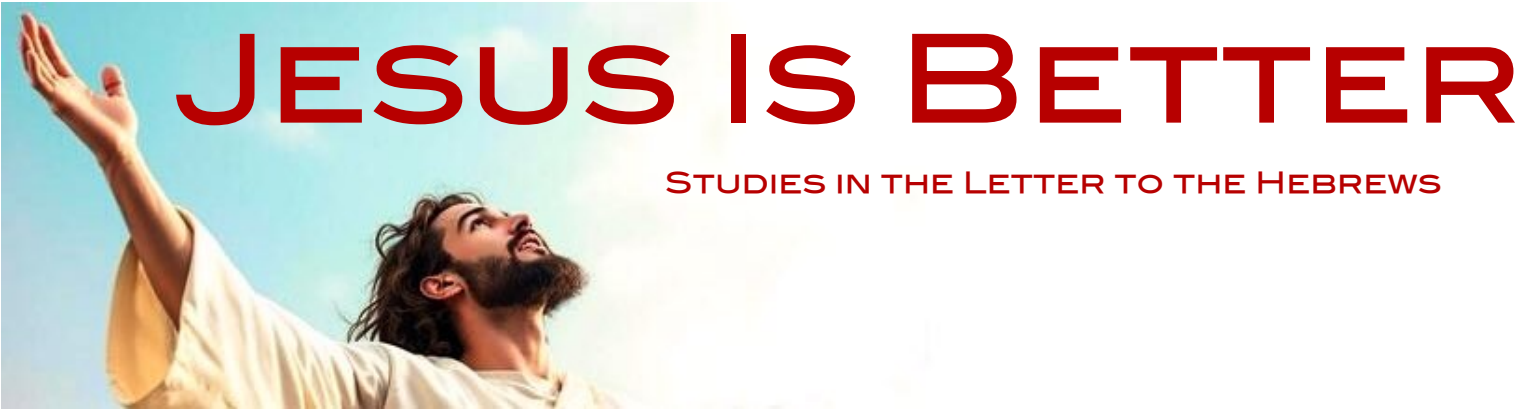




Hebrews 6:13-20

LESSON 7

Hold onto Hope

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 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Hope was promised to Abraham

▲ The contents of God's promise

6:13 God made his promise to Abraham, — 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."

Genesis 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

▲ The confidence in God's promise

6:15 And so after waiting patiently,

Genesis 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." 5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

▲ The collection of God's promise

6:15 Abraham received what was promised.

Genesis 21:1 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 "Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3 "Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him."

▲ The commitment in God's promise

—The practice and purpose of human oaths

6:16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

—The provision of a heavenly oath

6:13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

6:17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

Genesis 22:16 "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

—The people profiting from this heavenly oath

6:18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

▲ The continuing collection of God's promise by Christians

6:18 we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us

Hope is provided through Jesus

▲ Christ advanced into the holy of holies

—He went beyond the barrier

6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

—He went bearing his blood

9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

—He went on behalf of believers

6:20 where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

▲ Christ anchored our hope in heaven

—We've fled from fear and failure and futility and fatality

6:18 we who have fled

—We're holding to the hope of heaven

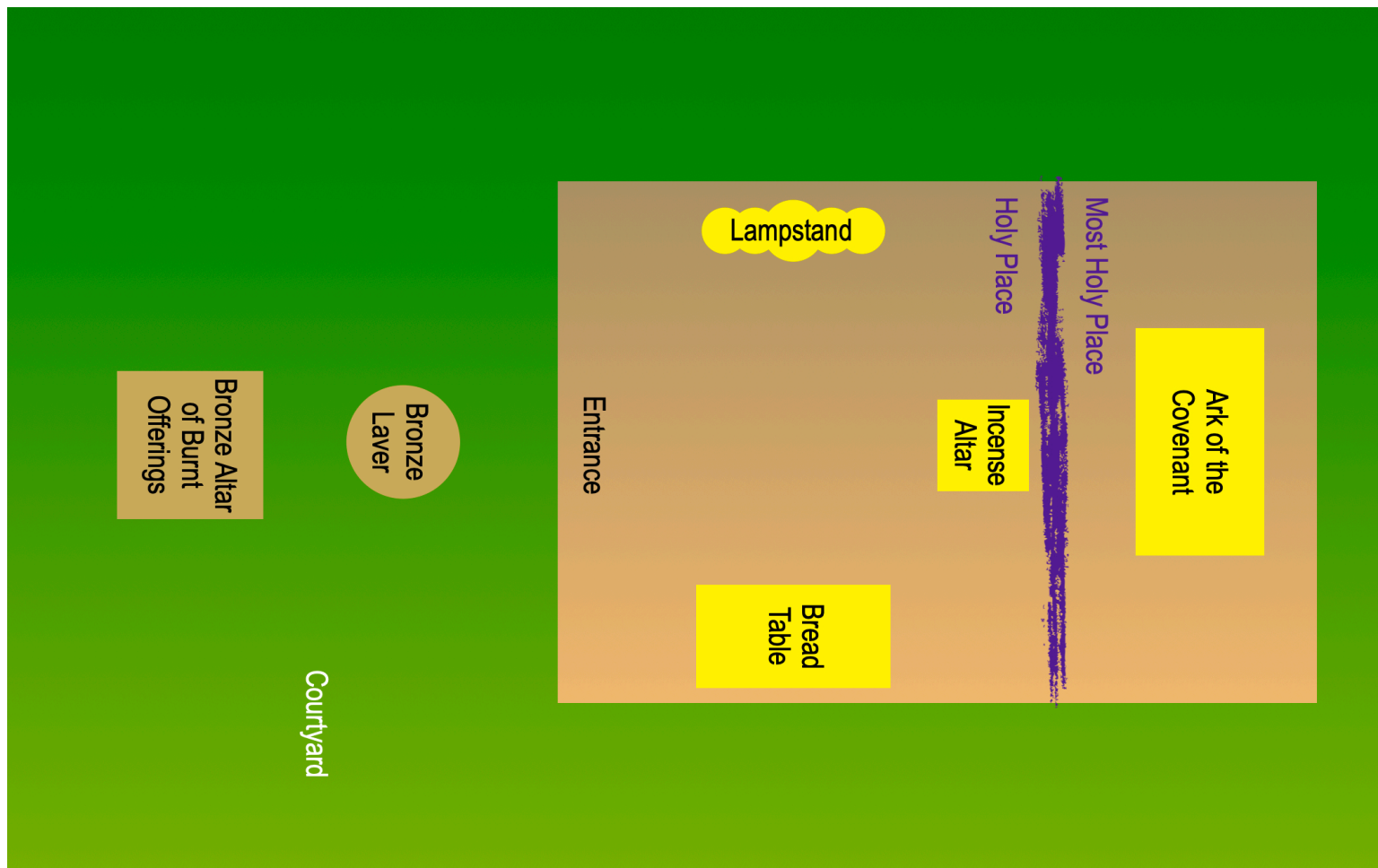
6:18 to take hold of the hope offered to us

—We're strengthened in the surety of our salvation

6:19 We have his hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

Because of Jesus—

1) SIN IS NOT FATAL Because of Jesus our sins are forgiven and will never be held against us.
2) DEATH IS NOT FINAL We will live on forever in God's blessed and blissful eternal life.
3) LIFE IS NOT FUTILE We have purpose and significance as children of the Almighty God.
4) WE ARE NOT FORSAKEN God is our Helper here and now, and nothing is impossible for Him.



John Sees the Heavenly Temple in the Book of Revelation

Jesus' Letter to the Church at Philadelphia

Revelation 3:12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

The Tribulation Martyrs in Heaven

Revelation 7:13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" 14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

After the Blowing of the Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Angels Commanded To Reap the Earth

Revelation 14:15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. 17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."

The Seven Angels with the Bowls of Wrath

Revelation 15:5 After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. 6 Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. — 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. — 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." — 16:17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"