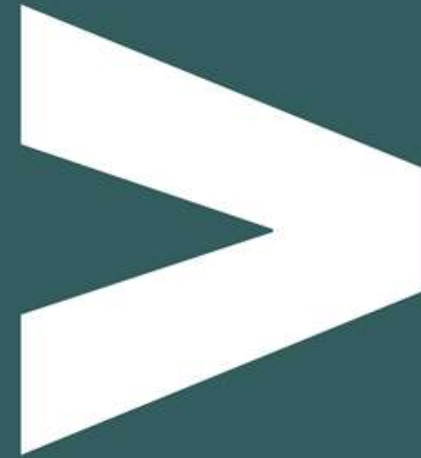


**GOD'S  
UNCHANGABLE  
PROMISE**

Hebrews 6:13-20



# PROVERBS 3:5

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*

(ESV)

# WARNINGS IN HEBREWS

- **2:1-4**      Danger of **Drifting**
- **3:12-19**    Danger of **Unbelief**
- **6:4-8**      Danger of **Falling Away**
- **10:26-31**    Danger of **Willful Disobedience**
- **12:25-29**    Danger of **Indifference**

# FOLLOW GODLY EXAMPLES

HEBREWS >

Be “... imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Heb 6:12, ESV)

- **Mentioned**

- 11x in Hebrews
- 72x in New Testament
- Extended illustrations in Acts, Romans, and Galatians

# HEBREWS 6:13-17

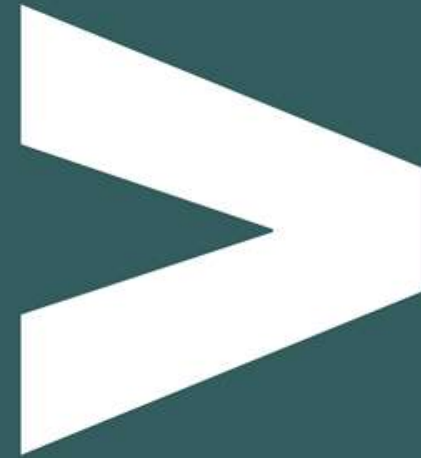
*“For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, ‘Surely I will bless you and multiply you.’ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes 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 ...”*

# HEBREWS 6:17-20

*“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.”* (ESV)

# **GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM**

Hebrews 6:13-15





# THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM

HEBREWS 

- *“Having patiently waited...”* (6:15, ESV)

*“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”* (Heb 11:8, ESV)

# GENESIS 12:1-3

*“Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”* (ESV)

# THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM

- *“Having patiently waited...”*
- *“Thus Abraham ... obtained the promise”*

(6:15, ESV)

*“After these things God tested Abraham and said to him ... ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’”*

(Gen 22:1-2, ESV)

# THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM HEBREWS

- Great nation?
- Inherit the land?
- All the earth would be blessed?

# JOHN 8:56

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

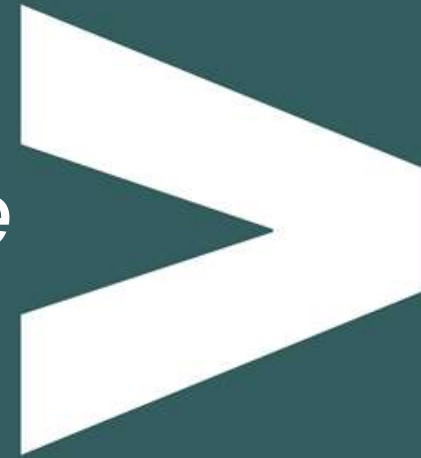
# ROMANS 4:3

*“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”* (ESV)

**GOD'S**

# **UNCHANGABLE OATH**

*“So when God desired to show more convincingly ... the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath” (17)*



## • Gentiles

- The souls of the dead
- The ashes of their father
- Their own life
- The life of their friends
- Their own head
- Their right hand
- By their gods

## • Jews

- Heaven (Mt 5:34; 23:22)
- Earth (Mt 5:35; Jas 5:12)
- Temple (Mt 23:16)
- Jerusalem (Mt 5:35)
- By God (Gen 14:22; Deut 6:13; Jdg 21:7)



# WHY DID GOD TAKE AN OATH?

HEBREWS 

- **There is no one greater to swear by (6:13)**
  - Oaths were character witnesses.
  - Oaths rested on the character of the one who is cited.

# THREE REASONS

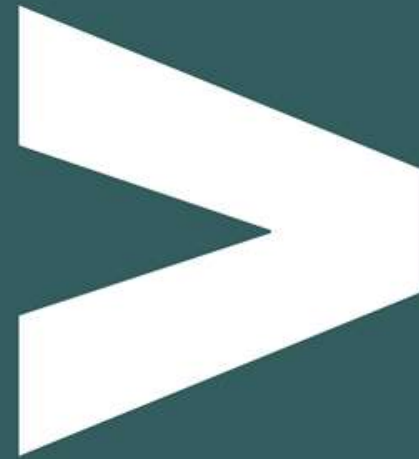
- There is no one greater to swear by.
- **To put an end to all argument (6:16)**
  - Oaths were legally binding statements guaranteeing security. They were legal confirmation.

# THREE REASONS

- There is no one greater to swear by.
- To put an end to all argument.
- **To make the unchanging nature of his purpose clear (6:17)**
  - God certainly didn't need to use an oath. However, since men expected them at solemn occasions, God in condescension to human weakness and custom was willing, to give "confirmation" to show that his promise was true.

# **GOD'S PROMISE TO US**

Hebrews 6:19-20



# HEBREWS 6:19-20

*“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.”*

(ESV)

# HEBREWS 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.”*

(ESV)

# GALATIANS 3:6-9

*“Just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”*

(ESV)

# PHRASE ONE

- ***“We who have fled for refuge”*** (6:18)
  - The writer uses language of a sanctuary city (cities of refuge) from the Old Testament.
  - The phrase describes the haste and intensity with which we should run to our hope.



- **“To hold fast to the hope set before (*prokeimai*) us” (6:18)**
  - Used of a banquet table at a feast. To display, to be set before, to lay out.
  - Gives the picture of hope lying spread out before us, in public view for our taking.

# PHRASE THREE

- ***“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (6:19)***
  - Used 4x in the N.T. Only here as a metaphor.
  - The ship firmly anchored is safe from idle drifting. Its position and safety are sure.

# **GOD'S UNCHANGABLE PROMISE**

Will You Place Your Trust in  
God's Unchangeable Promise?

