

10 – THE ENCOURAGEMENT (HEBREWS 6:9-20)

I. Affirmation (Hebrews 6:9-12)

A. The Writer's Perspective (Hebrews 6:9)

1. His Confidence (Hebrews 6:9a)

- The writer refers to his readers with the affectionate term "beloved."
- He states that he is confident that they are meant for better things.

Scripture Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

2. Better Things (Hebrews 6:9b)

- He refers to the better things as that which accompanies salvation.
- This is in spite of the fact that he had to speak harshly in verses 1-8.

B. Concerning God (Hebrews 6:10)

- He stresses that God is not unjust in his dealings with his people.
- God will not forget their efforts for him and their ministry for other believers.

C. The Writer's Desire (Hebrews 6:11-12)

- The writer expresses that each of them will be diligent in their work until the end.
- Service is rendered because of the assurance of hope that all believers have.
- The writer expresses that they do not become lazy in their efforts.
- Rather, they are to imitate those who endure until they inherited the promises.

II. The Example of Abraham (Hebrews 6:13-20)

A. The Promise to Abraham (Hebrews 6:13-14)

- The writer provides an illustration of his point through the example of Abraham.
- When God made a promise to Abraham, he swore it by the highest authority, himself.
- He promised Abraham that he would bless him and multiply his heirs.

B. The Promise Fulfilled (Hebrews 6:15)

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- After Abraham patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

C. The Nature of God's Oath (Hebrews 6:16-18)

1. An Oath is Binding (Hebrews 6:16)

- Men swear oaths by a higher authority, which makes the oath binding.

2. The Purpose of God's Oath (Hebrews 6:17)

- God made the oath in order to show the heirs of the promise that it was unchanging.

3. God's Oath (Hebrews 6:18)

- God gave us an oath and a promise.
- They are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.
- We can be courageous, because we hold unto the hope before us with confidence.

D. Our Hope (Hebrews 6:19-20)

1. As an Anchor (Hebrews 6:19a)

- We have this hope as a anchor of soul which is sure and steadfast.

2. Enters the Presence (Hebrews 6:19b-20)

a. The Location (Hebrews 6:19b)

- This hope enters the presence of God behind the veil.

b. The Forerunner (Hebrews 6:20)

- It is here that Jesus entered before us on our behalf.
- Jesus has become High Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.

Historical Note: Melchizedek

Melchizedek was a priest and the king of Salem, which was a city identified with Jerusalem. He went out to meet Abram after his victory over the Eastern Kings with bread and wine. He blessed Abram in the name of the God Most High. Melchizedek was a monotheist and essentially worshipped the same God as Abram. Abram recognized him as a priest of his God by giving him a tithe. The order of Melchizedek is mentioned in the Psalm 110. The writer of Hebrews mentions the order of Melchizedek with reference to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

See: Genesis 14:18; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6,10; 6:20; 7:1,10-11,15,17,21.