

# Two Unchangeable Things

2021 North Seattle Bible Students Convention

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# Hebrews 6:17,18 (Weymouth)

...since it was God's desire to display more convincingly to the heirs of the promise how unchangeable His purpose was, He added an oath, in order that, through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for Him to prove false, we may possess mighty encouragement...

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# Hebrews 6:17,18 (paraphrase)

It was God's willing intention  
to show in a greater way  
*To the heirs of the promise*

How his purpose (or will or counsel) was unchangeable

So he added an oath (on top of his will)

So now there were two unchangeable things

*(the oath and his will)*

Neither of which can be made into a lie

That we might have strong comfort

# Questions for Consideration

1. Who are the “heirs of the promise?”
2. Why was addition of the oath necessary?
3. Why did God desire to display more convincingly to the heirs of the promise how unchangeable his purpose was?

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

*Isaiah 55:8,9*

So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.

*1 Kings 3:14*



I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

*Psalms 139:14*

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...

*Romans 1:20*

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.

*Psalms 89:14,15*

My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of  
My lips.

*Psalms 89:34*

In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

*Genesis 2:17*

See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil.

*Deuteronomy 30:15*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

*Colossians 1:15-16*

And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

*John 12:45*



For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.

*John 12:49-50*

...took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.”

*Luke 18:31*

For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: '*and he was numbered with the transgressors.*' For the things concerning Me have an end.

*Luke 22:37*

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our  
God stands forever.

*Isaiah 40:8*

*'The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.'*

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

*1 Peter 1:24-25*

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

*Isaiah 55:11*

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*Isaiah 55:11*

For I am the LORD, I do not change.

*Malachi 3:6*

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**Oxford Reference: oath**

A promise swearing the truth of a statement or a promise, usually by an appeal to God to witness its truth.

# Hebrews 6:13-16 (NKJV)

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

saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

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

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

# Genesis 22:16-18 (NASB)

“By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son,

indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

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**In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”**

# Promises to Abraham

Scriptures	Event	Promise to...	Promise	Notes
<b>Gen 12:1-3,7</b>	Abram's asked to leave his Father's house for the land that God will show him	Abram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get you out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will shew you:</li> <li>• And I will make of you a <b>great nation</b>, and I <b>will bless you</b>, and make your <b>name great</b>; and you <b>shall be a blessing</b>:</li> <li>• And I will <b>bless them that bless you</b>, and <b>curse him that curses you</b>: and in you shall all <b>families of the earth be blessed</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A promise, based on Abram going to Canaan (see Acts 7:2-5)</li> <li>• God will show him the land</li> <li>• "Name Great" appears to be limited elsewhere to Jehovah and possibly in one instance, a prophecy of Jesus (Micah 5:4)</li> <li>• In Hebrew, both nouns in "Families of the earth" are different than "nations of the earth" elsewhere in promise — more local sense (Jacob also gets this "families of the earth")</li> </ul>
<b>Gen 13:14,15</b>	After Abram and Sarai had journeyed to Egypt and after Lot and Abram separated	Abram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the <b>land which you see</b>, I will give it to <b>you</b>, and to <b>your seed - for ever</b></li> <li>• I will make your <b>seed</b> as the <b>dust of the earth</b>, so if a man can <b>number</b> the dust of the earth, so will your seed be numbered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look around you in all directions</li> <li>• Land granted forever</li> <li>• (Dust of the earth also promised to Jacob)</li> </ul>
<b>Gen 15:1-21</b>	Abram notes he is childless, and God responds; God also foretells Abram that his seed will be 400 years as strangers in a land not theirs	Abram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am your <b>protector</b> (shield) and increasing (exceeding great) <b>reward</b> (v1)</li> <li>• He that comes <b>out of you will be your heir</b> (v4)</li> <li>• Look toward heaven, and if you can <b>tell the stars</b>, if you are able to number them, so will <b>your seed be</b></li> <li>• Brought you out of Ur of Chaldees to <b>give you this land to inherit</b> (v7)</li> <li>• <b>A covenant</b>, to your seed I have given this land, from the River in Egypt to the great river Euphrates (v18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceeding great reward seems to indicate an <b>increasing</b> great reward</li> <li>• Abram believes in God's promise of his heir to be from his own body, and in the stars of heaven, this is <b>counted to him for righteousness</b> (v6)</li> <li>• First mention of covenant</li> </ul>

# Promises to Abraham

Scriptures	Event	Promise to...	Promise	Notes
<b>Gen 17:1-8</b>	God calls himself the Almighty God and talks with Abram when he is 99 years old	Abram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will make my <b>covenant</b> between me and you, and will <b>multiply you exceedingly</b></li> <li>• behold, my <b>covenant</b> <i>is</i> with you, and thou shalt be a <b>father of many nations</b></li> <li>• your name shall be <b>Abraham</b>; for a father of many nations have I made you</li> <li>• I will make you <b>exceeding fruitful</b>, and I will make <b>nations</b> of you, and <b>kings</b> shall come out of you</li> <li>• I will establish my <b>covenant between me and you and your seed</b> after you in their generations for an <b>everlasting covenant</b>, to be a <b>God unto you</b>, and to <b>your seed after you</b></li> <li>• I will give unto you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, <b>all the land of Canaan</b>, for an <b>everlasting possession</b>; and I will be their God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Told to walk before God, and be perfect</li> <li>• God makes covenants here throughout for each promise</li> <li>• Renamed Abraham</li> <li>• Kings also given in Sarah and Jacob promises</li> <li>• God calls himself El Shaddai for the first recorded time (but God has not yet revealed his name to him, and elsewhere He is said to have been known to Abram, Isaac and Jacob as the Almighty - Exo. 6:3)</li> <li>• Covenant everlasting</li> <li>• Foreshadow of the blessing of God making his seed a chosen people (v7,8)</li> <li>• <b>All of Canaan</b> given as an <b>everlasting possession</b></li> </ul>
<b>Gen 17: 9-14, 23-27</b>	After presenting the promise portion of the covenant, God shares what he expects from Abraham	<b>Abraham</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circumcision was token to remind Abraham and seed that they were in a covenant with God</li> </ul>
<b>Gen 17:19,21</b>	Abraham hears that he will again be father (at 100) and Sarah will be mother (at 90), and pleads for Ishmael	Abraham ( <b>Isaac</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah your wife will have a son, you should call Isaac</li> <li>• I will establish my <b>covenant with him for an everlasting covenant</b>, and with <b>his seed after him</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The covenant is passed down through Isaac (he will be the heir)</li> </ul>



# Promises to Abraham

Scriptures	Event	Promise to...	Promise	Notes
<b>Gen 18:18</b>	Three men (presumably angels) appear to Abraham, prior to Abraham's intercession on the behalf of any righteous in Sodom. God confirms* promises.	Abraham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do, Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a <b>great and mighty nation</b>, and <b>all the nations of the earth</b> shall be blessed in him?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note "great and mighty" nation is used</li> <li>• "Nations of the earth" has a bigger sense than "families of the earth" in the Hebrew</li> <li>• Interesting contrast Sodom's destruction with the future nations blessing</li> <li>• *God's thoughts?</li> </ul>
<b>Gen 21:12</b>	Sarah sees Ishmael mocking, Ishmael and Hagar leave; angel appears to Hagar	Abraham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let it not be grievous in your sight because of the lad, and because of your bondwoman; in all that Sarah has said unto you, <b>hearken unto her voice</b>; for in <b>Isaac shall your seed be called</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God makes sure to reaffirm with Abraham the heir through whom the blessings will flow</li> <li>• Sarah's decision is supported by God</li> </ul>
<b>Gen 22:1-18</b>	The full covenant is given to Abraham here, after he has willingly offered up Isaac as a sacrifice before the angel intervenes. God then makes the covenant bound by an oath, "by myself have sworn."	Abraham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son:</li> <li>• That in <b>blessing I will bless</b> you, and in <b>multiplying I will multiply your seed</b> as the <b>stars of the heaven</b>, and as the <b>sand which is upon the sea shore</b>; and your <b>seed shall possess the gate of his enemies</b>;</li> <li>• And in your seed shall <b>all the nations of the earth be blessed</b>; because you have <b>obeyed my voice</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior tests have been met (Abraham has obeyed God's voice) and God swears.</li> <li>• Israel will possess greater nations - Deut 9:1;11:23; Israel a great nation within Egypt; Deut 26:5</li> <li>• Abraham's works of faith have made this covenant oath-bound and unconditional</li> </ul>

*In Gen 24:7, Abraham shares the oath that God made with Abraham to his eldest servant, saying he "spake unto me, and... sware unto me."  
 In Gen 26:5 & 24 God confirms that Abraham obeyed his voice, kept his charge, commandments, statutes and laws...*

# Promises to Isaac

Scriptures	Event	Promise to...	Promise	Notes
<p><b>Gen 26:2-5,24</b></p>	<p>Isaac is told by God not to go down into Egypt, but sojourn in the land</p>	<p>Isaac</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell you of:</li> <li>• Sojourn in this land, and I will <b>be with you</b>, and will <b>bless you</b>; for unto <b>you</b>, and unto <b>your seed</b>, I will give <b>all these countries</b>, and I will <b>perform the oath</b> which I sware unto Abraham your father;</li> <li>• And I will make your <b>seed to multiply as the stars of heaven</b>, and will give unto <b>your seed all these countries</b>; and in your <b>seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed</b>;</li> <li>• Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.</li> <li>• I am the God of Abraham your father: <b>fear not</b>, for I <b>am with you</b>, and will <b>bless you</b>, and <b>multiply your seed</b> for my servant Abraham's sake.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is told by God that He will perform the oath that He sware unto Abraham (because Abraham obeyed his voice), and that these blessings are for Abraham's sake.</li> <li>• Note that Isaac is told his seed will be stars of heaven, confirming what God told Abraham about his heir.</li> <li>• "The countries" seems to be "earths", which may be grander than "land" — despite Issac not getting a specific land blessing like Abraham and Jacob</li> </ul>



“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the **name** of the LORD His God. And they shall abide, for now He shall be **great** to the ends of the earth.

*Micah 5:2,4*

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “and to your seed,” who is Christ.

*Galatians 3:16*

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

*Galatians 3:29*

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

*Galatians 4:28*

# Jesus Christ, the Seed of Abraham, King of the Throne of David

Abraham  
Isaac  
Jacob  
Judah

**David**

**Jesus**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.  
Matthew 1:1,17

[To David] When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.  
He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.  
2 Samuel 7:12-13

In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.  
Jeremiah 33:15

## All Nations Will Be Blessed In Him

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” Luke 1:32,33

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.’ From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus. Acts 13:22,23

[Fulfilling the law, opening a new and living way.]

Romans 8:3,4  
Hebrews 7:27  
Hebrews 10:20

I will ransom them from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction!  
Hosea 13:14

He became a ransom for all, to be testified in due time [providing an opportunity for the future of all mankind.]

Matthew 20:28  
1 Peter 3:18  
1 Timothy 2:5,6

To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ... according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Ephesians 3:9,11

A living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

...Repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. Acts 3:19-21

# Questions for Consideration

1. Who are the “heirs of the promise?”
2. Why was addition of the oath necessary?
3. Why did God desire to display more convincingly to the heirs of the promise how unchangeable his purpose was?

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

*Romans 11:1*



For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise. But God gave it to Abraham by promise. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made, and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

*Galatians 3:18-19*

They shall be My people, and I will be their God. Then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good, but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul. For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.

*Jeremiah 32:38-42*

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He added an oath, in order that, through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for Him to prove false, we may possess mighty encouragement — we who, for safety, have hastened to lay hold of the hope set before us. That hope we have as an anchor of the soul--an anchor that can neither break nor drag. It passes in behind the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner on our behalf, having become, like Melchizedek, a High Priest for ever.

*Hebrews 6:18-21 (Weymouth)*

Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

*John 15:20*

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father,  
which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and  
good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in  
every good word and work.

*2 Thessalonians 2:16,17*

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills. And peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

*Micah 4:1-2*



“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

*Luke 12:32*

Let all the earth fear the LORD. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood fast.

*Psalm 33:8-9*

