



When and why does God ever swear an oath?

<sup>13</sup> For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." <sup>15</sup> And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup> For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. <sup>17</sup> In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,

<sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge to take hold of the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 6:13-20)

### Digression (Hebrews 5:11- 6:20)

- the author aims to awaken his readers from complacency ("sluggish") and direct them to the path of persevering faith

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*Is God's salvation-promise reliable?*

### God's Reliable Promise – Certified!

1. The nature of the oath-certified promise
  - the promise to Abraham (seed, land, blessing) encompasses all of God's promised blessings
  - the climax of the promise is the oath God swore to Abraham after the offering of Isaac

<sup>16</sup> He said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

(Genesis 22:16-18)

## God's Reliable Promise – Certified!

### 2. The motivation for the oath-certified promise

- God desired to demonstrate *most convincingly* to us the unchangeable character of His plan
- His oath serves as a guarantee for us of the absolute reliability of His promise

## God's Reliable Promise – Certified!

### 3. The purpose of the oath-certified promise

- God aims to give us *strong encouragement* as we lay hold of the hope set before us
- e.g. of Abraham (cf. Rom. 4:18-21)

## God's Reliable Promise – Certified!

- the certainty of this promise is now secured by Jesus who is in the presence of God for us as our high priest