

Bible e-Study on the book of Hebrews (6)

God Bless You

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. 16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. [Hebrews 6:13-16](#)

NUGGET – How often have you heard a celebrity or politician end a speech or especially an off-hand talk with "God bless you" or "God bless the United States of America" and yet in their remarks or talk they've not once made a reference to the Almighty? It comes across as disingenuous at best or at worst, outright faking some sort of a religious appeal. And yet we see it time and time again. People are looking for a 'way off the stage' and they want to close their remarks with something that will provide an emphasis.

Again this often seems fake and that's because people try to invoke God's name when they feel that what's been said doesn't stand on it's own. And this is frustrating for me as a hearer. Oh I don't mind it when it is consonant with what has been said, when the speaker has given God some form of honor or a clearly genuine reference to Him in the body of the remarks. Then indeed it's appropriate and even welcome.

The problem is that so many people today use it as a way out for themselves and not as means to bless the hearers. And that's because of what the writer of Hebrews says today in verse 16, *People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.* People instinctively or reflexively know that there is 'someone greater than themselves' and so make a reference to God to reinforce whatever it is they've said. Whether or not if what they've said is honest or true to the God of heaven and earth is not important very often.

In the nugget verses we're told that God swore by Himself so that He could assure Abraham of keeping His promise to him. God did so, not because He needed to make Himself comfortable getting 'off stage' so to speak. No, God did this to genuinely reassure Abraham that what God had promised would be carried out. This was not some fake appeal; rather it's divine comfort.

And as Abraham, according to the verses, waited patiently, he indeed saw God fulfill that oath, that promise to him. God allowed Abraham to see his family grow to a large number, but God didn't confine Himself to only what Abraham lived to see. No you and I and all Christians of all times are descendants of Abraham. We too trust God for His promises.

God has promised redemption, salvation and life to His creation. And in the cross of Jesus Christ God has fulfilled that promise. God promised and God delivered. God swore by Himself and we have seen that God keep His word by sending His Word. In Him alone do we trust!

APPLICATION -

1. God's promises are certain, unlike that of people. In the upcoming election season monitor how often candidates reference God in their parting remarks and see if that matches with what they've said. That should prove interesting. But rather than only do this to judge them, allow even the ones who are faking it, to remind you to trust in the promise of God so you receive that 'God bless you' with ears of faith.

PRAY – Dear Jesus, the Word of God come to earth, in You and by Your words and work on the cross, we have been blessed, we have been healed and we have been redeemed. Help us to always remember to put our trust in Your word above all others. In Your name, amen.