

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Feb 2014

Hebrews

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Lesson #8: The Certainty of God's Promise

INTRODUCTION

In days past, a person's handshake and word was binding. Why do you think that has changed?
Matt 5:33-37

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Hebrews 6:13-20

1. What promise did God make to Abraham? Gen 22:17 Did He keep it? Why? Ps 102:27; Heb 13:8
2. What did Abraham have in mind when God told him that he would be "blessed"?
3. Abraham was honored and saved because of his faith. But why was he chosen? Why are we?
Note: When God made the covenant with Abraham (Gen 15) he had Abraham cut specific animals in half and set the halves opposite each other. He then passed between the halves. In such a covenant, both parties normally walk between the halves, signifying their mutual obligations to fulfill the conditions. Abraham had no part in deciding the conditions or the ceremony. God was thus signifying that it was His responsibility to fulfill the covenant and Abraham was merely a witness. The covenant was made between God and Himself. God put His character on the line.
4. If God could complete His plan in Abraham's life, what are the chances that He can complete His plan in ours? Eph 1:3-4, Rom 8:29-30; Jer 29:11
Note: In Biblical times it was common for people to make an oath on something or someone greater than himself – such as the altar, high priest or even God. Once made, the argument was over because it was assumed that no one would make such an oath unless he was determined to keep it.
5. What difference does it make that God swore on his own name? Heb 13:8
*Note: Refuge referred to in V 18 is like the cities of refuge that God provided for those who sought protection from avengers for an accidental killing (Num 35). Why would we need God to be a refuge?
*Note: "Entering within the veil" in v. 19 refers to Jesus' priestly role of entering the Holy of Holies where sacrifice for atonement was made. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, p. 169**
6. What is the value of a high priest who is also the guard?
7. If God "sees" our souls as already secure within the veil (His holy sanctuary), wouldn't that lead us to do whatever we want? Why obey God (good works)? James 2:20-24

APPLICATION

How can you use God's promises to counteract your doubts during difficult times?

The writer alluded to Israel's cities of refuge that provided protection for Israelites who had slain someone accidentally. So, too, the Christians have a place of refuge in Christ. An anchor (6:19) in a secure spot would keep a ship from drifting. Christ, the believer's anchor, is in the safest place possible. The anchor, a symbol for Christ, has been found engraved in early Christian tombs.¹

¹Hughes, Robert B. ; Laney, J. Carl ; Hughes, Robert B.: *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Publishers, 2001 (The Tyndale Reference Library), S. 668