

ONE BIBLE, ONE STORY: THE EPISTLE to the HEBREWS

Chapter 6:9-20 — Our Sure & Certain Hope

I. Where We Are Thus Far in Hebrews

- A. The Argument of Heb 1:1-5:10
- B. The Warning of Heb 5:11-6:8

II. Assurance and Continuing Exhortation (Heb 6:9-12)

- A. We Can Be Assured of God's Justice—He Does Not Forget! (vv. 9-10)
- B. But We Must Press On—No Resting on Past Laurels! (vv. 11-12)

III. Time to Talk around the Tables!

- Read Hebrews 6:13-18.
- Read Genesis 22:15-18.
- What are some of the ways that we individually and as a society “guarantee” promises? In other words, what actions or regulations are used to undergird a promise?
- What is the context of Genesis 22? Read Gen. 12:1-7 for some additional background.
- God's words to Abraham in Gen. 12:1-7 are usually understood in terms of a promise. This promise is re-articulated in Gen. 22:15-18. What additional element is added by God in Genesis 22 to underscore the validity of this promise? Why is this remarkable?
- How does Num. 23:19 contribute to this discussion?
- How do these OT passages and this background contribute to our understanding of Heb. 6:13-18? and to the repeated exhortations to persevere in Hebrews?

III. Encouragement from God's Character and Abraham's Example (vv. 13-18)

- A. Lessons from God's Interaction with Abraham (vv. 13-15)
- B. An Analogy from Human Experience (v. 16)
- C. The Nature of God's Promises and Purposes (vv. 17-18)

IV. The Link from Our Present Circumstances to Our Risen Lord Jesus (vv. 19-20)

- A. The Reality of Our Hope: Firm, Secure, Linking Us to Jesus (v. 19)
- B. Back to the Future: From Melchizedek to Jesus, Our High Priest Who Goes before Us (v. 20)

V. Some Concluding Reflections

- The Christian life is not easy and it's not passive—we must press on and be diligent to enter the promised rest. We need strong exhortations and solid assurances.
- Last week's passage gave us a strong exhortation; today's passage gives us several solid assurances.
- First, we can be confident that God's perfect, redemptive purposes and plans are unchanging. They cannot be thwarted by human sin and failure; they are not jeopardized by the events that are unfolding in our world today; they are not diminished by an apparent delay in Jesus' return. His unfailing, eternal purposes are guaranteed by his promises, and undergirded by his oath!
- Second, we can be confident that Jesus has already entered the heavenly sanctuary to which he is currently leading us. We are not headed for some mysterious, nebulous afterlife or "great beyond"—we are pressing on to the personal, unmediated presence of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!
- Third, we can be confident that our present hope is an objective reality, that reaches beyond our own circumstances and is anchored in the concrete reality of our future in Christ's presence. We are not hoping against hope that somehow everything will turn out for the best! There is a "chain" that links our present hope in Jesus to the present reality that Jesus is currently awaiting our future arrival in his direct presence!

For Next Week:

- Read and study Hebrews 7
- Read Genesis 14:11-20 and Psalm 110:1-4