

Hebrews 2025 | We'll Be There Soon! Trust God & Don't Give Up

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Hebrews 6:13-20

We will be in Hebrews chapter 6, verses 13 through 20 this morning and as you flip there I want to tell you about a family beach trip that my family of six got to go on this past fall break at the beginning of October. It was so good! We loved every bit of it. Well, most bits of it. The reason it was only most bits is because in order to get to the beach- we went to Panama City Beach- you have to take a nine hour drive. That isn't too bad for adult but I have four kids all five years old or younger. So it is a nine hour drive with four kids. Now, I'm the type of dad that once we get in the car we aren't stopping. We're not getting out of the car until we get to our final destination. Many of you might be like that as well. We left at 3:00 pm on a Friday after school ended and that was a terrible idea because all the way down to Florida there was traffic. It wasn't just Nashville either. There was traffic after Nashville and before Birmingham. There was traffic the whole way. It was stop and go, stop and go, stop and go, for the entire trip so that nine hour trip was way longer than nine hours and here was the result. A nine hour trip with four kids, a lot of traffic, a whole lot of screaming and crying, and a whole lot of sinning unfortunately from the front seat and the back seat. There was a little bit of throw up, too. We had one get car sick, that wasn't fun.

Then we had about 37 questions before we even got to Nashville. "Are we there yet?" ... "Daddy, are we there yet?" ... "Mommy, are we there yet?" ... So Kaitlyn, my wife, and I were in the front seat and we gave the same answer every single time. Consistency is key with kids, right? They would ask, "Are we there yet?" Here was our answer, "We'll be there soon." Like we had just pulled out of our driveway but hey, we'll be there soon! We just got out of Calvert City but hey, we'll be there soon! We're not to Nashville yet but hey, we'll be there soon! Then I started to get the sense that they were discouraged by my answer so I wanted to encourage them and I added some further instruction. They would say, "Daddy, are we

there yet?" I said, "Hey, kids, we'll be there soon but until then I just need you to hold tight." That's good, right? Nope, it wasn't good. Then they said, "Daddy, are we there yet?" I said, "Hey, we'll be there soon and just be patient until we get there. Just be patient." They didn't like that either. So they keep asking, "Daddy, are we there yet?" So I switch it up again and said, "Kids, we'll be there soon but until then I think it'd be a really good idea if y'all just got some sleep. Just close your eyes, take a nap, and stop annoying mom and me. That would be incredible. Just close your eyes and go to sleep."

I'm telling you, that trip was hard. It was really, really hard. We had our kids and they wanted to get out of the car. They wanted to pull over on the side of the interstate and take a break. They wanted to turn around and go home. They were ready to give up on our beach vacation but Kaitlyn and I were in the front seat and we knew we couldn't give up. We knew what awaited us at the end of the nine hour trip. We knew the beach was waiting. Eventually I started to sense that they were really discouraged so I made them a promise. I said, "Hey, kids, I know you're suffering. I know it's hard. I know you're sick. I know you're tired. I know you're ready to be there but here is my promise to you. I promise that if you'll just fall asleep when you wake up we'll be there." Apparently for my kids that was a good enough promise. They fell asleep. It was a miracle! All four kids in the backseat were asleep at the same time and it was a peaceful drive.

When I look back to that trip here is what I realized. There are two things. I made a promise but perhaps more importantly, my four kids- really the older two that could understand it- chose to trust my promise. They chose to trust me. When their daddy, who they love and trust, made them a promise that was all they needed. They just needed assurance. Don't just tell me we're going to be there. Promise me. I promised them and they fell asleep trusting in the promise I made to them. And guess what they would tell you now? If there were in this service this morning they would tell you the beach trip was absolutely worth it. That nine hour trip was hard but that week at the beach was worth it. The beach was worth the drive.

As I was studying our text for this morning what I realized is that, that nine hour trip to the beach is a whole lot like what you and I are experiencing in

the world today as Christians. As followers of Jesus Christ, you and I are on a really hard trip. It's hard! It's full of suffering, full of sin, full of sorrows, full of crying, and full of screaming but this trip is taking us to a place that is incredible. This trip is taking us to a destination that you don't want to miss except you and I aren't the mom or dad in the front seat who are making the promise. The reality is that you and I are the kids in the backseat and we're struggling. We're screaming, we're kicking, we're crying, we're sinning, and we're wondering if we are ever going to get there. I realize that some of us could even be here this morning and just like my kids you've had enough. You're ready to pull over on the side of the road. You're ready to turn around, go back home, and give up on the whole thing.

This morning, God our Father, God YOUR Father, has a message to his kids. He's going to tell us this, this morning... *Kids, I know it's hard. I know you're sick and tired but you can't give up. Do you want to know why? Because we will be there soon...* We'll be there soon! You're asking God, "are we there yet?" And his answer this morning is this... *we will be there soon...* But he wants to encourage you a little further and so he says... *Hey, kids, we'll be there soon. Until then, hold tight. Don't let go. Don't unstrap your seatbelt. Stay in the car. Stand firm. We will be there soon...* Then he's going to go a little further and he's going to say... *Hey, kids, we'll be there soon. Just be patient. Stay patient. Wait patiently...* Then, to some of us here this morning, he's going to say... *Hey, kids, I know it's hard. I know it's scary. We'll be there soon but before we get there some of you are going to close your eyes. Some of you are going to fall asleep. I know that is scary but it's okay because I promise when we get there, if you just fall asleep, you'll have arrived at your final destination...*

God's message to you and I here this morning through his Word is this- just trust me and do not give up. We will be there soon.

Scripture:

Hebrews 6:17-18 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we

who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

All semester long we've been walking through the book of Hebrews and it's been great but one of the common themes that we've ran into is this Jewish congregation who is on the verge of giving up. They're tired. They're facing all types of suffering and pressure from the world around them to cave in and go back to their old Jewish ways and Jewish practices. So we have a weary congregation but last week as Kory preached through a really tough passage, he ended with some hope because as weary as this congregation is they have a preacher who is very optimistic. They have a preacher who is very hopeful. So after he warns them that they are in danger of falling away he then says this in chapter 6, verse 9, "Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation." So as weary as this congregation is- and the preacher knows it- he is still hopeful that they won't give up and they won't give in but they'll continue persevering to the end.

When we ended last week the preacher was looking at his congregation and he gave them examples to imitate so that they will persevere until the end and we see this in verses 11 and 12. He tells them this, "And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." So that is where we're going. We're going to get a lot of examples in Hebrews of saints who have gone before us and the key takeaway is this- what he did you do and what she did, you do. The chief example in our passage is going to be a guy by the name of Abraham so as we look at our text in verses 13 through 20 we're going to divide it into three sections this morning. The first section is going to be the example of Abraham. We're going to spend a lot of time on Abraham. The preacher is going to show us what happened to Abraham. Then, the whole point is the second section. He wants to encourage us to do the same thing as Abraham. Then, the third section, is where we are going to end and we are going to end with the effect- what we obtain when we follow Abraham's example.

So the first thing we are going to walk through is the example of Abraham and here is the example he has set before us- Abraham trusted God's

promise. It's really simple yet so crucial. Abraham trusted God's promise. The first thing we need to see is that God has made a promise to Abraham and we see this in verses 13 and 14 of our text. Here is what the preacher says, "For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." If you're familiar with the story of Abraham, maybe you are or maybe you're not either way that's okay, but if you are then you would know that God's promise to Abraham is very profound, it's very dense, and a little bit complicated so for our purposes this morning we're just going to make it really simple. We're going to say that God's promise to Abraham centered around three things. Number one, a son was coming. God promised Abraham offspring. Number two, through that son Abraham was going to experience victory over all of his enemies. Number three, through that son, Abraham was going to become the father of many nations. God promised to bless all the nations of the earth through the son that was coming.

Here is what I want us to think about this morning as we think about this promise that God made to Abraham and as we think about Abraham's life. If you know much about Abraham then you know that these promises are good, but they are hard to believe. They're good but based on Abraham's circumstances it wasn't an easy task to just trust God and be patient. Just think about Abraham's life. We first meet Abraham in chapter 12. God first calls Abraham and makes a promise to Abraham to give him offspring but at that point Abraham was 75 years old and his wife, Sarah, was 65 years old and barren yet still God was promising them babies. We know that is not normal and that was not likely. You have to put yourself in Abraham's shoes and realize that was a hard promise to believe. Twenty-five years go by and then in Genesis chapter 17 there is still no baby. Abraham was 99 years old and Sarah was 89 years old now. She is still barren and they still don't have a son. This isn't easy for Abraham. His life is hard.

Then, when his son Isaac finally does come, what does God ask him to do? He tells Abraham to take Isaac, take a knife, and sacrifice his son. His only son. If your Abraham what are you doing in that moment?... *Sure. Where's the knife? This is easy. Just give me the nearest kitchen knife. Isaac, lay on the floor...* No! That's not an easy ask! That is hard. There is doubt in Abraham's mind about God's promise and even when God provides the ram

and saves Isaac's life it still isn't easy for Abraham. God has promised him all these things but at this point in Genesis chapter 22 he is well over 100 years old. He has one offspring. He has no land. He hasn't beaten any of his enemies and the nations who he's meant to be the father of have no clue who he even is. He's at the end of his life. He's an old man and he's about to die.

This Hebrews congregation when they heard this message would have understood and our congregation here at Hardin today needs to understand that Abraham is an incredible guy but he had a hard life. Abraham had a very hard life. It was full of all types of suffering. It was full of hardships. At no point in Abraham's life did his earthly circumstances suggest that just trusting God was ever easy or that it was every natural. In fact, at many points in his life, I think the most obvious thing for Abraham to have done and the most tempting thing for Abraham to have done would have been to just give up... *God, I'm 75. My wife is barren. This sounds good but I'm just going to go home... God, now I'm 99 and you still haven't answered your promise. I'm just going to go home... God, you gave me a son and now you want me to kill him? I'm just going to go home... God, you promised me all these things but I'm about to die. I'm just going to go home...* That is what would have been easy for Abraham. As nice as these promises were you would have to be thinking that they weren't going to come true. Do you know what I believe? I believe that is exactly how Abraham felt at many points in his life. I believe God KNEW that is how Abraham felt at many points in his life. I think there were times that Abraham's finger were on the give up button but instead of getting frustrated at Abraham's doubt what we're going to see is that God was very patient with Abraham. He didn't reprimand him. He didn't slap him across the wrist. God encouraged Abraham in his doubt to keep on trusting and to not give up despite what his circumstances and his life looked like. So what did God do? He didn't just make Abraham a promise. Next we're going to see that he swore. He made an oath with Abraham to keep this promise.

Verse 13 says this, "For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." God made an oath with Abraham. Put yourself in Abraham's shoes. Everything is uncertain.

Everything is shaky ground. Here comes God and he provides great certainty in the midst of your uncertainty and he does it by swearing to you that he will keep his promise. But, he doesn't just swear. The Bible says he swore by himself. In other words, God swears on God to Abraham that he will keep his promise.

Have you ever heard anyone swear on something great? I remember when I was in middle school and high school there was a common thing people would say and they had no idea what they were talking about. They would say, "Hey, I swear on my mother's grave that I'm telling the truth." If they wanted to get a little bit more serious they might have said, "Hey, I swear on the Bible I'm not lying." Then, every now and then, if they really wanted you to know that they were telling the truth they'd say, "Hey, I swear on God that I'm telling the truth." Why do people do this? Verse 17 explains. We do this because we know we have to swear by something greater than ourselves and in all of our disputes an oath is final for confirmation. In other words, we swear on things that are great in hopes that we can eliminate any doubt in the mind of whoever we're talking that we might be lying. That is the goal. We swear to eliminate doubt.

So, here is what God does. He knows his promise is good enough as it is. It's God and he made a promise. That is good enough but he also knows that Abraham has some doubts. He also knows that Abraham just isn't sure so instead of just promising him God ups the stakes and he makes a swear to him. He makes an oath to him and he swears by himself because there is nothing greater to swear by. The point is that God wants Abraham to feel completely sure. He wants Abraham to feel secure about the promise that he has made to him. He wants to eliminate all doubt in Abraham's mind that he might not keep this promise and as unsure as Abraham is-just put yourself in his shoes, life is uncertain, it's full of suffering, and you don't know if he can keep these promises when God swears to you- he knows God is not a liar and he won't bring dishonor to his name. So as unsure as you are there is certainty that God will keep this promise. So let's watch and see what God's oath leads Abraham to do.

God makes a promise. He swears and then despite his circumstances, what we're going to see is this leads Abraham to do two things. It leads him to trust God and to wait patiently. He trusts God and he waits patiently on the

promise. Verse 15 says this, "And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise." So you see, despite his circumstances, despite his age, despite his wife's barrenness, and despite what his life looked like, besides what he felt like in that moment, he heard God's word to him, he heard God's promise to him, he heard God's oath to him and he was able to trust in the Lord despite ALL of that. And because he trusted him, he was able to do a couple things. He was able to hold tight and he was able to wait patiently for God to fulfill his promise to him.

So, here is the point. Here is what I want us to see this morning about Abraham. He didn't let the world dictate his faith. He didn't look at his circumstances and say that was where his hope and trust lied. He didn't look to the world. He looked to the Word. He looked to God's Word and knew that was what was true, that was what was certain, and that was what he was standing on. He heard God's promise; he heard God's oath and despite his circumstances he responded by trusting God. Not doubting but trusting.

So here in Hebrews, what God is trying to get this Hebrew congregation to do and what he is trying to get you and I to do this morning is this- he wants us to follow Abraham's example. God gets it. Life is hard and he knows that our circumstances for many of us just stink. I know how hard of a year it's been for so many of you. I know how hard of a week it's been for so many of you. We lose loved ones. We lose children. Sickness overcomes us. Sin breaks families apart. People hurt us. We are persecuted at school and work. Our family won't talk to us. We get old and we die. We could go on and on and on about all the suffering that you and I experience as individuals and as a church family but here is the point that God is making- despite all of that, despite what your week, your year, or your life has looked like, no matter what circumstances you find yourself in this morning, there is one thing and only one thing that will never change and it's God. God is still good. He is still for you. He still loves you and just like he did for Abraham he has made a promise to you.

Here is the encouragement that God wants us to get this morning through Abraham's example. Just like Abraham trusted God, the whole point is that you and I can and we must trust God too and here is why. Just like God made a promise and an oath to Abraham, what we're going to see is that

he's done the same thing for you and me. God has made a promise to you and God has sealed that promise with an oath not just to Abraham but to you and me. Verse 17 says this, "So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise..." Do you know who that is? Do you know who the heirs of the promise are? That's us, Hardin! That is the church! You and I, who have come to trust in Jesus Christ, we are Abraham's heirs. We are the heirs of the promise. The promise God has made to Abraham, guess what? He has also made it to you. He's also made it to us.

Now, let's remember what God promised Abraham. He promised a son was coming. He promised victory over his enemies through that son was coming. And he promised blessings for all of the nations of the earth through that son that was coming too. What I want us to do this morning is this. I want us to look back and see what God promised and swore to Abraham he kept. He fulfilled it, not through Isaac, not through Jacob, and not through anyone that came through the line but through one man that came through the line and his name is Jesus. God kept his promise to Abraham through his own son, Jesus Christ. Jesus the Son of God and the son of Abraham has already come and at the cross and by his resurrection, this son of God, this son of Abraham, has won the victory over our greatest enemies, not those who persecute us but over sin, over death, and over Satan. And through his gospel going forth by the mouth of the church today, guess what? All the nations of the earth are being blessed. They are hearing about the gift of salvation. So I want you to see that God kept his promise to Abraham just like he said he would. Was there really any doubt? There was a whole lot of doubt but God kept his promise to Abraham and now you and I are heirs of the promise. We're children of Abraham so what has God promised us? It's the same promise but it looks just a little bit different.

God promises you this morning that the Son is coming, not for the first time because he already has, but for the second time. Just like he has come once, Jesus Christ is coming again. God promises. Secondly, final victory and ultimate victory over all of our enemies through that Son is coming too because when Christ comes back he is coming once and for all to destroy sin, to defeat death, and to cast Satan into the fiery pit once and for all. It's coming! Third, he promises us the ultimate consummation

of blessings for all the nations of the earth through that son because when Christ comes back he defeats death and people from all over the earth, all nations, surround his throne and we praise him and thank him for all of eternity for what he's done for us in his cross and in his resurrection. That is where you and I are headed. This is the promise God has made to us the heirs of promise. Christ is coming back and when does all of the suffering you're experiencing, all of the sin that you just can't quite kick, the persecution you're facing, and the sickness that you can't beat will all cease to exist the day that Christ comes back.

You might be thinking... *that sounds really good. That sounds incredible but I just don't know because if I'm being honest, when I open up social media, when I watch the news, when I talk to my friends, when I just think about my own life and the suffering, or when I think about my friend's life and their suffering it really doesn't seem like these things are going to happen...* If we're just honest, it's been nearly 2,000 years since Christ promised he'd return and he's still not here. So there is a temptation. As good as these promises sound, maybe you're here this morning and you just have a little bit of doubt on whether any of these things will actually come true and I think to some degree all of us have a little bit of doubt just like Abraham but listen to what God does for you this morning to ease that doubt. Verse 17 says this, "So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath." He guaranteed it with an oath so not only has God made a promise to you but he has sworn an oath to you. Do you know why that is such a good thing? Because by these two unchangeable things- God's promise and God's oath- and because it's impossible for God to lie so despite your circumstances this morning you can be 100% certain that God will do what he said he will do. You can be absolutely sure he is going to keep his promise to you. Despite what your life looks like, despite how you feel, and despite what you're walking through this morning, in Christ Jesus you have a guarantee that better days are on the horizon. They are coming. We will be there soon!

I know it's difficult. God knows it's difficult but he is calling us this morning to respond like Abraham. How did he respond? By trusting God and waiting patiently. That's God's point this morning. That's the point of the promise and the oath. They are meant to cause us to trust more deeply in God than

we've ever trusted before and to wait more patiently on God than we've ever waited before.

The point in verse 18 is that God is trying to give us strong encouragement. It is comforting that the God of the universe, with all that he's doing right now, has come to Hardin Baptist Church this morning to encourage you because he knows you're weak and unsure. He wants to strongly encourage you to do two things. Number one, flee to God for refuge. Flee to him for your refuge. Don't flee to your circumstances. Don't flee to the world. Flee to God for refuge. That is trust in Christ. Number two, when you do that, hold fast to the hope that is set before you. Don't budge. Wait patiently for God to fulfill his promise that he has promised you. That is God's strong encouragement to you and I here this morning.

Can you just imagine being this Hebrew congregation, this tiny, weak, and suffering congregation that got this letter? Their lives are so hard and to be honest it just doesn't seem like their lives are going to get any better anytime soon. Their circumstances do not suggest that they should just trust God and wait patiently. They are on the verge clearly all throughout this letter of walking away. They've had enough and they're ready to give up. So what does their preacher do? He stands before them, looks them in the eyes, and tells them to remember God's promise. He says... *brothers and sisters, remember his oath to you. I know you're tired. I know you're hurting. I know life is hard but we can't give up. We have to hold fast. God will keep his promise to us. We will be there soon...*

Hardin, I don't know, maybe you're here this morning and you feel just a whole lot like them. If you were being honest with yourself maybe you feel like this Hebrew congregation does. You're on the verge of giving up. You don't understand why all of these things are happening. You don't get why Christ hasn't come back yet. You're on the verge of just walking away and giving up completely. Hear God's Word to you this morning. He says... *kids, don't do it. Don't draw away from me. Draw closer to me because I have made a promise to you and I've sworn to keep it. I know your life is hard but you can trust in me. Christ the Son, he's coming and when he does all sin, all death, all suffering, and the greatest enemy, Satan, will all be defeated. People from all nations will gather before his throne and we will worship him forever. We will be there soon...* Church, no matter your

circumstances, no matter what your life may look like, and no matter how you may feel, the point that God is encouraging you to do this morning is to trust him and do not give up.

Finally, we are going to end by looking at the very end of this passage. Watch what happens here. See the effect of what you obtain when you take God's encouragement. When you trust God despite your circumstances, here is what he gives you. He gives you an unshakeable hope in Christ despite your suffering, despite your hardships, despite your persecution, despite that sickness, and despite death itself. If you have Christ and you're trusting firmly in him then you have an unshakeable hope this morning. In the midst of life's storms, the preacher is going to say that you and I get a sure and steady anchor for our souls. Verse 19 says this, "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." So by trusting in Christ and what he's done for us, no matter what life may bring in Christ you and I have a sure and steady anchor for our souls.

I want you to picture something with me this morning. I want you to picture yourself in the middle of the ocean on a tiny, little boat. You're in this tiny, little boat in the middle of the ocean and a huge storm is coming your way. It's a scary situation. And what I want to tell you is this- that is our life here on earth. It is hard. It is dangerous. It's scary and it's full of all types of trials and tribulations but here is the good news, church. As bad as that sounds, as scary as that is, in the middle of this storm your weak, little boat is tethered to the strongest anchor you could ever imagine. Your boat is rocking, waves are splashing over, you're screaming, you're crying, and you're scared. Life on top of the ocean does not look promising. It does not look good but deep down on the ocean floor your anchor isn't budging. It's immovable. That is what you and I get when we trust God's promise. It doesn't mean the storm stops. That's not what happens. It doesn't mean life gets better. It usually doesn't. It means that as the storm rages and ravishes your life you don't drift, you don't get out, and you don't capsize. You stay sure and firm standing fast on a sure and steady anchor named Jesus who you are tethered to in faith. The only way you

stay safe in that storm is if you grip that anchor as tight as you've ever gripped and you do not give up.

When I think back to that nine hour beach trip I'm convinced it's really just a snapshot and a glimpse of our lives here on earth. It's hard and it's miserable at times. There is suffering and sin and if we're honest there are days we just want to turn the car around and go home because there has to be a better way. But just like I told my kids, I want you to hear God tell you this, this morning... *kids, I promise you. We will be there soon. Don't get out. Hold fast. Don't give up. Wait patiently. Hey, kids, we will be there soon but before we get there it's possible that some of you are going to fall asleep. You're going to rest your eyes and that's scary but trust me, when you wake up we will be there. I will keep my promise to you...* Trust in him and do not give up. As hard as that trip was, the beach was absolutely worth it. We loved the beach! We had a great time on the beach and I want you to know church, the trip that you're on called life is hard but if you stay on that boat it will be worth it because one day you will arrive at heaven's shore. Christ will return. You will stand before him and you will meet with your eyes the sure and steady anchor of your soul and for all of eternity because you trusted God and waited patiently today, sorrows, suffering, sin, and Satan will all cease. We will spend eternity together with the lover of our souls.

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