

Anchor

Riverside Youth Devotional

April 26th, 2020

Hebrews 6:13-20

¹³ 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.

When God made the promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and that God would bless the whole world through him, he did so by making a blood covenant. In this covenant, several animals are cut in half and laid on two sides of a path. Then, the two people making the covenant walk down the path that is lined with the blood of the sacrifices. They would agree that if either of them broke the covenant, then what happened to the animals would happen to them.

God knew that Abraham's descendants, being human, would not be able to fulfill their end of the covenant of being perfectly faithful to God. So, when it came time to walk the blood path; God put Abraham into a deep sleep and walked the path for both of them. This means that when we broke the covenant, God sacrificed himself in the person of Jesus so that we could all still be in relationship with God. God died for us so that we wouldn't have to face the consequences of our own sin.

Look at v. 17: God wanted to make the **unchanging nature of his purpose** very clear to the heirs of **what was promised**.

What are some characteristics of God's unchanging nature?

What are some of the things God has promised to us that were confirmed by this covenant?

The fact that God that God knows us so well and doesn't want to be separated from us that he would walk the path twice and take the weight of our sin upon himself shows us how very much God loves us. Our hope can be anchored into that love with the knowledge that it will never change or go away.

This passage tells us that God's love is made manifest in the person of Jesus, who has entered the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. That place is called the tabernacle, and it was the place where God dwelled in the temple. No one but the high priest could go in, but when Jesus died, the curtain tore itself in two. God's presence is no longer confined to a place, but dwells within God's people as the Holy Spirit. We place our hope in the love of God, manifest in Jesus, and dwelling within us as the Holy Spirit.

How does this hope help to anchor your soul?

My prayer for you today comes from Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.