

The Book of Hebrews  
Class Notes  
Session 20

**Hebrews 6.13-16** All that Hebrews has encouraged and commanded...Is founded on the promises of God!

Just as God promised (designated) Melchizedek as a High Priest...So did God promise (“swear an oath”) that Abraham would be the father of God’s people.... Genesis 22.17.

In Jewish history , Abraham was the paradigm of faithful perseverance. Abraham faithfully responded to God by offering Isaac....Trusting God’s promise that he would have descendants.

Abraham did this because he believed God’s oath.

**(v.16):** Abraham’s trusted because there is no higher authority than God!

“Men swear by someone greater than themselves” ... This was a universal truth ... using the language from legal contexts of the ancient world.

Like our “father” in faith Abraham...Believers can live in confident trust in God’s character and truth!

**Hebrews 6.17-20** Again, the author returns to the oath God swore to Abraham.

God gave Abraham the security of His Person...His Purpose...His Promise (Oath)

While God has no need to swear an oath...He did so to make absolutely clear that His promises would be fulfilled!

All who place their faith in Christ are “heirs” of God’s promises.

**(v.18):** “So that” (*hina clause*)...Introduces the purpose God had in swearing an oath...Two *unchangeable things* (truths)... \*The Promise... \*The Oath.

God’s promise and oath are unbreakable... Believers can be absolutely certain that God will be true to His Word! God cannot (will not) lie!

Consequently...For those who have “fled” (?)... Likely, aspects of the sinful world...Believers can “Hold fast” to our hope...Rather than “Cling to” this world!

**(vs.19-20):** Another metaphor...The “Anchor” of the soul. A common picture of stability... Our hope in Christ keeps our lives (*ψυχή (psyche)*)... “Life” “Person” ... from “drifting.”

And...This hope enters the “inner place behind the curtain.” This image takes us back to the Tabernacle/Temple and the “Holy of Holies.”

The “Presence” of God... Jesus has gone ahead of us... *πρόδρομος (prodromos)*... “Pertaining to going before” (Forerunner)... “Pioneer” ... “Scout” ...

Hebrews describes Jesus’ ascension as His entering the heavenly *Holy of Holies*...As the great (and final) High Priest.

*Acts 1.9-11*... Now Jesus intercedes for us in the presence of the Father!

Jesus not only demonstrated the *way to God*...He also *made the way* to God... Jesus was our atonement... Jesus is the true High Priest and King (Like Melchizedek... (5.6)!

“God’s promise and oath to Abraham is certain. As heirs of Abraham, those who trust in Christ Jesus share in the blessing of life promised to Abraham. They experience unending stability and security through the Son’s gracious access to the Father. If we doubt God’s Word, we act as if God is a liar and miss the blessings that flow from a trusting relationship with Him. As we trust God’s promises, we see that God tells the truth, and we share in the blessings of eternal life.” (*The Lutheran Study Bible*. Concordia)

### Questions and Applications

- What promises of God are your “anchor?”
  
- “In the old covenant religion, only the high priest could enter the inner sanctuary, and he could do so only once a year on the Day of Atonement. Jesus, however, has entered the true Most Holy Place, heaven, and there intercedes always for us (Heb. 7:25). Thus our hope is made as sure as it could be, Jesus providing a superior, lasting covenant that guarantees our permanent audience with the living God.” (C.E. Arnold. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary* (Zondervan, 2002).