



ADVENT – HOPE – Hebrews 6:13-20

ADAM LONG | Week of November 28th, 2021

SERMON TEXT // Hebrews 6:13-20 English Standard Version

¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷So 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, ¹⁸so 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. ¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

SERMON GUIDE // The realities of Advent should permeate every part of our lives as believers. Advent is the anticipation of an awaited arrival. The reason this season should permeate every part of our lives as believers is because Advent, as we celebrate it, is a season of both remembrance and expectation. In faith, we look back in remembrance at all the Lord has done. In **hope**, we look forward in expectation to all the Lord will do. Faith and hope are at the heart of the Advent season. Through **Hebrews 6** we will address and answer the question: **where can we anchor our hope**.

The anchor is a symbol of stability; but more than symbol, the anchor is the point of contact for the stabilization of the ship in both stormy seas and safe harbor. Attempting to anchoring a ship in the ocean without enough chain to reach the bottom is tantamount to attempting to anchor our hope to people, positions, or possessions that are truly unable to hold the weight of our hopes. **Where we anchor our hope matters.**

The author of Hebrews was writing to believers who were considering abandoning the faith (Hebrews 5:11-6:12) due to persecution in order to return back to Judaism. He points to the example of faith and hope seen in the person of Abraham. Abraham's life shows that where we place our faith is where we can anchor our hope – and we have a place to anchor our hope which was not fully realized in Abraham's day. The author points to the truth that Abraham's faith was placed in both the **promise** and **pledge** of God which ultimately pointed to our ability to place both our faith and hope in the **promise** and **pledge** of God through the **person** of God: Jesus Christ. Where we place our faith is where we can anchor our hope. Let us anchor our hope in and with Jesus.

REFLECT. II POINT. II MAKE.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS | Week of November 28th, 2021

Question 1 // Read **Hebrews 6:13-20**. What is something from the text that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the text theme?

Question 2 // Advent is the anticipation of an awaited arrival. Advent is a season of both remembrance and expectation. We remember the first arrival of Jesus Christ while also waiting with expectation on the next arrival of Jesus in the Second Coming. We stand between two arrivals. Adam believes the realities of Advent should permeate every part of our lives as believers. ***Do you agree with this? Explain your answer. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase: "the realities of Advent"?***

Question 3 // **Hebrews 6:19** gives us great symbolism when it mentions the anchor. Adam said, *"The anchor is a symbol of stability; but more than symbol, the anchor is the point of contact for the stabilization of the ship in both stormy seas and safe harbor."* Where we anchor our hope matters. ***In what areas can Christians mistakenly anchor their hope? Can you share any times where the anchoring in true hope helped you through a difficult situation?***

Question 4 // By examining this passage, one thing that can be observed is that God's character is unchanging. Discuss this truth. ***How does this quality of His character lead you into worship? How does knowing that God does not change build your hope?***

Question 5 // Our hope must be anchored in Jesus Christ. This is an essential truth we must take time to reflect on during the Advent every Christmas season. Discuss the importance of being reminded of truths founded in Scripture's like this. ***Why do we sometimes lose sight of these truths? How do we keep them on the forefront of our minds?***

Reflection & Prayer

Pray that God would firmly root the reality of hope into your daily lives.
Pray that He would strengthen the faith you have placed in Jesus and that you would anchor your hope in Jesus and with Jesus.