

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 1, 2015

An Anchored Hope
Hebrews 6:16-18

Christ's priesthood is superior to all other priesthoods (Hebrews 4:14-10:18).

The author, after having introduced the Son's divine appointment according to the order of Melchizedek, then took a strategic detour in order to warn his readers in Hebrews 5:11-6:20.

The author began this warning section with an exhortation (Hebrews 5:11-6:3).

After the author exhorted his readers, he then presented a harsh warning (Hebrews 6:4-8).

After the author's harsh warning, he then softened it in Hebrews 6:9-12.

After the author had softened his harsh warning he emphasized God's trustworthiness and thus the certainty of their future hope (Hebrews 6:13-20).

The author began with the example of Abraham (Hebrews 6:13-15).

The author focused on oaths (Hebrews 6:16-18).

The author began by explaining human oaths (Hebrews 6:16).

The author then explained how God's oath to Abraham had in the same way as human oaths confirmed to the "heirs of the promise" the unchangeableness of God's purpose toward them (Hebrews 6:17).

The "heirs of the promise" in this context are the spiritual descendants of Abraham who through faith in Christ belong to Christ and thus share in the blessings promised and subsequently confirmed by God with an oath to Abraham (Galatians 3:29).

The hope set before "the heirs of the promise," that they are to take hold as the spiritual descendants of Abraham, is certain hope of heaven made possible through faith in Christ.

May God give us the grace as the heirs of promise to take hold of the hope that is set before us.