

Being Confident in the Unknown

2017 Mark Beaird

Text: Hebrews 6:13-20

“When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Introduction

Everything seems to change, sometimes for good, sometimes not, but everything seems to change. A new car gets old, technology becomes outdated, the seasons pass, time change.

How do we live confidently in a world with so many unknowns? There is no way within ourselves—unless we deny reality. However, there is a way in God. It is found in trusting his ability and in His nature.

Psalm 33:11 reads, “The counsel of the Lord stands for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations”. What he does in time, he planned from eternity. And all that he planned in eternity, he carries out in time. And all that he has in his Word committed himself to do, will infallibly be done. Thus, we read of the “unchangeable character of his purpose” to bring believers into full enjoyment of their promised inheritance, and of the immutable oath by which he confirmed his counsel to Abraham, the archetypal believer, both for Abraham’s own assurance and also for others (Heb. 6:17-19). So, it is with all God’s announced intentions. They do not change. No part of his eternal plan changes. <https://bible.org/illustration/repentance>

Note the *assurances* found in this passage of scripture.

- I. **God Guarantees His Own Promises (v.13-15).**
- II. **God’s Nature Signifies the Nature of His Promises (v.16-18).**
- III. **God Himself Becomes Our Anchor in an Uncertain World (v.19-20).**

Conclusion

When Lloyd C. Douglas, author of The Robe and other novels, was a university student, he lived in a boarding house. Downstairs on the first floor was an elderly, retired music teacher, who was infirm and unable to leave the apartment. Douglas said that every morning they had a ritual they would go through together. He would come down the steps, open the old man's door, and ask, "Well, what's the good news?" The old man would pick up his tuning fork, tap it on the side of his wheelchair and say, "That's middle C! It was middle C yesterday; it will be middle C tomorrow; it will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but, my friend, THAT is middle C!" The old man had discovered one thing upon which he could depend, one constant reality in his life, one "still point in a turning world." For Christians, the one "still point in a turning world," the one absolute of which there is no shadow of turning, is Jesus Christ.