



May 10, 2026

Anchored in Hope.

Hebrews 6:13–20 (ESV)

The Certainty of God’s Promise

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, **14** saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” **15** And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. **16** For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. **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, **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. **19** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, **20** where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

There was a Mother’s Day card that was a great big card written in a little child’s handwriting—little first-grade kind of writing. On the front was a little boy with untied shoes. He had a wagon, and toys were everywhere. He had a little cut on his face and there were smudges all over this card. On the front, it read, “Mom, I remember that little prayer you used to say for me every day,” And inside was the prayer: “*God help you if you ever do that again.*”

- The preacher is addressing people who were Jews; or Hebrews.
- They had become Christians, but now they're thinking they've made a mistake and are seriously considering abandoning their faith in Jesus and converting back to Judaism.
- The theme of the whole letter is the danger and foolishness of such a decision.
- There's a warning for them not to do this in chapter 2, and then in chapter 4, and in chapter 4 again, and in chapter 10, and in chapter 12.
- But the clearest of these warnings against turning from Jesus, who is the only source of salvation, is here in chapter 6.
- In the first half of Chapter 6, The Hebrews writer smacks these people around a bit. But then he puts his arm around them and reminds them of their hope.
- Following Jesus gives you a certain hope that you'll never be able to find anywhere else. Why would you go back to a system without hope
- *Christian hope is a life-shaping certainty of something that hasn't happened yet, but will.*
- It's why we can't live without it. It's why he's so stern with these people who are flirting with turning away from Jesus. If they do, they will turn away from the only hope that will save them.

Why they have hope.

- He uses the example of Abraham. Abraham is a hero to them.
- His story: God gives him a promise. Of land. Of a nation. Of blessing. (Gen 12:1-3)
- One problem. Abraham and his wife Sarah didn't have a son. Ten years go by after God promises this to Abraham, and still no son.
- God comes to Abraham again and repeats his promise.
- What did Abraham do? He believed. Even though he couldn't see how, or when, he knew it was true. He hoped in God.
- A child did come. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when they had Isaac.
- No sooner than they had this son of promise in their arms, did it seem like God asked of Abraham the most inconceivable thing: *Abraham, take your son, your only son, and sacrifice him to me. Sacrifice him on a mountain I will show you.* (Genesis 22:1-2)
- Equally inconceivable was that Abraham **obeyed** God. He took his son Isaac to a mountain that God showed him and he offered Isaac, his only son, as a sacrifice to God.
- How in the world could he do that? A: **We** will come back to you. (Genesis 22:5)
- Abraham believed God's promise.
- The Hebrews writer will tell us that Abraham reasoned that even if he did kill his son as a sacrifice, that God would be able to raise him from the dead. (Hebrews 11:19)
- As he did, a voice came: "*Abraham*" And the Angel of the Lord stopped him from plunging the knife. And a ram in a thicket was sacrificed instead.
- God's pronouncement at the end of this story has everything to do with what Hebrews is saying in chapter 6

16 ... “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

- Hebrews points out, that not only did God repeatedly promise Abraham that he would be a great nation, but here he *swore an oath* to him.
- When we swear, we need to appeal to something or someone greater than us to prove to people that we’re telling the truth.
- What about when God swears? What’s greater than God that he can swear by? A: Nothing.
- God swears by the greatest thing there is: his own word. God swears by himself.
- Abraham saw the unseen. He was certain of these things. He had hope.
- Why? Because God doesn’t lie.
- Truth swore by itself that it’s truth would come true.
- So Hebrew people: When God’s word is so unbreakable that everything he says comes to be, why would you doubt that?

Abraham was offered a promise. A land. A son. A nation. A blessing. That’s the promise that was set before Abraham.

- Do you realize, dear Hebrews, what has been set in front of you?
- God promised and swore an oath to Abraham. But look at Hebrews 5:6, which is also Psalm 110:4. If we read it from the Psalm:

Psalm 110:4 (ESV) 4 The Lord has *sworn* and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

- Who is the Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek? Who has been set before us as our hope? Who is the refuge we have fled to? *A: It’s Jesus.*
- God has sworn, he’s made an oath. This time to us. *That Jesus will be once and for all final priest that gives us access to God that we’ve been denied because of our sin.*
- Verses 19-20 explain this access Jesus makes possible.
- The curtain in the temple walled off access to God.
- But because of the work of Jesus on the cross, an anchor is hurled from our side of the curtain into the holy of holies where God is.
- This anchor goes behind the curtain and raises to the heavens and fixes on the throne of God in the heavenly holy of holies, where Jesus is seated at God’s right hand.
- The lesson? Our lives, because of Jesus, are anchored in heaven. We have access to God.
- At the very minute Jesus breathed his last, Mark tells us that the veil in the temple, the same curtain we’re talking about here, was torn from top to bottom. (Mark 15:38)
- No human could do that. The curtain was 60 feet tall and it’s woven material was as thick as the width of your palm.
- In tearing the curtain, God is saying, *The anchor is in. Jesus’ sacrifice has opened the curtain for good. No one will be denied access to God ever again. God is accessible.*

- We are anchored in God's presence for eternity, with Jesus having gone before us.
- Hebrews calls him our forerunner. Jesus has gone before us to prepare the way.
- Where he is, we will be also.
- God's promise to us, sworn by God over Jesus, is that we can be in Christ, we can be with Christ, and we can be like Christ.
- **What do you do with this hope?**
- You take hold of it. You hold fast to it. You never let it go.
- Jesus is behind the curtain. Jesus is in the throne room of God at God's right hand. Jesus is our priest in the order of Melchizedek, *forever*.
- In order for all that to be true, it means Jesus is alive.
- Because Jesus lives, hope exists.
- The question we have to ask today, is not, Is there hope? There absolutely is.
- We just have to ask: is Jesus the hope that I am anchored in?

God, we pray that we won't go backward...but forward. Help us hold on to Jesus. So that our souls will be secure, unmoved by wind and waves, sure and certain. In the name of the anchor for our souls, the high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, Jesus, we ask this, Amen.