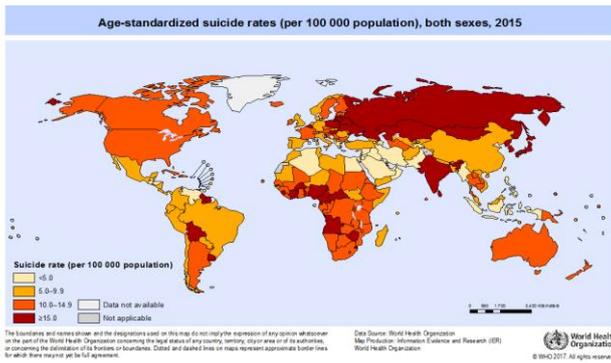


Hebrews 6.13-20

God's Anchor will Hold!



Recent SUICIDE Rates in our WORLD

SUICIDE – Taking OWN Life –
ULTIMATE Sign Hopelessness
Darker Red Higher the Number
Most Nations rates GOING UP

Do YOU have HOPE? Are you known by Others as Person of HOPE?

We OFTEN BASE our HOPE on things we have DONE or POSSESS

I hope I will get my DEGREE > I Study all the TIME!

I hope to have Long & Healthy Life > I have INHERITED Great GENES!

I hope I will be Happy > I have a lot of MONEY, Great Job, House, Wife, Kids

By the MERCY of God > We have MANY Temporal/Earthly BLESSINGS

REASON given for HOPE in Bible is NEVER Us

WRITER Just FINISHED Strongest WARNING So far in Message to Church
Hebrew Xtians contemplating RETURNING to SAFER Ground of JUDAISM
NO Where to Go! All their HEBREW HEROES Now HONOR Jesus their Christ
As heard Warning Perhaps Church Members were clinging to PEWS & PILARS
Like day JONATHAN EDWARDS preached

“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” in NORTHAMPTON & ENFIELD

After words of CHALLENGE he preaches these words of COMFORT...

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6.9-12

1. Solid Hope – *Promises from God*

NOTICE the Vital Connection between HOPE and PROMISES

have the full assurance of hope until the end...inherit the promises Hebrews 6.12

Our HOPE is in GOD thru GRACIOUS PROMISES of His WORD

WRITER Points Hebrew Christians to their FATHER in Faith – Abraham

In middle of RAMADAN we remember he is Father of Faith for Muslims too

vs. 13,15 For when God made a promise to Abraham...Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise

In Abe's DAY People thought of their gods like WI-FI

ONLY had LIMITED RANGE – Need Connect to Other gods as Move Along
God who MADE Heaven & Earth REVEALED Himself to Abe – One True God

Abe called to PUT Faith & HOPE in this UNSEEN God and His PROMISES

PROMISED Old Man and Wife – Son, Land, Nation, Blessing to WORLD

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Romans 4.18-21

"How do you get your faith strengthened? Not by striving after faith, but by resting in the Faithful One"
J. Hudson Taylor

a. Feelings based on Facts - Hope in God Psalm 42.5

Bible does TEACH we can have SUBJECTIVE Hope – Feeling Peace OF God
BASED on OBJECTIVE Facts of what God DONE For Us Peace WITH God

since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God Romans 5.1,2

v. 18 we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

“REFUGE” - Author may have been Thinking of Biblical Cities of REFUGE
Places in Promised Land > Accused Run to FIND JUSTICE and PROTECTION
Do Not RUN to Moses & Law > You will get what you Deserve! JUDGMENT!
RUN to JESUS Only IN Him will you Find MERCY and GRACE from GOD!

Ordinarily, when we express hope, we are expressing uncertainty...Biblical hope not only desires something good for the future; it expects it to happen...it is confident that it will happen.
John Piper

b. Unseen Faith

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
Romans 8.24,25

BIBLICAL Hope is Grounded in GOD whom we CANNOT SEE
Cannot See GRAVITY, but Don't Jump Off Tall Buildings! Unless Spiderman
Cannot See CYBER-SPACE but we Spend HOURS There Every Day
Cannot SEE God but we LOVE HIM and have a SOLID HOPE in Him

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
Hebrews 11.1

Wherever there is Full Assurance of HOPE there is FAITH
Biblical FAITH > Confident Expectation and DESIRE for Good Things in Future

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 11.8-10

2. Struggle in Hope – *Perseverance in God*

...the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises Hebrews 6.12

a. Flaws of Abraham

Atheist Society once produced TRACT Against Biblical Faith

EXPOSED Sins Bible Heroes – Peter Denied X – Paul, Moses, David – Murder!

Abraham – Father of Faith – Protect Self / Dishonored Wife 2 X's / Concubine!

Atheist Tract ADVANCED Christian Message! Bible full FLAWED HEROES

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Romans 3.23

Abe our FATHER was Flawed – SO are WE his Wayward Children >> ALL

Gospel is GOOD NEWS for Abe & All of his FLAWED Children

...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3.24

JESUS is ONLY Savior in Scripture and only PERFECT HERO & Example

British 18th-century abolitionist and statesman, William Wilberforce > Tired Sitting in his chair studying the Bible. An old letter that he had saved “fluttered from between its pages,” from none other than John Wesley.

“Unless God has raised you up for this very thing,” Wesley wrote, “you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? Oh, be not weary of well-doing.”

John Wesley

b. Faith of Abraham

Genesis Records 100 year FAITH JOURNEY of Abe – began at AGE 70!

Pressing ON – Traveled over 1000 miles – Heard Voice of God less than 10 X's

NAME "Abram" = EXALTED FATHER - had no children

MEET NEW PEOPLE - ONE HATED QUESTION - and how many kids?

JUST 1 CHILD / "Ishmael" /// ABRAHAM = FATHER OF A MULTITUDE

v. 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.

Abraham acted with less information about God than nearly anyone before or since. Everyone in the Bible after Abraham exercised faith in a God *who had already proved himself to Abraham*. We now are called to trust a God who has demonstrated his faithfulness in the lives of thousands and thousands of people. We can read their testimonies, and most of us came to know him through the influence of at least one person who had personally experienced God's faithfulness. Abraham had none of this to boost his faith.

Miriam Fisher, ZGC Small Group Study Notes

Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3.6-9

All we have is BY GRACE so it is only Right that God gets all the GLORY

3. Secure Hope – *Purchased by God*

a. Oath: Our Confidence

vs. 13-18 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his

purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Many of our NATIONS – Politicians SWEAR an OATH when Take OFFICE
COURT ROOMS People raise Hands and SWEAR to TELL the TRUTH
SWEAR by NAME Greater than OURSELVES – GREATER Power

My NAME used to be POWERFUL in Russian, Kazakh, Korean, English
DIRECTOR of Seminary in KZ – Hear it all Day Long in 3 Different Languages
Staff would follow ORDERS because “Mark Blair....blah, blah, blah”
One Saturday went to Seminary Campus – Newly Hired Security Guard
Would NOT Let me in because “Mark Blair said he was NOT Supposed to!”

CONTRACTS are NOT OFFICIAL with CHOPS, STAMPS, SIGNATURES
No GREATER POWER than GOD – Could Not Swear by Anything/One Higher
So, He SWORE by His OWN NAME

Word of God TRUSTWORTHY and TRUE even Without an OATH
DOUBLES our COMFORT & CONFIDENCE in PROMISES of God
ETERNAL Word is INFALLIBLE, INERRANT and GOD who Cannot LIE

Abe WAITED 30 yrs for SON from wife SARAH, Amazing PATIENCE

FAMILY TEST – called to leave Ur and Haran for Canaan

FAMINE TEST – went to Egypt to get food

FELLOWSHIP TEST – offered best land to nephew Lot

FIGHT TEST – with 318 men defeated 4 kings & armies and rescued Lot

FORTUNE TEST – refused wealth of King of Sodom

FATHERHOOD TEST – *FAILED* – brought Ishmael into world

FAREWELL TEST – commanded to send Ishmael and Hagar away

When Son of LAUGHTER was Young Man – God gave Abe Hardest Test of All
SACRIFICE this SON of PROMISE! Next-Day Obedience leaves for Moriah

God sees Abe holding Knife over Bound Son – STOPS him! REWARDS him..

“By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”
Genesis 22.16-18

Covenant CREATED by Grace but CONFIRMED by Good Works

NOT Saved BY Good Works > Saved FOR GOOD WORKS

Saved by FAITH ALONE but TRUE FAITH is NEVER ALONE

Christian Faith is NOT One Time EVENT > Decision in Meeting, Prayer Prayed

True Faith NOT Stage of Life Pass Thru: Catechism, Baptism, Membership

Abe – Father of Faith – WALKS with God from NEW Birth to FINAL BREATH

One Day Abe had to Rescue his Wayward NEPHEW LOT

With 318 of his Men he ROUTED Armies of 5 Kings and RELEASED Lot

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” Genesis 15.1

WEARY, feeling POST TRAUMATIC STRESS, Abe is a BIT TESTY...

But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”
Genesis 15.2,3

TIRED of Walking by FAITH in EMPTY PROMISES, wants Some PROOF
And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Genesis 15.4,5

INFINITE NUMBER OF STARS SUSPENDED IN LIMITLESS SPACE

ISLAND we are FROM HAS MOST POWERFUL TELESCOPES IN WORLD

5000 meter Mt. “Mauna Kea” – White Mountain > Snow Capped Mtn Hawaii!?

100 Billion GALAXIES – each having 100 BILLION STARS

Greatest Minds in World STILL COUNTING God’s STARS

STARS Represent YOU and ME – INNUMERABLE Multitude of God’s Church

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15.6

God THEN makes COVENANT – Symbol of Loyalty/Commitment w/ ABE

VERY UNUSUAL WAY OF MAKING COVENANT

TODAY we SEAL PROMISES with HANDSHAKES – or if not good enough

GET A LAWYER TO MAKE A CONTRACT...

MUSLIMS - SWEAR by the BEARD OF THEIR PROPHET MUHAMMED

Biblical COVENANT WAS CUT "cutting the covenant" / BLOOD was SHED

“So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other” Genesis 15.9,10

LISTEN Carefully – SAVE You some MONEY on LUNCH > Give it to ZGC!

AS CARCASSES LAID OUT IN HALVES – ‘STREET OF BLOOD’ FORMED
SOLEMN AND SICKENING REMINDER OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROMISES

PROPHET JEREMIAH TELLS US SERIOUSNESS OF THIS OATH

“The men who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces. The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, I will hand over to their enemies who seek their lives. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth.”

Jeremiah 34.18-20

IF YOU BREAK Your PROMISE - YOUR SLIT CARCASS JOINS the PILE
MAY YOUR BLOOD FLOW DOWN THE STREET OF BLOOD TOO

“When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram”

Genesis 15.17

Familiar Image > Firepot like Bread Oven > GOD APPEARED in Everyday Life
GOD WHO APPEARED IN PILLAR OF FIRE TO CHILDREN OF ISRAEL
THE GOD WHO IS A REFINER'S FIRE FOR HIS PEOPLE'S FAITH
SHOCKING! INCREDIBLE! GOD HIMSELF WALKS STREET of BLOOD!

FIRST HE HAD PROVEN HIS PROMISES - Showing Abe the STARS
NOW HE PERFORMS HIS PROOF - If I LIE, you can SLAY ME!

GOD DARES US - HAVE YOU FOUND FALSEHOOD IN ME -

Have I Broken COVENANT FAITH with you?? Has MY PROMISE Failed?
LIKE THE DARE THROWN OUT BY THE LORD JESUS TO PHARISEES
Jesus: “Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?” John 8.46

b. Anchor: Our Claim

Last Chapter and a Half ALTERNATE Route > Place Needed to Take Them

Call the Church to WAKE UP and GROW UP!

Now back MAIN ROAD > Declaring & Describing JESUS – Great High Priest

vs. 19, 20 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

FORERUNNER = Small Band Soldiers going ahead to Scout 4 Oncoming Army

Jesus goes AHEAD of Us – Preparing way to GLORY and ETERNAL LIFE

The Greek harbors were often cut off from the sea by sandbars, over which the larger ships dared not pass until the full tide came in. Therefore, a lighter vessel, a “forerunner,” took the anchor and dropped it in the harbor. From that moment the ship was safe from the storm, although it had to wait for the tide, before it could enter the harbor... The entrance of the small vessel in the harbor, the forerunner carry the ship’s anchor, was the pledge that the ship would safely enter the harbor when the tide was full. And because Christ, our “forerunner,” has entered heaven itself, having torn asunder everything that separates the redeemed sinner from the very presence of God. He Himself is the Pledge that we, too, shall one day enter the harbor of our souls and the very presence of God, in the New Jerusalem.

Louis T. Talbot

FIRM Grip on SHORES of Eternity – Tethered to Christ we GO There

This Anchor Not go DOWN into SEA, but UP into HEAVEN

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20-22

Just as we have DOUBLE CONFIDENCE of WORD and OATH

We have DOUBLE CONFIDENCE being in GRIP of FATHER and SON...

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. John 10.27-29

This is our DOUBLE-DOUBLE /

DOUBLE GROUND of SCRIPTURE – Eternal TRUTH and Sworn OATH

DOUBLE GRIP of SALVATION – In the Hand of SON and the FATHER!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15.13

Hebrews 6.¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” ¹⁵And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

A PERSON DOES NOT MAKE A COVENANT WITH THEMSELVES

Like Shaking Hands with Yourself / Contract w/Self / Marrying
Yourself???

COVENANT HAS 2 MEMBERS WHERE'S ABE?? OUT COLD!!

v. 12 “As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him”

ABE DARE NOT walk STREET OF BLOOD > Could you keep your
Promises?

“For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us... rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.” Isaiah 59.12-17

“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law” Galatians 4.4,5

JESUS WENT DOWN STREET OF BLOOD - VIA DOLA ROSA
CALVARY WHERE HE WAS RENT APART - FOR OUR SINS

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5.21

