

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 2ND, 2025 // HEBREWS

PROMISE (HEBREWS 6:13–18) GOD MADE A PROMISE AND AN OATH

God made many promises to Abraham but this is the first time that it is secured with an oath. Why? Isn't God's word enough?

- **We shouldn't need more than God's word. His promise is enough. But God chose to strengthen Abraham, and us, with double assurances, because our hearts are prone to unbelief and doubt.**

I WILL BLESS AND MULTIPLY

The promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:2–3 was twofold. God would be with Abraham and his many descendants. The key words are "I will."

- **When God promises that He will do something, we can have great faith in His ability to do what He says. Do we really trust God and His timing?**

WAITING PATIENTLY

We know that Abraham wasn't so patient. He made mistakes. In his (and his wife's) impatience, they did something ungodly to "help" God keep His promise.

- **We should not make the mistake of contradicting or twisting God's word for personal gain and disguising it with words like "blessed" and "prosperity."**

PEOPLE SWEAR

The writer does not share the detail of the promise but gives attention to the fact that God made a promise and an oath.

- People take oaths and swear by things bigger or more important than themselves. The goal is to remove all doubt. It is important to the speaker and hearer.
- **God doesn't need to make oaths. He did it to remove any doubt from men's hearts.**

HEIRS OF THE PROMISE

Not only does God want to make it easy for us to believe, He wants us to know we have the right to believe.

- The heirs were Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, their descendants, the Hebrew readers, and us.
- **As heirs, God wants to reveal His purpose to us. It is His will to reveal His will in a clear message.**

UNCHANGABLE THINGS

The writer says that as they fled for refuge, they could all be encouraged and comforted knowing that the word and oath of God cannot be changed.

- **Are we seeking refuge? Was it at Prayer Night? Here today? Did we find hope?**
- **Hope is more than safety, it is knowing the promises of God, His presence, and eternity with Christ. Are we seizing it now?**

HOPE (HEBREWS 6:19–20) THE ANCHOR BEHIND THE CURTAIN

We should not get all mixed up because of these metaphors. Our hope (the anchor) goes beyond our troubles and enters the holiest place (behind the curtain).

- **The question we have to ask ourselves is what is behind the curtain? We have this anchor, but what is it anchored to?**

A FORERUNNER

The OT high priest could go behind the curtain, but no one else could. He could only go on certain days and as long as he lived, then he would be replaced by a new high priest. Now, we see Jesus as a forerunner—the permanent High Priest.

- **Our hope (anchor) is in, and with, Christ. Because of who He is and where He is, we can follow Him and be with Him—forever.**

MELCHIZEDEK (HEBREWS 7:1–10) KING AND PRIEST

Mel is only mentioned in four verses in the Bible until the book of Hebrews. He may appear unimportant, but outside of Jesus and Mel, the Bible identifies no one as both king and priest.

- **We are reminded that Jesus is the One who leads us (king) because He is the One who knows us, loves us, and sacrificed Himself for us (high priest).**

NAME AND GENEALOGY

Melchizedek lived at a time when names were descriptions of position and character. He was a king of righteousness and peace (Salem).

- No, he was not immortal (v. 3). The point is that he was not born into the priesthood. He was appointed by God and is symbolically what Jesus is in reality. **No beginning. No end. Eternal.**

MEL AND ABRAM

We learn that he met Abram and blessed him. In Genesis 14 we see Mel coming out to meet Abram after his victory. He recognizes Abram as one whom God is with and who had been empowered by God to defeat his enemies.

- **Blessing is when one who walks with God recognizes the presence of God and gives God the glory for what He has done.**

ABRAHAM'S RESPONSE

Abram gives Mel a tenth of what he had collected in battle. This is no small gift. Considering the size and unusual recipient, this is an important and unique transaction.

- **If we stop and inventory what God has given to us, how do we respond?**

THE SONS OF LEVI

The law would eventually command priests to collect a tenth from the people; people like them, descendants of Abraham. The Levitical priest received the tithe because of the commandment.

- **We begin to see just how great Mel must be when the father of the Levitical line chooses to give to Mel, the king of Salem.**

GREATER THAN ABRAHAM?

This mostly unknown king blesses Abram because he has been appointed by God to see His presence. Melchizedek was greater than Abram and also greater than all of the Levitical priests that descended from Abraham.

- **Why would the writer of Hebrews make this point with such passion?**

MEN WHO DIE

The OT priests were individually temporary and as a line. Melchizedek shows that the Levitical priesthood was always meant to give way to something greater. There was someone greater before them and someone even greater was on His way.

- **The greatness of Melchizedek is more about making way for the greater Messiah: Jesus Christ.**

TRUTH

- God only speaks truth.
- **We read God's word but still have doubts about our ability to receive it.**
- **God doesn't have to simplify the truth. We complicate it when we forget that His word is for us and to us. He makes promises because we have a trust problem.**

ANCHORED

- We look for refuge, safety, and peace.
- **Because of our fear and/or pride, we throw our anchor without looking.**
- **The curtain has been torn. We can see Jesus. We can join Him. We don't have to throw our anchor. We can hand it to Jesus. He will secure it.**

FOREVER

- Eternity is a long time.
- **Ours started when we were created and continues from right now forward.**
- **Through Jesus, God has given us His word, His promises, and His presence. How much of this will we trust? Will we ignore what is offered? What is so unbelievable or unreasonable about following Christ? How much longer will our way work?**