

Celebration Services (April 21-22, 2007)

Series: Faith... Gleanings from Hebrews (Pt. 6)

**"Faith in a Covenant God"**

**Heb 6:11-12** .... Once again picks up the Goal of Strategically Strengthening Faith in Order to....

- i. **To Show "EARNESTNESS" ... in contrast to "SLUGGISHNESS"**
- ii. **To Experience "FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE"**
- iii. **To Inherit** (now & future) **the Promises** ....

**v. 12** ..... "who through FAITH and PATIENCE inherit the promises"

Today ... the Strategic Strengthening of Faith through Knowledge of God's Covenant with us

**Heb 2:16** ...

- Note the differentiation of treatment between the angels, all of humanity, & the offspring of Abraham
  - Not everyone is Treated the Same! ....
    - o **ISRAEL** ... received Favor from God that Others Did Not
    - o **AARON's Descendants & LEVITES** .... were granted an ACCESS to God that others were not
    - o **MAN's REDEMPTION** .... while fallen angels remain fallen without salvation
- **What Explains the Difference of Treatment in this passage?** .... a COVENANT with Abraham

**Heb 6:13-20** ...

- God Creates a **FAIL-PROOF PLAN** .... v. 17 **"...God desired to show... the unchangeable character of his purpose"**
  - **GOD Did Something to Give us Hope that Cannot Fail!!**

**v. 13** .... When God made a Promise

### **Gen 12:1-3 .... God Coming to Abraham**

Acts 7:2 "...the God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia"

Josh 24:2-3 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the Land of Canaan, and made his offspring many.'

***What is the Origin of This Plan? .....*** is it in Abram or in God?

***What is the Basis for This Plan being Fulfilled?*** .... is it Abram's Performance or God's Faithfulness?

### **v. 13-16 .... God Swore by Himself**

#### **Gen 15**

#### **THE NEW COVENANT .....**

- ***It is a Covenant between GOD + the Son of Man***
  - **A Covenant Head** .... Gen 12 "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
    - Ex 2:23-24 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.
    - 2 Kings 13:22-23 Now Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. 23 But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, nor has he cast them from his presence until now.
- ***It is Fail-Proof*** .... It cannot be broken
- ***It Secures Our Relationship with God*** .... Rom 8:1

**v. 17-19 .... Who Was God Trying to CONVINCe by this Covenant? ..... the Heirs — US!!!**

Gal 3:29 "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise"

***God Has Done Something That Was Designed to Give Us HOPE — Like an ANCHOR in Our Life that Could Not Fail!!***

.... He Has Made a COVENANT That He Guarantees to Fulfill

***Is God For Me? .... Why Should I Expect His Favorable Involvement in My Life?***

**COVENANT LOVE = "hesed" — translated "lovingkindness", "mercy", "steadfast love"**

— It has as it's nature an UNFAILING PERSISTENCE ... and helps us understand how God relates to us

**Ps 23 ... "surely goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life"**

— David Knew God's HESED .... **2Sam 7:8-16**

.... and He Modeled it in **2Sam 9:1-8**

**v. 8 .... Mephibosheth's Question is Our Question**

— David's Reasons are Not Found in Mephibosheth — but in JONATHAN! ....  
2Sam 9:1; 1Sam 20:14-17

