



The Book of Hebrews God's Promise The Anchor of the Soul

Hope in the book of Hebrews never means 'subjective hope' as in 'hopefulness' or even 'my hope.' Instead it always denotes the objective content of hope which is our present and future salvation. So we can sing "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood..."

God's promise is the basis of our hope!

A. The **Promise** and **Patience** Heb 6:13-15

1. Abrahamic covenant: [Gen 12:1-3; 22:16-18] God had promised Abram that he would be the father of a great nation. From Abram to Abraham was a journey of many tests until the birth of Isaac and the ultimate test of the 'Aqedah' the binding or sacrifice of Isaac. God then reaffirmed the covenant.

2. Faith, hope and patience: [:15] Abraham was anchored to the 'promise' of God which gave him faith and hope to endure.

Lord, today I put my faith in Your promises and with Your help will wait for Your will to be done!

B. The **Promise** and **Peace** Heb 6:16-18

1. Immutable: This word is used twice in this passage and is a legal term that would be used in an 'irrevocable will' to mean that the 'will' [or the promise] could not be changed.

2. What two things? Verse :18 indicates that the promise needs 'two immutable things.' Since there is no authority higher than God—He could not appeal to higher authority. So His 'promise' and His 'oath' seal the document (Abrahamic covenant).

3. What peace? The word 'consolation' means comfort or encouragement. The word 'refuge' refers to the OT cities of refuge where an offender could run to and be safe. God's promises are a comfort to us as they are like cities of refuge where we rest in hope.

Lord, today I thank you for the comfort of Your promise, the safety of Your Word and the sure hope of my salvation.

C. The **Promise** and **Presence** Heb 6:19-20

1. An anchor of the soul: [:19] The image of an anchor was a common nautical metaphor in the ancient world. It means the 'security' which firm anchorage provided for a ship. So here: "As a ship is held fast when at anchor, the life of the Christian is secured by hope that binds that life to Christ, who has entered the heavenly sanctuary." [Vorhang Hofius]

2. Assurance: This hope is a 'know so' not a 'hope so.' [J. Vernon McGee] It's not just the anchor—it's that the anchor is set 'securely' into the sea bottom as our hope is set securely into the 'promise' of God and the finished work of Christ.

3. Entering His Presence: This is a reference to the Holy of Holies where the High Priest would enter once a year to make atonement for the sins of Israel. WOW—we now have this same access!

We learn in the book of Hebrews that Jesus became our High Priest according the order of Melchizedek. (See message #12) We have access to the 'Presence' because Jesus has already gone there 'before us' and 'for us.' This is wonderfully summarized in Heb 10:19-25.

***Lord, today I come boldly to your throne of grace and choose hope over doubt, peace over worry, and patience over striving.
I thank you that Your promises are faithful and true and I anchor my heart in You.***

Hebrews 6:13-20 (NKJV)

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,

18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.