

[HEBREWS 6:13-20]
Sunday 22nd July 2007

/An anchor for the soul

[Introduction]

Do you ever feel unsure about things; big things - like what happens after death?
And does being unsure about those things ever make you anxious or insecure or confused?
Have you felt how KT Tunstall, the Scottish singer/songwriter may have felt when she wrote,
“I was happy in my harbour
When you cut me loose
Floating on an ocean
And confused”
Do you ever feel as if you’ve been cut loose from a place of security and now you’re floating on the sea of life; confused and unsure about the big things?
If you do feel like that, then Hebrews 6:13-20 is for you.

Because it tells you that you can be certain, you can be sure about the big issues of life.
In fact it tells you that God wants you to be sure.

Essentially, Hebrews 6:13-20 says to us:
God swore so that we could be sure.

[1] God swore (v13-17)

A very very very long time ago, God promised a man called Abraham that he would have many descendents.

God SWORE this would happen.
He wanted Abe, and us, to know He was serious about this.

We swear when we want people to know we’re serious about something.

We swear “on the bible” or “on my mother’s grave”.

God swore, not by something else, but by Himself.

Why?

Because there was nothing bigger for Him to swear by.

He was in effect saying, “let ME, the HOLY, MIGHTY, INFINITELY-CAPABLE ONE; the greatest, truest, most noble & holy being in the universe, be certified as worthless, bogus, fake and fraudulent if I break my promise!”

And God *did* keep His promise: Abe had a son, who had many descendents.

God was *passionate* about His promise. He wanted Abraham to be utterly sure, with no doubt or uncertainty or misgivings, that He would keep His promise.
So He SWORE

[2] God swore so you could be sure (v18-20)

Why did God spend all this time swearing to Abraham?

What’s it got to do with us?

It has everything to do with us:

God swore in the past to give us present certainty about the future.
God offers us hope. That ‘hope’ is heaven.

And He wants us to be sure we’re going to heaven.

God is saying to us “I kept my promise of descendents to Abraham, and I’ll keep my promise of heaven to you!”

This certainty of heaven is like an anchor for our souls.

A ship with its anchor down may be battered by the waves; but it is held secure and won’t get driven to the rocks and smashed.

A person with his/her anchor down may be battered by the storms of life; but they won’t be drifting towards danger - they’ll be sure of their final destination.

Have you got this certainty?

You can get it by trusting Jesus Christ. He “entered the inner

sanctuary behind the curtain on our behalf.” (v19, 20)

This means that Jesus entered God’s presence as our representative. We can’t enter God’s presence; He is too holy and we are too sinful.

But Jesus took our sin as His, and on the cross God punished Him for our sin. This means that now we can enter God’s presence (i.e. heaven) because Jesus has gone before and absorbed the punishment we deserve for being sinful.

In v18 we read “we who have fled to take hold of the hope.”

You can know for sure you’re going to heaven by ‘taking hold’ of Jesus. By grabbing onto Him with faith - by trusting Him.

God *promises* that if we trust Jesus we’ll enter heaven after we die.

The question is: have you trusted Him?

Don’t float around on the ocean of life, confused and afraid and uncertain.

Grab hold of the anchor, and be firmly and securely confident of your ever after.