

Title: God's Wonderful Promise

Text : Hebrew 6:13-20

Let us turn to Hebrew chapter 6 and we will begin reading at Vs 13. After this stinging passage of verses 4-8, This hypothetical illustration of the seriousness of apostasy, the writer continues to bring words of comfort to the believers heart. Words of comfort which began in Vs 9 and continue through vs 20.

This whole section began back in chapter 5 vs 11 where Paul warns the christian about being dull of hearing and the results of the lack of spiritual growth in the life of a believer.

Let's start reading at Vs 13 -- Follow along in your bibles, please.

Read 6:13-20 (*Read all verses*)

Join with me for a moment of prayer!!

Father, we thank you again for your Word; And the great encouragement it is to our hearts. We pray that the promises of God might be a source of comfort today in a way that each heart ~~will~~ here, today, will know that you care and love them. We pray that your spirit will teach us and guide us this hour. For we ask it in Jesus name AMEN.

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The notes are in your bulletin, and I would encourage you to follow along as we study God's Word, together.

Have you ever had a child come to you and say: "Daddy, you have promised that to me. I remember you making that promise."

Maybe you said you were going to go some where or do something together. And they come to you and say: "You promised."

Have you noticed what happens when you don't do it? Have you noticed? Some kids through fits ---but more important the credibility gape begins to grow. So the next time you promise something and say: "We are going to do this." But again you don't do it. It gets worse....

That's a problem little children have to face. And we, as little children, in God's great family, face the same thing.

One of the things that attacks us so often is the failure to believe that what God says will actually happen. Our failure to trust and to rely and to depend upon the wonderful promises of God instead of ourselves and our own performance. And in these last few verses of chapter 6, we have encouragement based upon God's promises. And these verses ought to be a blessing to every person here this morning. As we understand that God is going to be faithful to what He has promised, and what he has said he will do.

Now, I am not dealing this morning with particular promises of God; only with the fact that what He said He would do, he will do.

And dear friends, there is no one in this life, no matter how trustworthy they are, be they husband, wife, or child, no matter who, there is no one so faithful to his promises as God. And I would like you to see the encouragement of God in several ways.

(1D) First of all, as we see the instruction given to Abraham.

Let's look at Vs 13-15 carefully.....(1E) First, notice the scope of this promise. According to Vs 13 it says: "For when God made the promise to Abraham."

The scope of this promise is found in Gen chapter 12...Turn there please.. Now, Abraham is in Ur of the Chaldeans. It is a well developed country of many thousands of people. There are well organized towns and governmental authority. A well organized religious system. Ur was located near the Persian gulf which leads into the Indian ocean. Thus, this land was a long way from Palestine. It was about 600 miles as the crow flies. And remember, there were no trains nor cars nor airplanes. And it was here in Ur of the Chaldeans, some 600 miles from Palestine, that God gave Abraham a command to leave his native land and to travel to an unknown land....

(READ GEN 12:1-3)

What a wonderful promise.....Turn over the chapter 15....

(Read 15:5-6)

Now, come to chapter 17 vers 4-8 (Read) Turn to chapter 22 and Vs 15. Once again we find God reminding Abraham of His great promise. 22:15-18 *(Read)*

Now, will you come back to Hebrews 6 and look at this statemtn again. Vs 13: "For when God made this promise to Abraham, since He would swear by no one greater, he swore by Himself." Now, was it one promise or several promises. ~~...~~ The issue ~~...~~ here is: IS ONLY ONE OCCASION... ONLY ONE...

\* Because, according to the text, the occasion that Paul is refering to was accompanied by an OATH...in which God swore by himself .. which is the key to those of us who read this book, now, that God will perform his promises to Us...He is proving it by looking at the case of Abraham. Out of all those times that God gave Abraham a promise , on only one occasion did He swaer by himself an~~e~~ oath that he would do it. In other words, to make Abraham really believe it. That was Gen chapter 22 when he offered Isaac. Here was Abraham's only offspring. His only hope. ~~...~~ And God was asking him to kill his only offspring. And if he killed his only son, ~~...~~ to which the promise was to come, how was I to have any more ~~...~~ children? It was on that occasion that God swore by an oath which he ask Abraham to trust and to believe. And that is the root and the heart of this little section in Hebrew chapter 6. And I hope you understand it this morrowing. Because it is one of the greatest passages on assurance and encouragment that I have ever seen. Simple because of this: THAT GOD WAS WILLING TO TELL ONE MAN CONTINUSLY ONE MESSAGE AND FINALLY IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH CREDIBILITY IN THAT MAN'S ~~...~~ MIND, I WILL SWEAR AN OATH UNTO MYSELF BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANY HIGHER POWER. *said*

And I hope you will believe, this morrowing, that all of God's promises are going to happend just like he said, they would *as we have the illustration of Abraham the man of*  
(2D) Secondly, in Hebrews 6 lets look at this oath, which confirms this promise.

Certainly in your heart you might ask: "I thought we were not suppose to swear." If you mean blaspheming, of course not. If you mean cursing, of course not. If you mean profanity, of course not. If you mean swearing.... that is a different issue. Swearing, not profanity....But, swearing meaning to confirm what I have said.

Now, the Bible says in Vs 13 that God gave a promise to Abraham because he could swear by no greater. He swore by himself.

Now, an oath in ancient times, as well as today, means that you are swearing by a higher power. And the greater the power being sworn to, the surer will be the promise.

For example in the days of Jesus in Matthew chapter 5 verses 34-36, Jesus ~~referred~~ referred to how the Jews were swearing <sup>on the</sup> all the time. They swore by heaven. They swore by earth. They swore by Jerusalem. They swore by their footstool. And the higher the issue, The more assured you were of ~~it was to confirm~~ the promise. The higher you went in the oath you used the more sure the promise.

So, here the point is that God swore by himself. And you can't get any higher. And the Jews had a little ladder of swearing by oaths in which the higher you went on the ladder the more sure you are of the promise. And yet, God said that you can't swear by one any higher. ~~So~~, I am swearing by myself. I am giving you an oath and there is no one higher

By the way, in James chapter 5, the Bible teaches us that on the bases of God being the highest oath by which you can swear, Christians are not to swear at all. Now, I believe you ought not to curse. But, we are not talking about that. I believe you ought not to use profanity. But, we are not talking about that, either. We are talking about ~~swearing~~ swearing.. an oath.

Like: someone comes up to you and <sup>asking</sup> ~~ask~~ "are you going to do this"...And you say: "I swear on a stake of Bibles that I will do it."....

Now, what good ~~good~~ is that? I mean, ask yourself the question....I swear on the stake of Bibles..... What good is that?

Well, James 5:12 has a good principle to follow...."But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall into judgment"

So, What is the point? <sup>when</sup> You swear by a higher power to confirm what you say, then you are really saying that there are some times when we can't trust what you are saying.....You see, if I have to say to you, "Listen, I am not kidding. This is really the truth.".....OH, are there some times when you speak when it isn't the truth?.....Think about it....

You don't need to swear by anyone. As a believer the highest power possible is God. Who is the God of truth and not lies. So, let your yes be yes and your no be no.... You see the issue is: can people really count on your word....And that is the issue in Hebrews 6: Can we count on God's word? So, he swore by an oath. Namely, himself. Because there isn't any higher power that he could use. God is the ultimate power and authority of the universe.

(96) Number three, Vs 14. Notice the substances of this promise that He gave to Abraham. According to Vs 14 which is a quote from Genesis 22 He said: "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you."

Now, that is an interesting statement. The word "bless" is a participle. It means "it is going on". And so, <sup>He</sup> is saying "surely" or "in the process of blessing" "I will bless you"....It means that God always is in the process of blessing. And he is saying to Abraham "I am the God of blessing. Why wouldn't I bless you?"

And, also, He is the God of multiplying. God is the God of reproduction. And everything is reproducing after its own kind. And in the process of multiplying, I am going to multiply you....YOU IN PARTICULAR....

The point is: you can count on me doing this for you because that is what I am doing anyway. I am constantly blessing. I am constantly multiplying. Why shouldn't I have the right and the privilege to say to you: "I am going to bless you and to multiply you."

God is swearing by his own character in other words. His character of blessing and multiplying which is a <sup>characteristic</sup> ~~part~~ of His life.

Now, There are two things which are really a part of this promise.

One, is: PERSONAL BLESSING TO ABRAHAM'S LIFE. And I believe that refers to the giving of a son.

And secondly, there is continuous blessing through his line.

Now, let me tell you why that is important to you. *And me - The Application goes to abrah*

Galations 3:6-9, the Bible says that that promise is fulfilled when we become children of Abraham by faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Galation 3:6 to 9 that the Gospel of Christ was preached to Abraham when God said to Abraham: "IN THEE SHALL ALL NATIONS BE BLESSED."

How, will all the nations of the world be blessed?....ANSWER:...through the line of Abraham...

How?...One, according to Jewish law you must be married.....So, we are married to Jesus Christ who was a son in the line.

*and secondly* You can be born into the line. ~~And secondly~~, we are born of the spirit of God by Faith into God's Family... Third, adopted into the line

So, by ~~all~~ sets of laws of Jewish inheritance, we are children of God by faith through Abraham. We are children of Abraham. I am a real Jew....Really..

And I know all the problems about who is a Jew. I love the nation of Israel. And I believe there is coming a national day of salvation. And I believe God is going to use the Jewish nation in a special way during the Great tribulation period.

But, I am a real Jew. I am a son of Abraham by faith in Jesus Christ. I am married and I am born into that line. He who is a real Jew says Paul is one inwardly and not outwardly.....Very important issue.

(4E) The fourth thing that I want you to see, here, in Vs 15 is the securing of this promise on the part of Abraham.

A lot of folks read this verse and they don't think it is correct.... You might think that is strange. But look at the verse very carefully... Vs 15 says "And thus, having patiently waited, he(Abraham) obtained the promise."

Now, Abraham received the promise the moment God swore it to him. He knew he had secured it. But as we come to learn God's promise was through Issac. And so Abraham did patiently wait. HOW LONG DID HE WAIT?....

Well, according to Genesis the promise was given to him at the age of 75. And Issac wasn't born until age 100. So, he had to wait for 25 years....

For 25 years Abraham had to wait knowing that God's promise was that he would have a son and that there would be many children. He had to patiently wait for 25 years.... And then at the age of 100 God performed a ~~miracle~~ miracle. Sarah was 90 years old at the time. Now, I don't want to get too involved in the story. But I just love it. You know what I mean. The word Isaac means "laughter"...When Sarah was told she was going to have a baby, she just ~~cracked~~ <sup>-03-90</sup> Cracked up laughing. You would too if you were 90 and you were told you were going to have a baby.....You would laugh to.....In fact my wife said she would shoot herself.....

So, Abraham had to patiently wait. But the truth of the verse is that because He patiently waited, he did obtain the promise. He saw it fulfilled in his son Isaac....

Has that ever happened to you?.....You receive a promise of God...But, it never seems to come about...Oh, we pray about it...But it just doesn't seem to happen.....Then we go out and try to make it happen.....You know, how it is. We like to help God out a little bit....But, then in God's time and plan and will the promise happens.....Do you see the issue?....Trust.... Faith.....For God will answer prayer and he is faithful to his promises.... And Abraham becomes a great example to us concerning that truth.....that God is faithfully ~~to~~ to his promises....

(2D) Now, secondly, we ~~see~~ see the encouragement of God's promises in the importance of an oath. There are just a couple of things that I want you to see in Vs 16.....

(1E) One, the method that is used in an oath. What is the method. It is very clear in Vs 16. It says: "FOR MEN SWEAR BY ONE GREATER". The method is very simple: In order to establish the truthfulness of an individual's promise, you swear by someone greater,

(2E) Now, the second thing that is involved is the meaning of an oath.

There are two parts to the meaning of an oath. And they are both ~~mentioned~~ mentioned here in Vs 16. ~~As an oath was used in society, there were two usages... And both of them are here in Vs 16.~~



One, dealt with confirmation. Vs 16 says "an oath given as confirmation" Confirmation was a legal term in Roman society which was a legal guarantee. It was a legal sworn statement upon which the integrity of the individual was at stake. And most important of all: a statement upon which he was willing to be judged, if it proved false...

God says, "I am willing to be judged myself, if my promise proves false. So, he gave Abraham an oath swearing by his own nature because there was no higher power.

The second part of the meaning of an oath, not only for confirmation, but it was also dealing with conflict. Vs 16 says "an oath....is an end of every dispute."

In other words, all arguments stopped when the oath was given. In a court room in Roman society you could have a lot of argument and discussion. But when someone said, "I am <sup>Ready</sup> ~~really~~ for an oath." And he gave the oath. It was the end of all ~~the~~ argument and discussion and disputes.....WHY?....

Because that individuals integrity was now at stake. And if the evidence proved he was at fault, he then would suffer the consequences. He had no further recourse. He had no further chance to withdrawal....

The oath was like saying: "Wait, I want everyone to know in this court room that I am willing to stake my whole life and integrity on the truth as I am now going to give it. I swear....." And then they would have something that they <sup>would</sup> swear by.....And that would end the argument....

The point here is: that God has given an oath to settle the argument. ARE YOU STILL ARGUING AS TO WHETHER GOD CAN FULFILL HIS PROMISES?

**LISTEN**, God settled all argument. He gave an oath. He swore by himself. His credibility...his trustworthiness...his reliability is in back of everyone of his promises.. Maybe it is our limited view of God....Maybe we don't understand the God of the Bible as to why we question as to whether he does what he claims.....whether it is going to heaven...whether it is receiving forgiveness.....of all sin no matter what it is....peace, joy, happiness, love, where is it all.....GOD'S PROMISE IS BASED UPON GOD'S CHARACTER...



Do you understand who the God is who swore by himself that he is going to do exactly what he says?.....

For if you do.....THEN, YOU SEE, THE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR LIVING A FURITFULLY LIFE IS THERE.....

The encourage of God's promise.....There are a few more <sup>principles</sup> ~~promises~~ that I would like to share with you. But, I see that my time is gone. So, let's close in prayer. And we will continue this tremendous subject next week.....

Prayer