

June 23, 2024



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Full Assurance Heb 6:9-20

Lesson Background and Introduction

The book of Hebrews is unique in the collection of New Testament letters in that the author's name is never divulged. But anonymous doesn't mean completely unknown since the original readers had a personal relationship with that person (Hebrews 13:22-24). Throughout the centuries, scholars have speculated that the writer could have been Barnabas, Silas, Apollos, Luke, Paul, or Priscilla. Even so, the book's anonymity does not make it any less God's truth; not stating the identity of the author was a common practice at that time, especially when the original audience had a connection with the author. Even though we don't know the author's name, the original audience did! The absence of a title to this letter in the earliest existing Greek manuscripts makes it challenging to identify the original recipients. Some scholars think that the author lived in Rome. This assertion is based on the writings of Clement of Rome (lived about AD 35-99), who cited numerous passages from Hebrews (see the many quotes from Hebrews 1 in the nonbiblical 1 Clement 36). In addition, there is a reference to Italy in Hebrews 13:24. The lack of information regarding the recipients has resulted in no shortage of proposals! The passage of time alluded to in Hebrews 5:12 is thought to indicate that a second generation of believers is in view. The word remember in Hebrews 13:7 is taken to support this proposal, as this verse challenges the original audience to recall instructions from the leaders of the first generation of believers. This theory is viable as long as the word remember is intended to mean "recall information from memory." But the Greek word translated remember can also mean "keep thinking about," as it seems to intend in Hebrews 11:15. There, the same underlying Greek word is translated "thinking." In any case, the many references to the priesthood and numerous Old Testament personalities (Hebrews 11) point to an audience of Jewish background.

There are various ways to outline the book. One way is in terms of five passages of warning. These five are Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:19-39; and 12:14-29. Each warning section includes a call to salvation and a vivid description of the consequences if God's way is rejected. Today's lesson text includes part of the third warning. This passage consists of four sections split between negative and positive appeals. Hebrews 5:11-14 is negative, balanced by the positive 6:1-3. Hebrews 6:4-8 returns to a negative warning and is offset by the encouragement found in today's lesson. The state of Alaska covers some 586,000 square miles of land, which is more than 375 million acres. In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million in one of the largest land deals in history. Adjusted for inflation, the purchasing power of that sum of money was about \$122.2 million in 2018. That was the year that Amazon purchased the home security company Ring for an undisclosed amount that many experts estimate to be approximately \$1 billion. Therefore, Amazon's purchase was about 90 times what was paid for Alaska! There are many differences between these two transactions. But they had one thing in common: money needed to change hands to seal the deal. When God promised Abraham that his offspring would bless all nations, that was the beginning of the Abrahamic covenant. It was a promise that reached beyond Abraham's immediate descendants to encompass the entire world. The fulfillment of the promise lay in the work of Jesus on the cross. Once humanity's debt of sin was paid, no further payment was required. That means that we are invited to be heirs to the promise, not to be the purchaser of the promise. The question is whether or not we can live out this life-changing truth. To live this truth means that we rest in the work of Christ and cease trying to redeem that which we have already inherited through faith.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Our anchor is the Rock, Jesus Christ

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll; Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love. Owens

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil

(Heb 6:19 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 15, 2013)

Series: Hope in the Lord

UNIT 1: Experiencing Hope

NEXT WEEK

**Fearless Witness
(Acts 26:1-11)**

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Assurance of Hope (Heb 6:9-12)

Hope of salvation (9)

Hope because God wants all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:1-4)

Hope because Jesus came to save the lost (Luke 19:10)

Hope because Jesus was sacrificed to justify all men (Rom 5:18)

Hope because God's grace brings salvation before all men (Titus 2:11)

Hope of justice (10)

Justice because of God's forbearance of sin (Rom 3:25-26)

Justice because God is always righteous (2 Thess 1:5-6)

Justice because God judges the righteous and wicked (Eccl 3:17)

Justice because God avenges His chosen ones (Luke 18:7)

Hope of inheritance (11-12)

An inheritance of God's kingdom (Luke 12:32)

An inheritance because of being an heir (Rom 8:17)

An inheritance of the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

An inheritance that can never perish (1 Pet 1:3-4)

Assurance of God's Promises (Heb 6:13-20)

Promises of blessings (13-14)

Blessings of rewards (Matt 10:40-42)

Blessings of receiving many times as much as given (Luke 18:28-30)

Blessings in this life and the life to come (1 Tim 4:6-8)

Blessings of the right to sit with Jesus on His throne (Rev 3:21)

Promises of God's patience (15-16)

Patience that is tied to God's covenant (Ezek 16:60)

Patience that should lead to our repentance (Rom 2:4)

Patience that demonstrates God's justice (Rom 3:25-26)

Patience because God wants all to repent (2 Peter 3:9)

Promises of God's immutability (17-18)

God is immutable because He cannot change His mind (Num 23:19)

God is immutable because He cannot disown Himself (2 Tim 2:13)

God is immutable because His faithfulness is true (Rom 3:3-4)

God is immutable because what God promises, He will be faithful in fulfilling (Heb 10:22-23)

God is immutable because He is just (1 John 1:9)

Promises through Jesus our High Priest (19-20)

High Priest because God ordained Him (Heb 5:5)

High Priest because He intercedes for us (Rom 8:34)

High Priest because He the Great High Priest (Heb 4:14)

High Priest because He provides eternal redemption (Heb 9:11-12)