

## Hebrews 6:13–20

### What is the Structure of these sections?

#### Hebrews 4:14–5:10      The Priesthood Introduced

- Hebrews 4:14–16      Exhortation
- Hebrews 5:1–10      Explanation

#### Hebrews 5:11–6:20      Warning and Assurance<sup>1</sup>

- Hebrews 5:11–6:3      Shame
- Hebrews 6:4–8      Warn
- Hebrews 6:9–12      Encourage
- Hebrews 6:13–20      Assure

#### Hebrews 7:1–28      The Priesthood Explained

- Hebrews 7:1–10      Melchizedek
- Hebrews 7:11–28      A Priest Forever

### What is the relationship between Encouragement and Assurance?

- What does he say in 6:9–12
  - Things that belong to Salvation (v. 9)
  - God is just and he will see your work / love / service (v. 10)
  - Perseverance (vv. 10, 11)
  - Final word of warning (v. 12) that sets up verses 13–20
- How is verse 13–20 connected to verses 9–12?
  - Both talk about promises
  - The exhortation is supported by an appeal to Abraham / God's oath to Abraham

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<sup>1</sup> Outline from Cockerill, *Hebrews*, 220. Cf. Schreiner, *Hebrews*, 168.

## Hebrews 6:13–20

### Abraham's Reason for Hope: A Promise from God

<sup>13</sup> For when God *made a* **promise** to Abraham,  
since he **had** no one greater by whom to swear,  
he **swore** by himself, <sup>14</sup> *saying,*

**"Surely I will bless you and  
multiply you."**

Gen 22:17

<sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, . . . **obtained** the **promise**  
*having patiently waited,*

### Rationale for God's oath

<sup>16</sup> For people **swear**  
by something greater than themselves,  
and in all their disputes  
an **oath** is final for confirmation. Gen 14:22; 21:23–23; 24:3

<sup>17</sup> 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 [1] **oath**, [1] The oath  
[*mesiteuō* ~ 8:6; 9:15; 12:24]

<sup>18</sup> \ so that by two unchangeable things,  
[2] in which it is impossible for God to lie, [2] God  
we . . . **might have** strong encouragement  
who *have fled* for refuge |  
to hold fast  
to **the hope** set before us.

### Our Reason for Hope: A Priest Like Melchizedek

<sup>19</sup> We **have** **this** as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,  
a hope that *enters into* the inner place Acts 27:29, 30, 40  
Lev 16:2  
3:11, 18, 19; 4:1–11

<sup>20</sup> behind the curtain, 9:12, 24–25  
where Jesus has gone  
as a forerunner on our behalf,  
having become a high priest  
forever  
after the order  
of Melchizedek.

## Hebrews 6:13–15

- **What do we know about Abraham?**
  - Genesis 12 – Promise of blessing, land, seed
  - Genesis 15 – Promise of land (exodus)
  - Genesis 17 – Promise of seed (circumcision)
  - Genesis 22 – Promise of blessing (sacrifice, priest, temple)
  
  - We know he had to wait and in his waiting his faith was tested and grown
- **Where does the idea of oath come in?**
  - Genesis 22:17
- **Why does God make an oath?**
  - Genesis 22:16
  - Genesis 26:3
- **How does Abraham's obedience relate to God's grace?**
  - Genesis 15 – God promised to do it all
  - Genesis 17 – God required obedience
  - Genesis 22 – God required a sacrifice / provided a sacrifice
  - Genesis 22 – The covenant hung on Abraham's priestly obedience
- **How does this inform our understanding of v. 15?**
  - Abraham received the promise of his Son . . .
  - But the sacrifice of Abraham reveals there's something greater
  - The obtaining is Isaac, but also more than Isaac – **Hebrews 11:8–19**
  
  - Abraham's faith is tested in Genesis 22:1
  - He passed the test and trusted God – points to a greater sacrifice, temple, priest
  - This his faith is based on
- **How does Hebrew present his faith?**
  - Here it describes it as patience
  - Hebrews 11 describes it as reckoning that God can raise the dead
  - It is completely eschatological (11:1)
- **How do you endure . . . demonstrate patience based on Hebrews 6:13–15?**

## **Hebrews 6:16–18**

- The author of Hebrews make a comparison between men who make oaths and God who does the same.
- God doesn't need to make an oath; his word is true. Yet, the certainty of the promise is increased by the oath.

### **What are the two things (v. 18)?**

- (1) God's promise
- (2) God's oath

\*\* Both of these things are sure, as they both arise from God's absolutely true character.

### **How does the oath confirm the promise to Abraham?**

- The oath comes later than the promise
- The oath confirms and strengthens the promise
- The oath is not the same thing as the promise; it is stronger
- The logic of this will come in Psalm 110 – the first priesthood lacked an oath; the second oath has an oath – 7:20–21

### **How does this oath strengthen your confidence in God?**

- **God's word is true**

### **When you read the Bible, what are you looking for?**

- **Trivia**
- **Commands**
- **Promises**

## Hebrews 6:19–20

### What do we have?

- Sure and steadfast anchor
- A hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain
- Jesus
- Jesus as a forerunner
- Jesus a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

### What does this possession mean for eternal security?

- Steadfast and sure anchor
- Access in the inner place = life
- Hebrews 6:4–6
  - Enlightened (cf. Heb 10:32)
    - Tasted the heavenly gift (cf. Heb 2:9)
      - Share in the Holy Spirit
    - Tasted the goodness of the Word
  - Tasted the powers of the age to come
- There is no teaching of loss of salvation, or loss of rewards.
- For the believers in view, Hebrews is calling them to endure.
- He holds out a warning of judgment if they do not remain repentance, but the abiding confidence is that repentance will be maintained by the Son.

### What are the time extremes?

1. Faith is a decision with no abiding repentance or good works
2. You can lose your salvation

\*\* You cannot lose your salvation, because of your high priest, but this priest will keep you in obedience, faith, and repentance.

### So what do we learn about salvation, faith, endurance?

1. Enduring faith will be tested and found true
2. Enduring faith is sustained by the priesthood of Christ
3. Enduring faith depends on the promise
4. Encouragement (v. 9–12) is rooted in promise
5. Those in Christ will be upheld by Christ
6. We must continue to approach throne of grace