

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 1ST–2ND, 2025 // HEBREWS

## HOPE (HEBREWS 6:13–20)

### A 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 swore to Abe in Genesis 22:16–17 that He would “make [Abraham’s] offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky.”

### GOD SWORE TO HIMSELF

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

- God made a promise before Abe was asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac. After Abe proved his obedience, God stopped him and swore to “multiply” him.

### IMITATING ABRAHAM'S EXAMPLE

God has a promise for all who respond with obedience. Via **faith** and **patience**, we inherit the blessings and destiny God wants for us.

- We have a hard time with faith and patience because **people often break promises, and our word means very little. We live in an unfaithful culture.**

### REPRESENTING GOD WELL

Matthew 5:37 says, “Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ be ‘no.’” God’s “yes” to Abraham was sufficient, but humans place value in oaths.

- Instead of getting into the habit of swearing to God, **we are simply to make sure our words and actions are in alignment. Christians are to be dependable.**

### “WE HAVE THIS HOPE AS AN ANCHOR...”

First, in the trustworthiness of **God’s Word**

- The history, prophecies, and principles are solid. God is also incapable of lying (v. 18), so we can trust His Word.

Second, **our effort** is honored by God

- If we strive to grow close to Him, He is faithful and protects us from darkness.

Third, through the anchor that is **Jesus**

- The example of Jesus and the cross bring hope because He has entered 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 a secure eternity with Jesus in heaven.

## THE EXAMPLE (HEBREWS 7:1–3)

### MORE REFERENCES TO MELCHIZEDEK

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

- Sodom’s king proposed Abe give back his spoils from war. Abe agreed because he promised God he wouldn’t profit from war.

### MEL HAD 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 him for his faithfulness to God.

- In response to Mel’s blessing, Abraham gave him a **tithe** (one-tenth) of his spoils. This is the beginning of biblical tithing.

### THIS WAS A VITALLY IMPORTANT TRANSACTION

Abraham met face-to-face with his superior and was uniquely blessed because of the honor he showed.

- Melchizedek is either a foreshadowing of Christ, or possibly a Christophany. So, we’re to learn from Abe’s response and imitate it with our superior, Jesus.

### MELCHIZEDEK IS AN ARCHETYPE

His name means **king of righteousness**, and 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 literal or figurative, we see the point. Jesus is a leader like Melchizedek.

### MYSTERIES ARE FUN, BUT WE CAN'T MISS THE POINT

When we dig deeper into fascinating things of the Word like Melchizedek, we can sometimes lose focus on the author’s point.

- Hebrews is trying to encourage us that **Jesus is King, but not in the order of this world**. There have been great leaders, but **Jesus is perfect and beyond this world**.

### 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 isn’t a fiduciary transaction as much as it is a heart issue. Honoring God through giving shows our understanding of God’s blessings and His authority.**

## HIGHER (HEBREWS 7:4–10)

### IF ABRAHAM WAS GREAT...(V. 4)

The author reemphasizes to the reader the greatness of Melchizedek. If Abe honored him, shouldn’t we honor who Mel represents?

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

### “...THE INFERIOR IS BLESSED BY THE SUPERIOR.”

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

- **Why do we continually search elsewhere for salvation?** Using Mel as the archetype, we are reminded that **only Jesus can fully lead, restore, and save humanity**.

### THIS DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T HONOR PEOPLE

V. 8 mentions we give to “men who will die,” meaning the community of Believers, and for advancing the gospel. Again, **good people can help, but they cannot ultimately fix us**.

- **The Word calls us to honor religious and non-religious authority, and it also says rebellion is sin** (Romans 13; 1 Samuel 15).
- 1 Peter 2:13–17 (CSB)

### WE HAVE HOPE THROUGH OUR FAITH

- Through the promises kept to Abraham, the promises, wisdom, and guidance of the Word, the testimonies of other Christians, and the leading of the Spirit, **we have hope and peace for what Jesus has, can, and will do with us if we will humbly submit to His leadership**.

### JESUS AS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE

- Jesus not only gives us the perfect example of how to live, but the principles of the Word, if applied to our daily lives, will make us better people and draw us closer to our Creator!
- Simply put, **God’s Word works in every corner of our lives!**

### WE ARE CALLED TO HONOR HIM

- Jesus is loving, gracious, generous, and just, even when we are not. **We are to honor Jesus by imitating His example** via the power of His Spirit: through **giving, serving, respecting others, loving all people, fearing Him, obedience, and honoring authority**.

### A QUICK NOTE ABOUT TITHING

- We’re to honor and trust Jesus with every corner of our lives, even our finances. **Every part of our life that we trust Jesus to manage will be blessed by Him**.
- It is also impossible for the true gospel to advance without Christians’ collective generosity.

### WE ARE CALLED TO HONOR OTHERS

- Honoring Jesus indirectly blesses others. But **we are also to directly bless others through respect, honor, love, servitude, generosity, and sharing truth**.
- We are to show this kind of honor **to ALL people**. This is one thing that differentiates Christians from non-believers.

### THE INVITATION TO BE UNIQUE

- When one accepts Jesus’ invitation to be saved, they are accepting the call to be counter to the culture of the world.
- **Christians are called to be people of grace, honor, generosity, and love**. If we choose to make this sacrifice, we can trust **Jesus will always out give and out bless us!**