

## Hebrews 6:18-20

### Hebrews 6:18 (NOTES)

- "two unchangeable things" - What two things? 1 - His promise, and 2 - His oath to keep it. Neither can be changed, and even without an oath, His promise could not be changed. Genesis 22:16-17
- "we ... would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope" - The oath was given to encourage us to remain steadfast in faith in His promise. His aim was not to bind Himself, though the oath did, in fact, bind Him.
- "it is impossible for God to lie" - God is truth. His word is truth. Numbers 23:19, Proverbs 12:22, John 14:6, 17:17, Titus 1:2
- Why is it impossible for God to lie? There are several reasons, each of which being rooted in His ontology (the nature of His existence). God is the only perfect being. Thus, He cannot do anything inconsistent with His nature, or else He would cease to be perfect and cease to be God. But a perfect thing cannot become imperfect. God's various attributes constrain Him. All of God's promises are secured by His character.
  1. First, God is immutable. If He did something inconsistent with His nature, it would represent a change in His character. A change would necessarily mean that He was either better or worse prior to, and/or as a result of, that change. If God was either worse before or after the change in His character, He could not be God, since God's character is perfect. Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8
  2. Second, God is truth. There is no desire within God that prefers falsehood to truth. He is not profited by falsehood. There is nothing that falsehood can achieve for Him that He cannot achieve through truth. Psalm 119:160, Revelation 19:11
  3. Third, God is good. Everything He does must necessarily be righteous. Thus, He cannot sin. Mark 10:18, Psalms 145:17
  4. Fourth, God is holy. He is separate and distinct from the creation and cannot be tempted by anything in it. Lying is evil, and God cannot be tempted to evil. John 16:13, James 1:13
  5. Fifth, God is love. God's love motivated Him to create man. His purpose for our very existence is for us to share in fellowship with Him. God's love for mankind demands that we trust in Him. Lies are harmful and create distrust and fear. God's love drives out all fear. 1John 4:18, Ephesians 4:15
- "we who have taken refuge" - We who have accepted Jesus as Christ (Messiah). He is our refuge. Cities of Refuge were places of safety for those who committed manslaughter. Numbers 25, Deuteronomy 19, Joshua 20
- "the hope" - The promises of God fulfilled in Jesus. 1Timothy 1:1

### Hebrews 6:19 (NOTES)

- "this hope ... and anchor of the soul" - Our souls are anchored, held in place, by the hope God's promise, a hope made more sure to us by His oath. We can't be disconnected from His promise. We can't drift away from His promise.
- "one which enters within the veil" - Our hope is strong enough and certain enough to give us confidence to "enter the veil," that is, to enter into the sacred presence of God. The veil was a prominent icon of vain man's separation from Holy God, to protect Him from our profanity and us from His wrath.
- In the Temple, and earlier in the temporary structure - tabernacle in the wilderness, the Holy Place was separated from the Holy of Holies, where God, in the form of His shekinah glory, manifest His presence only to the High Priest on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). The High Priest had to be consecrated and cleansed for the encounter. We have been consecrated and cleansed for our daily encounter with God in His throne room as we come to Him in prayer and worship.
- Exodus 26:31-33
- The High Priest would have a rope tied around his waist while he performed the sacred duties on Yom Kippur. Should he err such that God took his life, his dead body could be pulled out by the rope without anyone else having to enter to retrieve it. Since Jesus has made a way for us through His flesh (it being broken as the veil was torn), we have confidence to enter.

### Hebrews 6:20 (NOTES)

- "Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us" - When Christ died on the cross, the veil in the Temple which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was miraculously and simultaneously torn in two. Miraculously, because it was torn from top to bottom. It was more than a foot thick of fabric, and its top was higher than the hands of men could reach. This symbolized the opening of the way into God's presence through Christ - He is the veil, the gate, the door, the way. Matthew 27:50-51
- "having become a high priest forever" - By offering Himself on the cross, Jesus qualified as, and became, our High Priest forever. The High Priest offered the sacrifice for the people each year on the Day of Atonement. Jesus now presents Himself to God as the sacrifice for the people God gave Him; His bride. Hebrews 7:25
- "the order of Melchizedek" - A priesthood of peculiar origin. A character in a parable? A myth? A traditional legend (cultural lore)? A type of Christ? Christ Himself - preincarnate - a Christophany? Genesis 14:17-20, Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 5:4-11, Hebrews 7:1-3