

**I. Introduction and review. I Th. 5:14**

**II. God kept His promise to Abraham. v. 13-15**

**A. The significance of Abraham. 7:1f Ga. 3:7,17-18,29 Ge. 15:6 Ro. 4:1f Js. 2:21f**

**B. What did God promise to Abraham? Gen. 12:1-3 15:1-5**

**C. Abraham trusted God, in spite of appearances to the contrary. v. 13 11:8-19  
Rom. 4:18-22 Gen. 12:1-2 15:5-6**

**D. God then reaffirmed His promise with an oath. v. 14 Gen. 22:16-18**

**E. Abraham received the promise. v. 15 John 8:56 II Co. 1:20**

**1. Abraham exemplifies how we should patiently wait with full assurance that we will receive what God has promised.**

**2. He saw only a partial fulfillment of his hope during his lifetime. 11:10,13**

**3. His physical descendants experienced a partial fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham in the nation of Israel.**

**4. Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise. Ga. 3:16 Ro. 4:23-25 Lu. 1:74**

**F. Application.**

**1. How did the example of Abraham encourage the original readers?**

**2. What is the promise we await? 13:14 Gal. 3:29 Rom. 9:8-9 4:13**

**3. We need to fully trust God even when our circumstances appear to be contrary to His promises.**

**III. God reinforces His promise with an oath. v. 16-18**

**A. What is the purpose of oaths? v. 16**

**1. An oath calls upon a higher power to bear witness to the truthfulness of what is sworn and, if necessary, to avenge perjury. I Sam. 14:44**

**2. When might someone make an oath?**

**a. To establish the truthfulness of a statement, ending a dispute. Ex. 22:10-11**

**b. To confirm a promise in the strongest possible terms. Ge. 31:48-53**

**3. Vows should be taken very seriously. Dt. 23:21f Ju. 11:30-31 Nu. 30:2 Mt. 14:7f**

**4. Why do people call the use of bad language swearing?**

**B. Is it always wrong for us to make oaths? Mt. 5:33-37 Js. 5:12**

**1. Oaths are often abused. Mt. 5:34b-36 23:16-18**

**2. Oaths are not always wrong.**

**a. God taught His people to swear by His name. Dt. 6:13 10:20**

**b. God Himself swears by Himself. Ge. 22:16f Ex. 32:13 Ps. 110:4 Isa. 45:23  
Jer. 22:5 29:13 Acts 2:30 Mt. 26:63f**

**c. God's three oaths in Hebrews. 3:11,18 4:3 6:13-18 7:21-22,28 Ps. 110:4**

**3. There are circumstances under which taking an oath is appropriate.**

**C. Why did God make an oath? v. 17**

**1. His bare word of promise is enough.**

**2. Yet that we might enjoy the greatest possible assurance, He condescends to place Himself under oath.**

- D. What is the nature of God's oath?
  1. He could not swear by anyone greater, so He swore by Himself.
  2. He subjects Himself to judgment if He should break His Word. Gen. 15:8f
  3. If God should fail to keep any promise, He would be the big loser.
  
- E. God's oath reminds us of His character which assures us of our security as heirs of promise, in contrast to men who sometimes lie or are unable to keep their word. v. 18
  1. God is truthful: He cannot lie. Num. 23:19 Ps. 12:6 Titus 1:2
  2. God is omnipotent: He is able to keep all that he promises. Rom. 8:35f
  3. God is unchanging (immutable). 13:8 7:12,16 Eph. 1:11
  
- F. God has done all of this that we might be strongly encouraged in hope. v. 18b
  1. We are heirs of God's promise to Abraham which is fulfilled in Jesus, our great High Priest. 11:39 Gal. 3:16,14,29
  2. We can trust God to fulfill what He has sworn concerning Jesus' High Priesthood in the order of Melchizedek. 7:21 Ps. 110:4
  3. Such promises motivate us to take hold of this hope. 4:14
  4. The promise is only for those who take refuge in God. Dt. 4:42 19:5 Josh 20:9

#### IV. Your hope in Christ is an anchor in heaven. v. 19-20

- A. We have an anchor for our souls. v. 19a
  1. Even though our hope may seem far off in the future, we are already tied to it through our connection with Jesus.
  2. Our hope is grounded in objective reality, giving us stability and security.
  
- B. Our anchor is in heaven where Jesus has gone before us. v. 19b-20
  1. Jesus has gone beyond the veil and entered into holiest place. 9:3,12,24-25 10:20 Lev. 16:2,12,15 Ex. 26:31f
  2. Our Forerunner has made a way for us to join Him in God's presence. 4:16 7:19 10:19f Jo. 14:1f Dt. 31:8
  3. He is a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. 5:10 7:1f
  
- C. Application.
  1. We have an anchor of stability for the stormy seas of life. II Ti. 3:12 Jo. 16:33
  2. Even if the anchor is sure and strong, what if I am not? 3:14 6:9 13:20-21 Phil. 1:6 I Pe. 1:3f Jo. 10:27f Ro. 8:29-30
  3. The ground of your assurance is not your circumstances, how you feel, what you have experienced, or how well you are doing. Hope in Christ. John 5:29

#### V. Concluding applications.

##### Discussion questions

1. What did God promise to Abraham?
2. How do God's promises to Abraham relate to us?
3. How does Abraham's example instruct and encourage us?
4. What is an oath?
5. When, if every, should you swear (or make an oath)?
6. Why did God swear to bless Abraham?
7. How do God's attributes encourage us to trust His promises?
8. How does our hope serve as an anchor?
9. Where is our anchor?
10. How can a Christian have full assurance of hope?