



## Lesson 33

**Theme:** God Promises with an Oath

**Scripture:** Hebrews 6:13-20

### **Things that Accompany Salvation** (Hebrews 6:9-12)

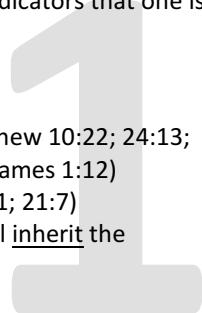
- Love, works, obedience, repentance, pursuit of holiness, walking with God, being yoked to Christ, visible fruit of the Spirit . . . are **some** of those things.
- (James 2:14-26) Faith with works will not save anyone! Faith without taking God seriously at His Word will not save anyone. A faith that ignores God's commands will not save anyone. (Matthew 7:21; 1 John 2:3-4 with John 17:2-3; 1 John 5:3)



- Anyone who is NOT a DISCIPLE of Christ is not born-again. (Luke 9:23; 14:25-33)
- **NOTE and MEDITATE:** "faith and patience" are gifts ('things that accompany salvation') through which God INSURES that ALL His people will persevere to the end. (Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-14) **THEREFORE**, "faith and patience" are indicators that one is truly born-again.

### **Faith and Patient Endurance** (vv. 12, 15)

- "those who endure to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 3:14; 6:11; James 1:12)
- "overcomers" (Revelation 2:7, 10, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7)
- Those who remain faithful and patiently endure will inherit the promises. **See Hebrews 10:36.**



## Abraham, An Example to Imitate (vv. 13-18)

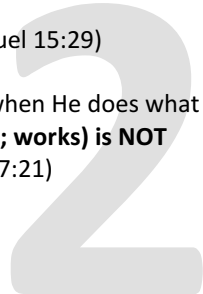
- Abraham: “the father of all who believe” (Romans 4:11; Galatians 3:7, 17-18, 29)
- Abraham:
  - ① Descendent of Shem
  - ② His family worshiped pagan gods
  - ③ He grew up in Ur of Mesopotamia (“between two rivers”)
  - ④ God, according to His own purpose, commanded Abram to leave
  - ⑤ God **promised** Abram and his descendants the land of Canaan.
  - ⑥ Abram **obeyed** – with no guarantee except God’s word.
  - ⑦ Abraham’s faith was not blind – it was based on the **character** of God.
- Whenever God makes a PROMISE He puts His character (honor, integrity) on the line. Every promise of God is secure because of the character of God.
- If God was ever to break a promise He would cease to be God.

## God Swears By Himself (vv. 13-15)

- Men swear by that which is greater than themselves.
- There is NO ONE or THING greater than GOD.
- GOD is TRUTH and the God of Truth (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 25:1; 65:16; John 14:6 with Zechariah 12:1, 10; John 14:17)
- God cannot LIE because it is NOT in His nature. (Titus 1:1)
- God has promised through the Everlasting Covenant that ALL whom He elected He will glorify. (Romans 8:28-30 with John 6:38-40, 45)



- God’s Word, what He says, is TRUTH. (John 17:17; Psalm 119:142, 151, 160)
- God **cannot** lie. (Titus 1:1-3; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29)
- **Therefore**, whatever God says it is TRUTH!
- **BIBLICAL FAITH**: Believing God. One believes God when He does what God says! **Faith without obedience (repentance; works) is NOT saving faith!** (James 2:14-26; Luke 4:4; Matthew 7:21)



## It Was God's Purpose (v. 14)

- A double promise of surety: “. . .  **blessing I will bless you**” See Genesis 41:32; Genesis 22:17
- “. . .  **multiplying I will multiply you.**”
- “blessing I will bless you” is a Hebrew mode of expression denoting emphasis and certainty.
  - Contrast with Genesis 2:7.
- **God's purpose** of Abraham was to bless the world through Abraham.
  - See Galatians 3:14, 29; Romans 9:7-8.
  - ★ The “blessing” included eternal life AND faith, holiness, perseverance - and that to the very end.
- **NOTE:** Abraham did not ask God to bless him or multiply him – this is God's idea and purpose.
- God's covenant with Abraham was God's doing and not Abraham's.
- God's covenant with Abraham is **unconditional**.
- It would NOT be Abraham's obedience that fulfilled this covenant – God's promise was the guarantee of its fulfillment.
- Abraham was NOT a party to this covenant – he was only a witness and the instrument through whom the covenant would be fulfilled.
- The covenant was with God and Himself. (See Genesis 15)
- God's purpose and counsel will stand forever. (Isaiah 14:24; Psalm 33:11)
- God has purposed that **all** those whom He elected (before time began) will be conformed into the image of Son. (Romans 8:29-30)
- (Hebrews 6:15) “After he endured he received the promise!” - Go back to Genesis 22:17 and meditate on “endured!” **Endured what?**

## An OATH (vv. 16-17)

- GOD word should be ENOUGH **but God condescends us** (“heirs of promise” – see Hebrews 6:12; Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:29; 4:7, 28; Titus 1:1; 3:7; Hebrews 1:14) and confirms (**guarantees**) His promise with an oath.
- An oath puts **all dispute** to an end. (Example in Exodus 22:11)
- God gave His people His Spirit as an **guarantee** of His promise. (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:14) This **guarantee** is forever. (John 14:16)
- “immutability of His counsel” - His eternal purpose! (See Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21; Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:8-10; Ephesians 1:11)

## Two Immutable Things (v. 18)

- God's Word (His Promise) and God's Oath makes our salvation SURE.
- For those of us who have "fled for refuge" we have a STRONG CONSOLATION (peace) of the HOPE (Jesus Christ – 1 Tim. 1:1; Colossians 1:5, 27) set before us.

## We Have A High Priest (vv. 19-20)

- "this hope is set before us" - what is this hope.
  - ★ IT IS CHRIST!
  - See Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Timothy 4:8; 2 Peter 3:12-14.
- EVERYONE who has this HOPE waits with PERSEVERANCE. (**Rom 8:25; 1 Peter 1:7-9**)
- Christ is OUR ANCHOR (something that prevents us from drifting away) **already** in the Holy of Holies in heaven.
- Our ANCHOR is **SURE** and **STEADFAST**.
- He is our **FORERUNNER** who did not enter for Himself **BUT FOR US!**
- (1 Peter 2:25) **HE** is the OVERSEER (ἐπίσκοπος episkopos {ep-'is'-kop-os} a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly; guardian) of our SOULS!
- He is our ADVOCATE (1 John 2:1) and the One who INTERCEDES for us. (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
- ALL of God's promises are YES in Christ. Christ came to FULFILL all of God's promises (His eternal purpose). (2 Corinthians 1:20-22; Ephesians 3:10)
- **THEREFORE**, having these promises "let us cleanse ourselves from all the filthiness all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- **ALL** (everyone one of them) those who have these promises purify themselves just as He is pure. (1 John 3:3)
- EVERYONE who has these promises **follow** Christ. (John 10:27-29)



## Do You Believe God?

(Does your life show it?)

