

“God’s Promises to Abraham are Secured by His Oath”

Hebrews 6:13-20

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I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

This 19th book of the New Testament is simply put, about “better things”. It is written to believers under pressure to turn back to their former Jewish faith or to mix Judaism with Christianity, this book emphasizes the new and better covenant we have with God through Jesus Christ and Jesus Himself as the Mediator of that New Covenant. Moreover, Jesus Christ is supreme over all kinds of former things, such as prophets, angels, and even through his spokespersons, such as Moses, Aaron, Joshua. This New Covenant is over the tabernacle, the sacrificial system, and the Old Covenant. Why -Jesus is superior to everything in heaven and on earth (Chapters 1-2:18; 3-4:13)). This is what we should “rest” on in our very being!

We have been taught from Hebrews 1 up to the present, that we should anchor ourselves to this truth and not to drift away. No angel died for your salvation. Jesus did! He perfected it, His blood cancelled the Devil’s grip on us, and Jesus is in charge of God’s house! We are warned that today is the right time to do right knowing this in the fullest of knowledge. As a matter of fact, faith and knowledge lead us to this Eternal Rest. Jesus is the great High Pries and understands our weaknesses and we are perfected the more through reverent submission by yielding to this knowledge.

Thusly, we need to mature and stop eating baby food in the knowledge of Jesus. You and I are privileged to becoming members of the Father’ house, IF we remain faithful – that confidence in God, our sustainer that maintains our faith. Yet, truth be told, there are things that can interrupt our faith unbelief, doubt---we must guard against the lies of Satan. Our faith must continue even when it seems that everything and everyone is against us. In Jesus Christ, we can remain standing firm on the inside

because we know that our real life is within us, not in the people or circumstances around us.

Hebrews 3:15: “Help me, Lord, never to harden my heart to Your voice, but to keep it soft and responsive when You speak.” This second section of Hebrews Chapters 4:14-10:18 attempts to show that Christ is the perfect High Priest because of His unmatched compassion for people and complete obedience to God according to the order of Melchizedek, who is mentioned only twice in the Old Testament (TGen. 14;18-20; Ps. 110:4) which may seem far-fetched in these modern times. However, there is a good reason for comparing Christ to Melchizedek; it is to show that Melchizedek, unlike Aaron, was unique. He had no predecessors and no successors. He was, therefore, a priest forever, like the Son of God (7:1-3). As a consequence of His being a type like Melchizedek, Jesus inaugurated a new and better covenant because His sacrifice of Himself replaces the sacrifice of “bulls and goats”. Hebrews in the forthcoming chapters 10:19-13:17) appeals to us to not give up the benefits of Christ’s work as High Priest.

The repeated use of Old Testament quotations and images in Hebrew suggests that the people who received this book had a Jewish background; and were on the verge of renouncing that Jesus Christ is Lord and returning to their former Jewish ways. Keep the faith, don’t neglect good deeds, keep attendance at worship service, just don’t let your faith get cool.

Christ is the Great High Priest is the emphasizes here. Whereas earthly priests followed in the lineage of Aaron, Christ, who has no successors, is a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. Whereas as earthly priests ministered within temples made with human hands, Christ ministers within the true sanctuary-the eternal house of God. Whereas earthly priests offered animal sacrifices for their sins as well as for those of the people, Christ offered the one perfect sacrifice which never need to be offered again. Christ is the backbone of our faith. Because of his ultimate sacrifice of Himself, He is still the only Mediator between us and God. Only Jesus is the true Author of our salvation.

The superiority of Christ’s work is over any priesthood (position/qualifications); superior over any covenant (it is better and new

covenant) it is superior to the sanctuary and sacrifice and thus all in all this makes your walk of faith as a Christian superior (10:19-11:40).

II. The Lesson:

“God’s Promises to Abraham are Secured by His Oath”

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.”^[a] ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. (Rom. 4:17-21; Jas. 2:20-26)

The Certainty of God’s Promise

God made a promise to Abraham (who represents the Patriarch as the most illustrious example) of those who “inherit the Promises” since he had no one greater by whom to swear. There is no one else, so the promise was by God, himself saying, I will surely bless you and give you many descendants (Gen. 22:17). Abraham was tested by God, and he responded knowing that God himself will provide (Genesis 22:12-19).

What is a promise, an oath, a vow – your pledge to another to do or not do something specified; narrowly, a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act; a ground for hope; expectation or assurance, often specifically of eventual success.

God gave His Word, he back it up, putting his reputation, so to speak, on the line (v 14) I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you. Thusly, today, Abraham is an example of faith and patience in God’s promise. Abraham stuck it out and he got everything by faith in God that had been promised to him. A promise comes by faith, and against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of all nations; and since he was about a hundred years old, and that Sarah’s 90-year-old

womb was also dead (she birthed a son at 90 years old, Isaac). Yet, Abraham did not waver, concerning that promise, He was fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised!

So, if God said it, it is done! Have the faith, believe with certainty (Jas. 20-26). God swore by Himself (a guarantee with resources of Heaven behind it that the promise will be kept.)

A Promised Hope to Take Hold Of!

1. Verse 16. People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all arguments.

A contract has been agreed upon and signed by all parties, which ends all strife.

2. Verse 17. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

God more than willingly enough, abundantly, has witnesses to make it clear and confirmed by an oath by all things he has done (All 66 books).

3. Verse 18. God did this so that, by two unchangeable (immutability) things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

God confirmation means guarantee. An oath is used to guarantee an agreement. God made good on his promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee-God can't break his word. And because his words cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. A sinner can flee to Christ and find eternal refuge and safety.

This Hope is an Anchor for the Soul – Firm and Secure!

4. Verses 19-20. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Again, we see Christ better than Melchizedek, Abraham and Levi (6:19-7:10). Jesus is our hope and forerunner. Melchizedek was a mere type of Christ (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:11-17). Paul, definitely, without a doubt, is trying to have us see this so clearly, that he changes the allusion from safety in a city of refuge to a ship reaching harbor after a tempestuous voyage, knowing that her anchor is sure and steadfast. So, it is with us as believers who have the hope of eternal life anchored safe in heaven.

We are running for our very lives TO God, giving every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go! It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, an anchor, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead (forerunner) of us, has taken up his permanent post as high priest for us, as in "the order of Melchizedek". This is a dignity like no other, so great indeed, that he must be classed with God rather than with men. Jesus is exalted above all in creation.

An anchor is an instrument that is attached to a ship or other vessel by a cable, and that, being cast overboard, lays hold of the earth by a fluke or hook and thus holds the vessel in a particular place. A sure support!

We must see this figure Melchizedek as a type of Christ, an eternal being, so Scripture would have us to see this as the highest order of God that can be used in order for us see Christ. It's a perfect analogy for a perfect Jesus! There is nothing else we can use except to say "in the order of Melchizedek". It was higher than the Levitical priesthood, who were all human, there is no order word to describe the likeness of Christ, because there is no other word more supreme, as Jesus is far more superior. The Law can't do it, neither can Moses, Aaron, Joshua, no regulation, only

Jesus, He is the way, the guarantee, the promise, the hope, the New Covenant, completely without sin, our only Hope! How excellent is His Name – Jesus!

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