

10: The Anchor for Our Souls Heb 6:13-20

In the middle of the raging seas and difficult days, *do you have an anchor that holds secure?* Today we are reminded that God's future promises can be trusted, because God's past promises have been fulfilled.



teachingnotes

Follow today's teaching notes, Scripture passages & more with your digital device (**wi-fi: Worship Center Guest**).

1. Find us on the **BIBLE APP**. Look for EVENTS and enable location OR input our ZIP: 32340 and click on our link.
2. Access PDF notes to teachings from: **bit.ly/PDFNotes**
3. Watch **FB Live** and **see all our notes** on Fellowship Church FB page: **facebook.com/fellowshipofmadison**
4. Check out our webpage: **FOM.life** for all kinds of info including over 400 teachings (audio & video).

* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

Catch the Context

We left off with the author encouraging the Hebrew believers to be faithful and never turn back to the Old Covenant symbols and shadows, that find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.

Hebrews 6:11-12 Now we desire each of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the full assurance of your hope until the end, so that you won't become lazy but will be imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and perseverance.

The author reminds his Hebrew audience of the promise made by the Promise-Maker to the Father of the Jewish faith - **Abraham** - a great example of **faith and perseverance**. But as great as Abraham was...**Jesus is Better**. The ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham is found in what the author of Hebrews calls **The Anchor for Our Souls**.

👁️ **The anchor** played a huge role in making sure those on the boat made it home safely. As such, **the ANCHOR** became a powerful image to the early church found in paintings and in the design of Christians' coffins, symbolizing people anchored by Christ, and not adrift for eternity.

The ancient audience could trust God as **the Anchor for their Souls**, just as we can today - because God has proven Himself trustworthy in the past.

Hebrews 6:13-14 For when **God made a promise to Abraham**, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by himself: *I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply you.*

God made a promise to Abraham:

- God had already promised to multiply His family like the stars of the sky (Gen 15:5), but Abraham and Sarah were 100 and 90 years old when God said it was time for Isaac to be born (Isaac means "he laughs" - see Gn 17:17). God begins to fulfill, through Isaac, the Hebrew family that would outnumber the stars.
- The terrifying test: God told Abraham to take his son Isaac to a mountaintop and kill him as a burnt offering. *Would Abraham obey the command because he loved God more than he loved his own son?*

❓ **If God put you in that predicament, how would YOU respond?** Will we choose to obey God over protecting our kids?

Abraham trusted God, even if God asked him to take his only son's life. Just before Abraham dropped the knife into Isaac's chest God stopped him saying,

Genesis 22:12-14 Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that **you fear God**, since you have not withheld your only son from Me." Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and **took the ram** and offered it as a burnt offering **in place of his son**. And Abraham named that place **The LORD Will Provide**, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the LORD's mountain."

The place where God provided the sacrifice was called "Moriah". Mount Moriah is thought to be where Jerusalem was later built, where King Solomon later built the temple and the same place where Jesus was later crucified. Could this be the same place that Yahweh TRULY DID provide the ultimate Substitute Sacrifice (Get 22:14)?

Hebrews 6:13-14 For when **God made a promise to Abraham**, since He had no one greater to swear by, **He swore by himself**: *I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply you.*

While **God made a PROMISE to Abraham**, but He also **swore** an oath. In a court of law in our country, a person will often place their hand on a Bible and say, *"I swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God."* (held accountable for what one says by a higher authority)

But God has no higher authority to hold Him accountable to His promise, so God **swore by Himself**. "I swear to myself" that **I will bless you** and **will greatly multiply you**. Consider the gravity of God's promise to Abraham.

Genesis 22:15-18 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, **"By myself I have sworn,"** this is the LORD'S declaration: "Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your only son, I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the city gates of their enemies. And **all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring** because you have obeyed My command."

It was because of Abraham's faith - his trust in God - that God made Abraham this great promise. And so, the author of Hebrews writes these words we have already seen:

Hebrews 6:13-15 For when **God made a promise to Abraham**, since He had no one greater to swear by, **He swore by himself**: *I will indeed bless you, and I will greatly multiply you.* And so, after waiting patiently, Abraham obtained the promise.

How did Abraham obtain the promise? Abraham did see Isaac born (when Abraham was 100 years old) and grow up to be married. Abraham lived long enough (175 years - Gen 25:7-8) to see his grandsons - Jacob & Esau grow, and probably see some great grandchildren born, but *that's far short of seeing his family become "as numerous as the stars in the sky"*. Abraham didn't see Joseph bless all nations by providing food during famine, nor see the ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Although Abraham & Sarah did not see the fulfillment on this side of eternity, they **TRUSTED GOD'S PROMISES**. The writer of Hebrews points to this later in this writing.

Hebrews 11:11-13 By faith even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since she considered that **the One who had promised was faithful**. Therefore, from one man—in fact, from one as good as dead—came offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and as innumerable as the grains of sand along the seashore. **These all died in faith, although they had not received the things that were promised.** But **they saw them from a distance**, greeted them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth.

What Does This Ancient Story Mean for US?

Hebrews 6:16-18 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and for them a confirming oath ends every dispute. Because **God wanted to show his unchangeable purpose even more clearly to the heirs of the promise**, He guaranteed it with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have **strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.**

God made a promise and gave an oath to Abraham that still applies **to the heirs of the promise** - the Hebrew people being address in this letter. God's promise and oath are the **two unchangeable things** that help the persecuted people receiving this letter **have strong encouragement to seize the hope** that awaited them...and US.

God has been faithful in the past and He will be faithful in the future. Or to put it another way...

BIG TRUTH: YES He DID, so YES He CAN!

Those who have run to Him for refuge should be encouraged! **YES He DID, so YES He CAN!** Not only did God fulfill His promise and oath to make Abraham's family as numerous as the stars in the sky - but the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise is found in what the author calls **"an anchor for the soul"**.

Hebrews 6:19-20 We have this hope as **an anchor for the soul**, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. **Jesus has entered there on our behalf** as a forerunner, because he has become a **high priest forever** according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Hebrew **high priest**, to go into **the inner sanctuary behind the curtain on behalf** of the people, only one day of the year (*Yom Kippur* - Hebrew for "Day of Atonement") - to offer the sacrificial blood of an unblemished animal for the forgiveness of sins.

This high priest - JESUS - is DIFFERENT from all other high priests.

- First, Jesus offered His own life - the unblemished Lamb of God was substituted for our sins! And because of that, WE CAN ENTER into God's Presence!
- Second, **Jesus has become the high priest forever** - no more high priests need apply.

In the middle of the difficult days that might include sickness & death, persecution, rejection, & unfair treatment - **Jesus is *The Anchor for Our Souls*** - the anchor that holds secure. God's future promises can be trusted, because God's past promises have been fulfilled.

- And what does God's fulfilling of His past promises tell us about His future promises (His promise to return, His promise to judge His enemies, His promise to rescue His children and give them eternal life, and His promise to never leave us until that great day)?

BIG TRUTH: YES He DID, so YES He CAN!

God's faithfulness in the past gives us strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.

- **Joni Eareckson Tada** - a diving accident as a teenager left her a quadriplegic. But Joni knows the God who has been faithful to fulfill His promises in the past will be faithful to fulfill His promises in the future.

☀️ "Sitting there, I was reminded that in heaven I will be free to jump up, dance, kick and do aerobics. And ... sometime before the guests are called to the banquet table at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, the first thing I plan to do on resurrected legs is to drop on grateful, glorified knees. I will quietly kneel at the feet of Jesus.

☀️ "He has chosen not to heal me, but to hold me. The more intense the pain, the closer His embrace."¹

BIG TRUTH: YES He DID, so YES He CAN!

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).

¹ Joni Eareckson Tada, A Place of Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty.