

Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Focus:

1. Absolute surety of God’s promises. The Lord’s promises and character are worthy of our trust (faith).
2. Abraham is an example of someone who believed, trusted, waited patiently and obtained the promise. Abraham was not lazy, did not become slow of hearing and did not drift away. Abraham had full assurance of hope until the end.

This section which began in 5:11 when the author abandoned further using the priesthood of Melchizedek as a source of encouragement for the readers to trust the priesthood of Jesus. This illustration was abandoned because the readers had not progressed, but had regressed in their understanding of God’s revelation. The readers are rebuked beginning in 5:11 and forms of warning and encouragement continue until the end of this section with verse 6:20. Then, amazingly the author returns to the use of Melchizedek in 7:1. What was abandoned at 5:10 resumes at 7:1. In the section 5:11-6:20 the readers are rebuked, warned, encouraged and given this example of Abraham to follow.

Hebrews 6:13 – For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,

1. This example of Abraham proceeds the great list of example to follow in chapter 11.
2. Abraham is used as an example 10 times.
 - a. Luke uses Abraham 15 times
 - b. John uses Abraham 11 times
3. Abraham is an excellent example of someone who heard God’s promises, trusted God’s character, faced overwhelming difficulties, overcame failures, and endured to the end. He is both credited as receiving the promises (limited) and not receiving the promises (full, eternal)
 - a. Abraham died in faith having received the promise(s)
 - b. Abraham died in hope looking forward to yet receiving the promise(s)

6:14 – saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”

1. Genesis 22:16-17

6:15 – And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

1. Abraham was confident. The emphasis is NOT that he “waited”, but that he “waited confidently”
2. Isaac was born 25 years after the promise:
 - a. Genesis 12:4 ---- Genesis 21:5
 - b. Abraham’s grandchildren were born 60 years later in Gen. 25:26
 - c. The complete promise would be impossible to occur during Abraham’s lifetime
 - d. John 8:56-58 -

“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”

So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

 - i. Abraham heard and saw the Lord in his lifetime
 - ii. But, Abraham was also looking forward to seeing the fulfillment of the seed of the woman
 - iii. And, his people becoming a great nation
 - iv. Abraham saw these things by faith and was confident they would happen
 1. Abraham knew God’s truth and trusted it
 2. Abraham had great faith because he had a great promise.
 3. Abraham did not emotionally work himself into a state of delusion

6:16 – For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

6:17 – So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,

6:18 – so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

6:19 – We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

6:20 – where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.