

## Hebrews 6:13-17

### Hebrews 6:13 (NOTES)

- "the promise to Abraham" - This is known as the Abrahamic Covenant. It first appears when God calls Abraham out of Ur (flames) of the Chaldees (destruction) to the Promised Land. Next, when God shows Abraham the stars in Genesis 15, then formalized with circumcision in, Genesis 17, then again reaffirmed in Genesis 21, and finally reaffirmed again in Jacob in Genesis 28.  
Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-10, 18, 17:1-14, 21:12, 28:14
- "He swore by Himself" - God made an oath to Abraham. The oath did not bind God any more than He had already bound Himself by making the promise, but the oath was for the benefit of Abraham and his "seed," to promote faith in His promise.  
Hebrews 6:17

### Hebrews 6:14 (NOTES)

- "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." This is a quote from Ge 22:16-17 "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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. Thus, the multiplication of Abraham's seed is the multiplication of Christ, His converts, not the number of Abraham's physical descendants.  
Galatians 3:6-9, Romans 4:11
- The Genesis quote is often mistranslated. The word **their** in verse 17 should be translated as "his," as in "His enemies." There is a tendency, even with the translators of the most accurate English version, the NASB, to "interpret" - to try to give the meaning, or "help" the text, when it seems off. Paul told the Galatians that the promises to Abraham were actually made to him and his descendants, the Messiah. Thus, the translators often get it wrong - see Young's Literal translation (YLT version).  
Galatians 3:16

- This quote regards the event of Abraham offering Isaac on Mt. Moriah. In the end, God provided a sheep to sacrifice in Isaac's place. There are several items of note in the Genesis 22 passage that prefigure the cross.  
Genesis 22
  1. Mt. Moriah is the hill in Jerusalem upon which was built Solomon's Temple, and at the summit of which sits Calvary where Christ was crucified.  
2Chronicles 3:1
  2. Abraham is a type of God the Father - he offers his son as a sacrifice to God. God the Father offered His ONLY Son as a sacrifice to Himself there.
  3. Isaac is a type of God the Son - who freely surrenders to the will of his father, agrees to be sacrificed, and carries the wood (cross) on his back up the same hill (Mt. Moriah) as Jesus.
  4. The two servants are a type of the Two Witnesses - At Christ's Birth (Joseph and Mary), Transfiguration (Moses and Elijah), death (thieves on the crosses), Resurrection (two angels), Ascension (two, angels) and Second Coming (Moses and Elijah).
  5. The sheep (a male ram) becomes the substitutionary sacrifice after being caught in a thorn thicket by his horns (crown of thorns).

### Hebrews 6:15 (NOTES)

- "he obtained the promise" - Abraham is "he" who obtained the promise.

### Hebrews 6:16 (NOTES)

- "an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute" - If there is a dispute about something challenged as not true, or a dispute about someone challenged as not faithful to a commitment, the person making the statement or commitment challenged ends the dispute by swearing - "By God," "I swear to God," "God's honest truth," etc. In other words, "By God's power, and may I suffer His wrath if it isn't so, what I am saying is trustworthy." Oaths in the cultures of Abraham and the writer of Hebrews meant much more than in our modern Western culture.

**Hebrews 6:17 (NOTES)**

- "God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose" - God made this solemn oath to bolster faith in His promise by demonstrating He could not renege on it.
- "the heirs of the promise" - Remember, the heirs of the promise are not Abraham's descendants. Rather, the heirs are those who will be co-heirs with Christ, Abraham's spiritual children, who are Abraham's children because of their faith in God.  
Romans 8:16-17