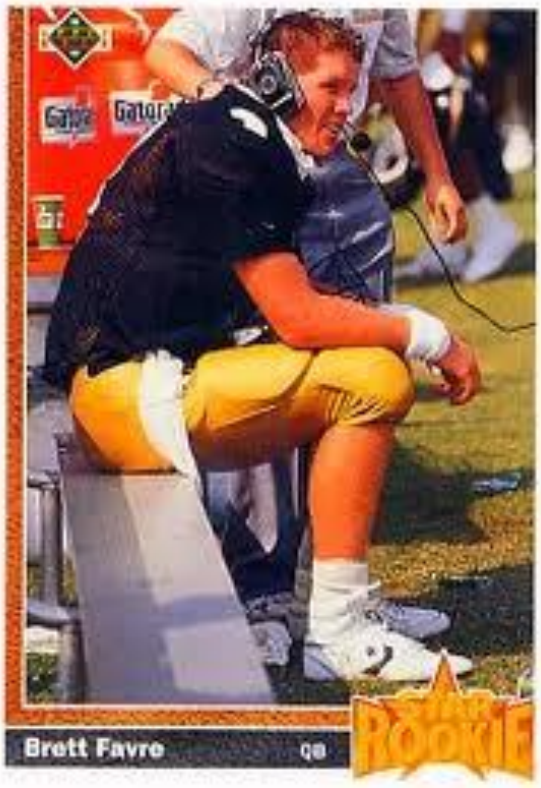


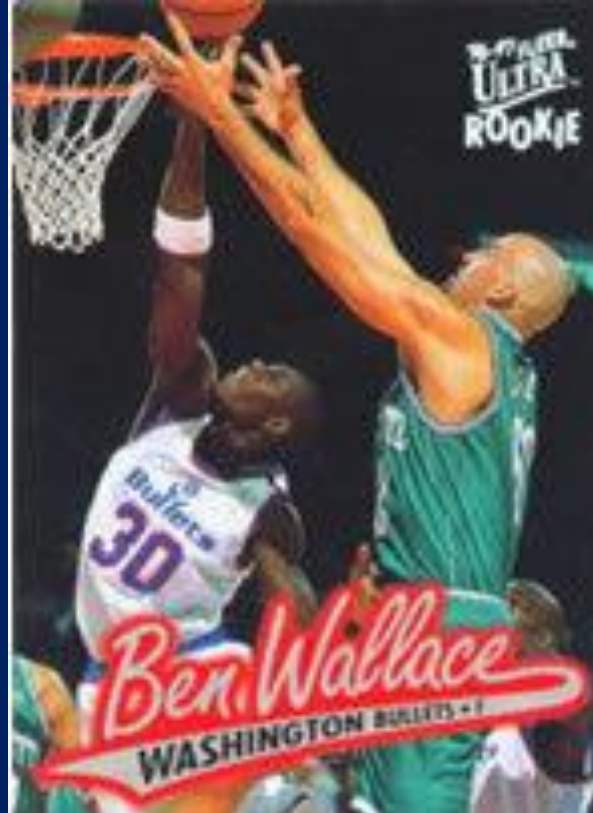
# Children's Worship

children ages 4 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
are invited to go to Children's Worship at this time.

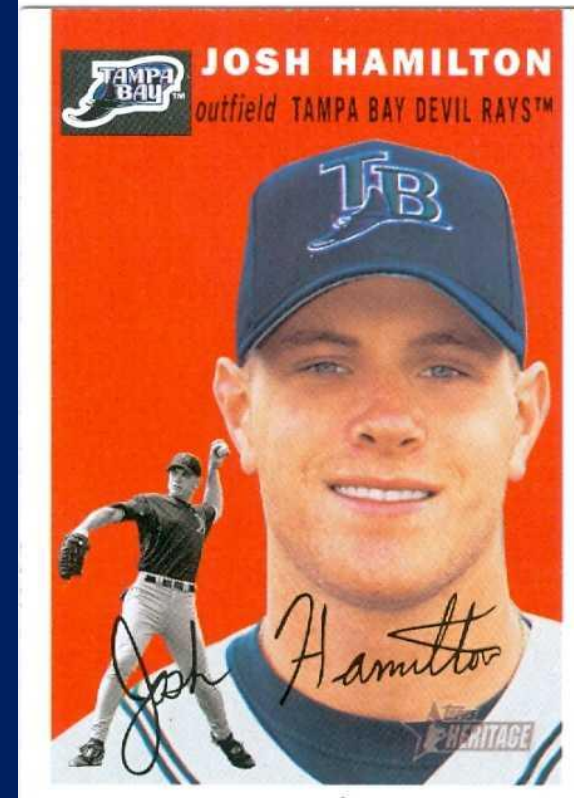
☺ Fun, age-appropriate teaching, and crafts will be  
experienced by all ☺



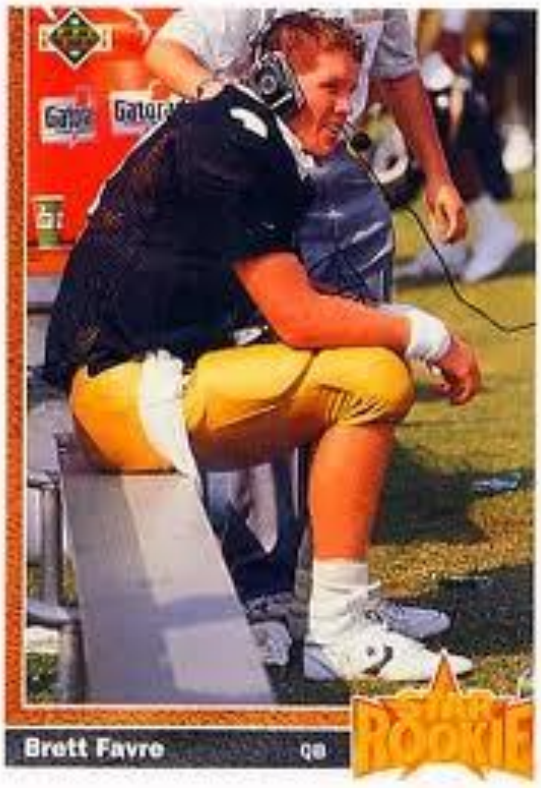
Favre  
Atlanta



Wallace  
Washington

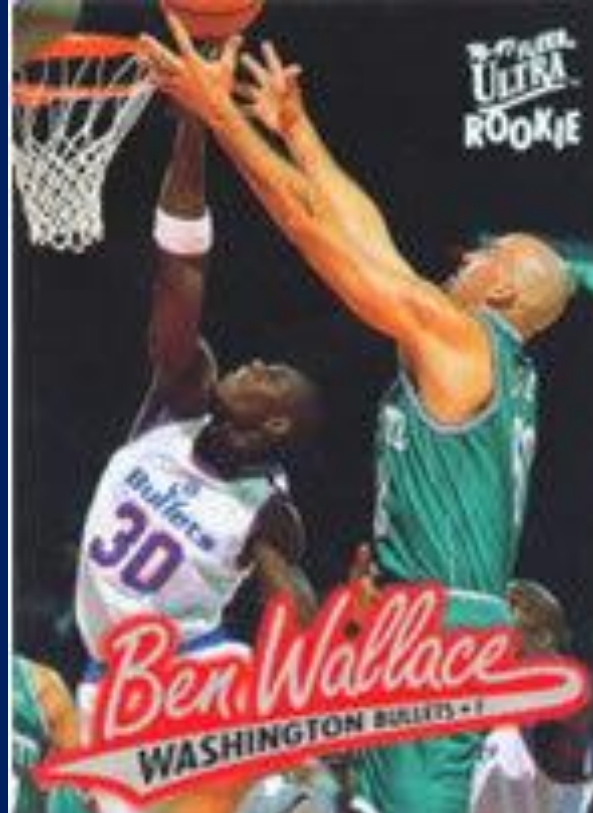


Hamilton  
Tampa Bay



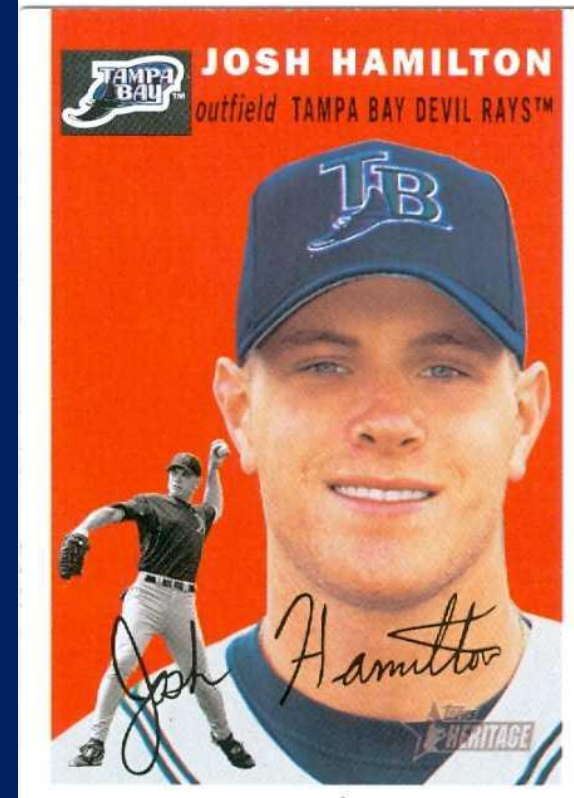
**Favre**  
Atlanta

Only a plane crash  
would put him in  
the game . . .



**Wallace**  
Washington

Undrafted free  
agent from a Div. II  
school



**Hamilton**  
Tampa Bay

Car accident &  
Struggle with drug  
addiction



## Favre

Green Bay Packers

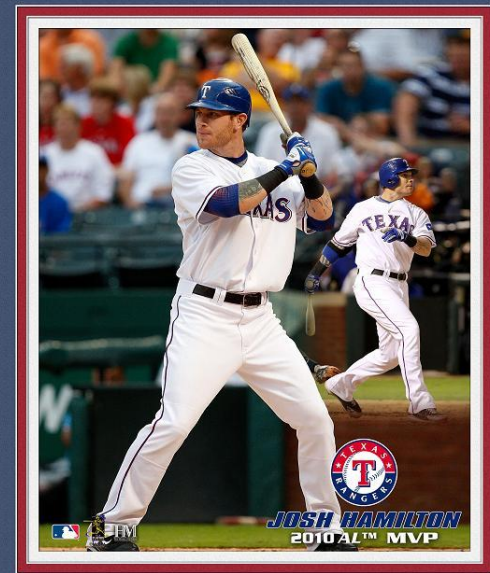
3× Associated Press (MVP)  
 11× Pro Bowl selection.  
 6× First- or Second-team All-Pro selection.  
 Named to the NFL 1990s All-Decade Team.



## Wallace

Detroit Pistons

2010 American League MVP  
 4x All-Star  
 AL Players Choice Award for Outstanding Player (2010)  
 2x Silver Slugger Award winner  
 AL Championship Series MVP



## Hamilton

Texas Rangers

NBA Champion: 2004  
 4× NBA All-Star  
 4× NBA Defensive Player of the Year  
 6× All-NBA Defensive Team  
 5× All-NBA

**God Enlisted Key People and  
Churches to Advance His Mission  
to Reach the Remotest**

Acts 11:19-30

October 9, 2011

**Pastor Kelly J. Mahoney**

- ❑ Will you personally be a key person God uses in His mission?**
- ❑ Will we be a key church God uses in His mission to reach the remotest parts of the earth?**

# I. God used unnamed believers to start His work among Gentiles in Antioch.

## Acts 11:19-20

So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.



I. God used unnamed believers to start His work among Gentiles in Antioch.

## Acts 13:1

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

I. God used unnamed believers to start His work among Gentiles in Antioch (v.19-21; 13:1-2).

**Acts 11:19-21**

So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And **the hand of the Lord was with them**, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

**God's hand did the work.**

II. The Jerusalem church joined God where He was at work by sending Barnabas to Antioch.

## Acts 11:22-24

The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the **grace of God**, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

### Jerusalem church:

- Join God in His work, Send one of your best away.

II. The Jerusalem church joined God where He was at work by sending Barnabas to Antioch.

## Acts 11:22-24

The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the **grace of God**, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and **full of the Holy Spirit and of faith**. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

## Barnabas:

- Chosen by the Jerusalem Church to join God's work
- Spirit filled and faith filled disciple of Jesus

## **Acts 4:36-37**

Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), 37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

### **Barnabas – Who he is:**

- **Name:** Joseph by parents
- **Occupation / calling:** Levite
- **Birth place:** Cyprus
- Nicknamed “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 11:23)
- Sacrificially generous
- Chosen by the Jerusalem Church to join God’s work
- Spirit filled faith and filled disciple of Jesus

## **Acts 9:26-27**

When he [Paul] came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

### **Barnabas – What he did & what he was called to do:**

- Stood up for Saul when others stood back in fear (Acts 9:27)

## **Acts 13:1-3**

Now there were at Antioch, . . . 2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

### **Antioch Church:**

- Listening to the Holy Spirit, willing to obey, sending their best

### **Barnabas – What he did & what he was called to do:**

- Chosen by God to go (along with Saul), but sent by the Antioch church (13:1-3)

## Acts 15:1-2

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

### Barnabas – What he did & what he was called to do:

- Chosen by Antioch church (along with Paul) to take a key issue to Jerusalem apostles and elders and return with the verdict (15:1-2, 22-23)

## Acts 15:35-41

... Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

### Barnabas – What he did & what he was called to do:

- Stood up for John Mark, giving him a second chance (15:35-41)

## 2 Timothy 4:11 – Paul writing from prison

. . . Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

### Barnabas – What he did & what he was called to do:

- **Stood up for Saul** when others stood back in fear (Acts 9:27)
- **Chosen by Jerusalem church** to join God's work (Acts 11:22)
- **Chosen by God** to go, but sent by the Antioch church (13:1-3)
- **Chosen by Antioch church** to take a key issue to Jerusalem apostles and elders and return with the verdict (15:1-2, 22-23)
- **Stood up for John Mark**, giving him a second chance (15:35-41)
- **Restored John Mark** to a place of useful service, reconciled to Paul (2 Tim. 4:11)
- **Encouraged** countless other believers in the Lord.

II. The Jerusalem church joined God where He was at work by sending Barnabas to Antioch.

## Acts 11:22-24

The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the **grace of God**, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and **full of the Holy Spirit and of faith**. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

**God's Spirit empowered Barnabas' life and ministry**

**God used him to invite Saul to join His work in Antioch . . .**

III. Barnabas enlisted Saul to join in God's work among the Gentiles – a work he was uniquely called and gifted for.

### Acts 11:25-26

And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; . . .

### Saul:

- **Hometown & current location:** Tarsus
- **Ministry:** Teaching God's people in Antioch with Barnabas

III. Barnabas enlisted Saul to join in God's work among the Gentiles – a work he was uniquely called and gifted for.

### Acts 11:25-26

And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Christians: *Christianoi*

"Christ followers," or

"those of the household of Christ" or

"transacting business in the name of Christ"

III. Barnabas enlisted Saul to join in God's work among the Gentiles – a work he was uniquely called and gifted for.

### Acts 9:15-16

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

### Saul:

- Chosen by God to bear Jesus' name before Gentiles & kings and the sons of Israel.
- Chosen to suffer for Jesus' mission and message.

III. Barnabas enlisted Saul to join in God's work among the Gentiles – a work he was uniquely called and gifted for.

**Acts 22:21**

"And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Saul:

- Sent by God to the Gentiles.

## Acts 26:16-18

'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

### Saul:

- Appointed by God to be a minister and witness to Gentiles to turn them toward the light and toward God.

III. Barnabas enlisted Saul to join in God's work among the Gentiles – a work he was uniquely called and gifted for.

### Romans 1:14-16

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

### Saul:

- Obligated and eager to preach the gospel to Jews and Greeks.

## **Acts 11:25**

And he [Barnabas] left for Tarsus to look for Saul; . . . And for an entire year they met with the church and taught . . .

## **Acts 13:1-2**

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. . . . the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul

## **Acts 15:2**

the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas . . . should go . . .

## **Saul:**

- Grew in significance as he engaged in God's work.

III. Barnabas enlisted Saul to join in God's work among the Gentiles – a work he was uniquely called and gifted for.

### Ephesians 3:8

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

...

### Saul:

- Grace gifted and empowered to preach to Gentiles.

## Saul:

- Chosen by God to bear Jesus' name before Gentiles & kings and the sons of Israel (Acts 9:15-16).
- Chosen to suffer for Jesus' mission and message.
- Sent by God to the Gentiles (Acts 22:21).
- Appointed by God to be a minister and witness to Gentiles to turn them toward the light and toward God (Acts 26:16-18).
- Obligated and eager to preach the gospel to Jews and Greeks (Rom. 1:14-16).
- Grew in significance as he engaged in God's work.
- Grace gifted and empowered to preach to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8)

**God's "chosen instrument" (Acts 9:35) for this work.**

**God's GRACE brought forgiveness, spiritual gifts, and the power for Saul to fulfill live out his calling.**

IV. The Jerusalem church sent prophets to Antioch who declared the great need that would come.

**Acts 11:27-28**

Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.

**Jerusalem church:**

- Gifted prophets going out from them to prepare God's people.

**God's gifted people proclaiming God's foreknowledge**

## IV. V. The Antioch church responded with compassionate giving and by sending Barnabas and Saul to Jerusalem.

### Acts 11:29-30

And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. 30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

### Antioch church:

- Receptive to God's word through his messengers.
- Responsive to the needs of God's people in Judea.
- Releasing financial resources and two of their best leaders!

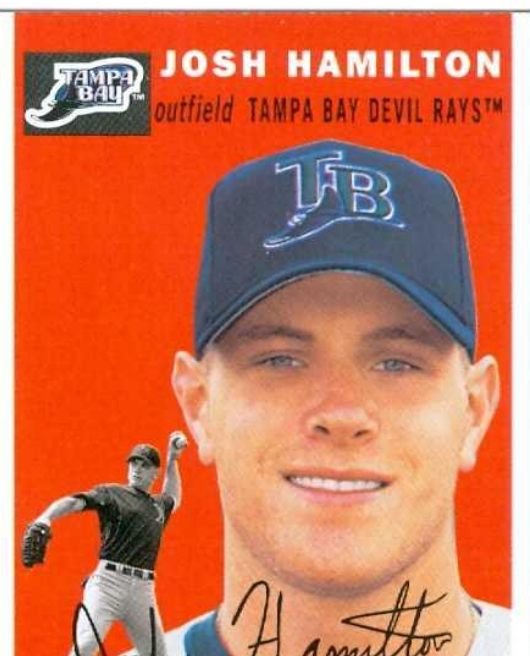
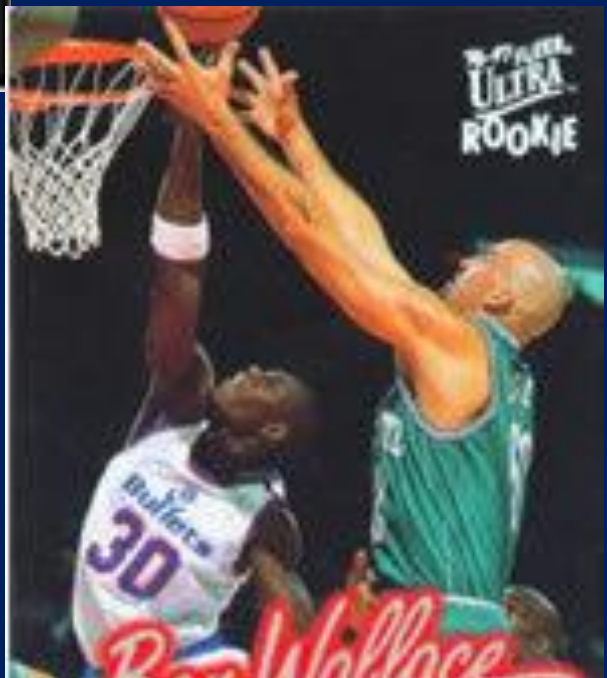
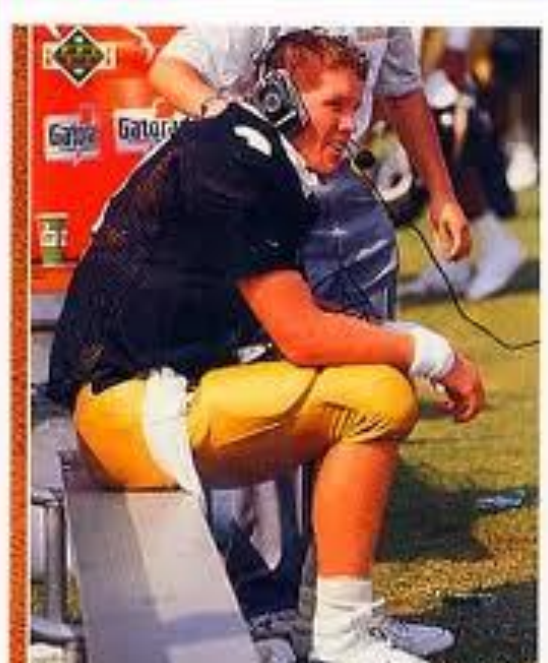
**God's money and God's people are used to bless Judeans**



**JOSH HAMILTON**  
 TEXAS RANGERS  
 2010 AL MVP

BA: .359 HC: 32 RBI: 100 BB: 43  
 101  
 LIMITED EDITION 500

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION  
 2010 MVP



**God's Hand**  
**God's Spirit**  
**God's grace**  
**God's gifting**  
**God's provision**

**Key People**

**Believers from Cyprus & Cyrene**

**Barnabas**

**Saul / Paul**

**Key Churches**

**Antioch**

**Jerusalem**

**Surrender to Him = Jesus' name became great!**

## Applying God's Word to Life

- 1) Have you surrendered your life to His service?
- 2) What are some character qualities you see in the life of other believers that you feel God would have you emulate?
- 3) In what ways are you “in the game” and working hard to make His name great?