

March 17, 2024

Heb 6:13-20



**CONTEXT:** This Passage is the Thought that follows the “Just Do It” — “Get Moving” Call we observed last week

**Heb 6:11-12** *And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,<sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

— Am I Prepared for THESE FEATURES to be Encountered & Experienced on the Daily Highways of My Life??  
— “FAITH” & “PATIENCE” that are Specifically Connected to “PROMISES”!!

**Heb 6:13-20** *For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,<sup>14</sup> saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”<sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.<sup>16</sup> For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.<sup>17</sup> 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,<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,<sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

**v. 13** *“For when God made a promise to Abraham...” ...What is the Writer Doing Here? He’s “Citing Precedent!”*  
He’s saying—“Case in Point”

— **Take Note!** ...I will need “BIBLICAL THEOLOGY” when I go to do my life! ...I will need to be able to call up the “class content” on the Life and Times of a Man named Abraham

## The “Now & Later” Promises of God



**Gen 12:1-4** *Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

<sup>4</sup> *So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.*

**Josh 24:1-3** *Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.<sup>2</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.<sup>3</sup> Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.*

...God is the Central Figure!!

...The People in the Great Story of God (in God's Great "PURPOSE") ...are There by God's Sovereign Choice!! (Objects of God's MERCY!)

**Heb 6:17** *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...*

Abraham has Entered...

The Faith & Patience Zone

Genesis 15

**Gen 15:1-6** ...God Reminds Him of the Promise

**Gen 15:7-18** ...God swears by Himself! ... - **Heb 6:16-17**

**Gen 16** ...Sarai uses Human/Natural means to bring to pass God's Promise ...Hagar & Ishmael [This is about 11 years into the "Faith & Patience Zone"]

**Gen 17:1-2** *"When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."*

- Abraham has now had 3 encounters with God and 1 with the Priest of God ...and 24 years have passed ...and NO CHILD and from His Age and Circumstances a Child Looks IMPOSSIBLE!

...Welcome to the "FAITH & PATIENCE ZONE"—

**Gen 21** ...the Receiving of the Promise

**Gen 22** ...the Call to Sacrifice Isaac ...MORE "Faith & Patience"!!

**Genesis 12-22 features the Receiving of the "NOW PROMISES" of God in Abraham's Life (Heb 6:15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.)**

**...But There's Another Dimension to God's Promises that MUST Inform & Influence our walk in the "Faith & Patience Zone"—the "LATER PROMISES" of God!!**

**Heb 11:8-16** *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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.*

<sup>13</sup> *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

"It is noteworthy that in chapter 11 the writer of Hebrews observes that Abraham never did receive all that was promised to him in this life. Instead, he looked to the kingdom that lies beyond the grave: "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... These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar" (Heb. 11:9–13).

Abraham did receive the son who was promised, Isaac, through whom all the promises would later come true, namely, through Isaac's descendant. It is in Christ that the seed of Abraham brings blessing to all the nations, gathering children of faith as numerous as the stars in the sky. Hence the apostle Paul could write, "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him," that is, in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). Through Isaac, Abraham was looking forward to Christ, in whom all the things promised would be received. As Jesus said in John 8:56, "Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." Abraham did not receive all the blessings he longed for during his earthly life. He did not, for instance, gain possession of all the Promised Land. But he did receive the promise of every blessing God had for him, and with the promise he received assurance and certainty of all that someday would be his." **Daniel Doriani**, "Hebrews", Ref. Exp. Comm.

## Understanding Life in "The Faith & Patience Zone"

- **There are NOW Promises that God intends to fulfill in our Earthly Existence**

...The chapter for events called "Isaac" is a miraculous intervention, where the future is intruding into the present!... There are solid, natural reasons why Abraham and Sara cannot have a child. It takes something from out of this world to create "Isaac" in this moment or chapter of their lives.

? - Does Everyone Who Wants Children Have a Right to Lay Claim on This Promise and thus to EXPECT This type of Divine Intervention?

? - The Bible tells of "small promises" of HEALING that are tucked into the stories of God's Unfolding Purpose

**Heb 11:32-40** *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection. ...<sup>39</sup> And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us...*

...these are the stories of some who "obtained promises" ("little 'p' promises") ...We are to believe in a God who still intrudes into our earthly story—Our Venture Through "The Faith & Patience Zone"

- **There are LATER PROMISES that God Has us to Seek, Wait, and Hope for...**

...the Ultimate Promise that is Set Before us in this "Faith & Patience Zone"—is NOT of THIS WORLD!!

**Rom 8:18-25** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ...<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly** for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For **in this hope we were saved.** Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

...There is a Rightful Expectation of Experiencing FIRSTFRUITS!

- We SHOULD pray for miracles ...

...We Should NOT Expect These Things to be CONSTANT or Perhaps Even COMMON!

...

- **In the "Faith & Patience Zone"-- "we wait eagerly", for a hope that is Beyond This World!**  
... "in THIS Hope we were saved" ... v. 25 "if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

**What was the grand design of this section of Hebrews ...and how it continually surfaces throughout Biblical History?**

**Heb 6:11-12** *And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,<sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience **inherit the promises**.*

...THIS Understanding is Part of Our "RESCUE FROM SLUGGISHNESS"!!

“... using the example of Abraham’s perseverance, he informs them of a key principle, that growth in assurance comes through perseverance. Abraham, by waiting patiently, received certainty with regard to the promise, and the same will be true for us.

Abraham’s life of faith was long and weary, and it took place in the face of great doubts and obstacles. Abraham sometimes showed heroic faith, but at other times was cowardly. But he persevered—that is the main point. He pressed on. He did not abandon his faith in God, even though he often failed to apply it or to honor God as he should. But he pressed onward, and by persevering he obtained a firmer and firmer grip on God’s promise. Again and again he received a growing assurance of blessing and salvation, an increasing possession of what God had promised.

What does this mean for us, but that assurance of salvation, confidence in God’s promise, and an increased grasp of spiritual blessings will come as we press forward in the faith? For all our doubt and weakness and failure, we have an example to follow in Abraham: “Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise” (Heb. 6:15.” **Daniel Doriani**, “Hebrews”, Ref. Exp. Comm.