

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF HEBREWS

HOPE (HEBREWS 6:13-20)

THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Abraham is possibly the most important figure in the Bible besides Christ. He is the great patriarch of both Jews and Christians and is highly regarded in Islam as well.

- God made an oath to Abe in Gen. 22:16 that He would "make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky"

GOD SWORE BY HIMSELF

Whenever a promise is made, we swear to something greater than ourselves. God has no one greater, so He swore an oath to Himself.

- God made a promise before Abe was asked to take his son Isaac's life. After acting obediently to God, God stopped him and made the oath to make Abe's descendants numerous

WE ARE TO IMITATE ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE

God has a promise for all of us, and we are to act in obedience to what He has called us to do. Through faith and patience, we will inherit the blessings and destiny that God has for us.

- We often have a hard time with faith and patience because humans break so many promises and our word means very little. We are an unfaithful culture.

JESUS URGED US TO BE COUNTER-CULTURE

Matthew 5:37 says, "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no." God's "yes" to Abraham was sufficient, but humans see value in oaths. So, God swore by the highest authority, Himself.

- We have hope in the promise that started with Abe and continued on to all people through Christ: **If we have faith, He will give us eternal life.**

WHERE DO WE FIND THIS HOPE?

FIRST, IN THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF GOD'S WORD

The history is solid, the prophecies have come true, and the principles work

SECOND, OUR TENACITY IS HONORED BY GOD

If we strive to grow close to Him in knowledge and obedience, He is faithful to us and gives us security and protection from the darkness of this life

THIRD, THROUGH THE ANCHOR THAT IS JESUS

The example of Jesus' life and His death, burial, and resurrection bring us hope because He has entered into the "inner sanctuary behind the curtain" and bridged the gap between God and mankind

LASTLY, CHRIST WILL NEVER LEAVE HIS THRONE

We find peace and hope in the promise of eternity with Jesus in heaven

HOPE ALLOWS US TO HOLD ON

- God's Spirit encourages us, gives us hope, and empowers us to keep going in this life. If we claim our promise (salvation) from God, we can live committed to Christ now, and we can enjoy the rewards of heaven forever.

THE EXAMPLE (HEBREWS 7:1-3)

BACK TO MELCHIZEDEK

Mel is only mentioned twice in the OT. Hebrews 7:1-3 is referring to Genesis 14:18-20 when Abraham defeated 4 invading kings and was on his way home with his nephew Lot.

- The king of Sodom proposed that Abe give back all the spoils from the victories, and he did because he promised God he wouldn't get rich from these wars.

MEL MET WITH ABE RIGHT BEFORE THIS

The mysterious King/High Priest Melchizedek of Salem (another title for Jerusalem) came out to give Abe bread and wine and bless Abe for his faithfulness to God. In response to Mel's blessing, Abraham gave him a tithe (10th) of his spoils

THIS TRANSACTION WAS VITALLY IMPORTANT

Abraham met face-to-face with his superior, and Mel blessed him in a way that only a superior could.

- Remember, Melchizedek is either a foreshadowing of Christ or possibly a Christophany (Christ incarnate). So, we are to learn from Abe's response to Mel and imitate it with our superior, Jesus.

MELCHIZEDEK AS THE ARCHETYPE

His name means king of righteousness, and him being the King of Salem means he was the king of peace. We also read he was "without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life"

- Whether this is literal or figurative, we see the point. Jesus is a leader like the righteous king, Melchizedek

THE MYSTERY IS FUN, BUT THE POINT IS IMPERATIVE

Through studying fascinating things of the Word, like Mel in Genesis 14, we can sometimes lose focus of the author's point.

- Hebrews is trying to encourage the reader that Jesus is a King, but not in the order of this world. Jesus is not like our world's leaders, regardless of how good some may be.

ISSUES OF HUMILITY, AUTHORITY, AND OBEDIENCE

In the interaction between Abe and Mel, we see the proper response when we come to know our Superior, Jesus Christ.

- Tithing is not a fiduciary transaction as much as it is an issue of the heart. The honoring of God through our giving shows our understanding of God's blessing, His authority, and our obedience

GOD IS FAITHFUL

When we have a revelation of Jesus and the grace He has shown (He was faithful first), our response should be humility, obedience, and honor. If we honor Him, He will be faithful in all things to us.

HIGHER (HEBREWS 7:4-10)

IF ABRAHAM WAS GREAT... (V4)

The author was reemphasizing to the readers the greatness of Melchizedek. If Abe honored him, shouldn't we honor who Mel represents?

- By law, all Jews had to pay a tithe to the Levitical Priests, but Mel was not a Levite, so the **giving to him was out of honor, not obligation**

"...THE INFERIOR IS BLESSED BY THE SUPERIOR" (V7)

The Levitical Priests were mere mortals, and though they could offer sacrifices to God, they could not bless (save and restore) the people.

- Using Mel as the archetype, we are reminded that **only God can completely lead, restore, and save humanity. So, why are we continually searching everywhere else?**

THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T HONOR PEOPLE

V8 mentions that we give to "men who will die" meaning the community of believers and for the cause of advancing the gospel. But again, humans are mortal, and though people can help us, they cannot ultimately fix us

- **God calls us to honor authority, both religious and non-religious and says rebellion is sin.** (Romans 13, 1 Samuel 15, Isaiah 63)
- **1 Peter 2:15-17**

WE HAVE HOPE

- Through the promises kept to Abraham, the heroes of the Bible, and the testimonies all around us, we find hope and peace in what Christ has done and will do
- Though we live this life to its fullest, we also remember we are migrant

THERE'S SOMETHING BETTER

- Jesus modeled a better life, and once we realize that, we must respond with full submission. But don't worry, He promises to outgive us.