Message of Hebrews

- Jesus Christ, High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek
  - The High Priest of our confession
  - The New Covenant – the divine plan of salvation

- Exhortation to draw near and hold fast
  - The just shall live by faith (10:37-39)
  - Draw near (10:22-25)
  - Run the race with endurance (12:1)
  - Show diligence (6:11-12)
Hebrews Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Jesus Christ, God/Man (1:5-2:18)*
3. Jesus Christ, Apostle of our confession (3:1-4:13)*
4. Jesus Christ, High Priest of our confession (4:14-8:6)*
5. Jesus Christ, Mediator of a better covenant (8:7-10:18)
6. Jesus Christ, Author of a new and better way (10:19-13:19)**

*Pauses for warning and exhortation

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Lesson 8: A Sure and Steadfast Hope
Hebrews 6:13-7:10

- The Promise Made to Abraham (6:13-18)
- A Sure and Steadfast Hope (6:19-20)
- Melchizedek, the Priest of the Most High God (7:1-3)
- The Greatness of Melchizedek (7:4-10)
Review Exhortations

- **Exhortation #1 (2:1-4)**
  - God has spoken through His Son
  - Hear the Word of the Son of God
  - No escape if we neglect “so great salvation”

- **Exhortation #2 (3:7-4:13)**
  - Do not harden your hearts to the Son of God
  - The example of Israel’s unbelief
  - Do not miss the rest
3rd Exhortation (5:11-6:20)

• Confidence in our Great High Priest (4:14-16)
  • The Levitical high priest
  • Christ, High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek

• 3rd exhortation (5:11-20)
  • Dull of hearing
  • Worst case – those who have fallen away
  • We are convinced of better things concerning you (6:9)
  • Show diligence – not slow to hear – imitate (6:11-12)

• A lesson from history to bolster confidence (6:13-20)
God’s Promise to Abraham (6:13)

- Why should we care about this ancient promise?
- An outline of God’s plan for His creation
- *Protoevangelium* – Genesis 3:15
- A general statement of God’s plan – Genesis 9:8-17
  - Blessing – salvation
  - A great nation – Israel’s salvation
  - Blessing to the nations – Gentile salvation
  - The Seed – The Savior
3 English Words for the Plan of God

- **Promise**
  - Hebrew – to say or speak
  - Greek – promise

- **Covenant – agreement or contract**
  - Hebrew – BERIT – unilateral or bilateral (Law of Moses)
  - Greek – diatheke – unilateral

- **Oath**
  - Hebrew – swear an oath – appeal to higher power
  - Greek – swear an oath

- An unconditional (gracious) agreement by God
- A promise or covenant and an oath
- Promise to Abraham is the promise of salvation
The Sure and Steadfast Hope

- God shows us the unchangeableness of His purpose
- The promise to Abraham is secured by God’s oath
- Strong encouragement for hope (Romans 11:29)
- An anchor of the soul – within the veil (in heaven)
- Jesus entered heaven as our High Priest (4:14)
Melchizedek (7:1-10)

- Melchizedek and Abraham (Genesis 14:17-20)
  - King of Salem (Psalm 76:2)
  - Brought bread and wine
  - Priest of God Most High
  - Blessed Abraham
  - Abraham gave him a tenth of all

- Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1-3)
  - Priest of the Most High God
  - King of peace
  - King of righteousness
  - No genealogy – no link to the Levitical family
  - Perpetual priest – figurative
The Greatness of Melchizedek (7:4-10)

- Priest blesses the people of God (Deut 21:5)
- Greater blesses the lesser (7:7)
- Melchizedek greater than Abraham and blessed him
- Abraham, father of all who believe (Gal 3:7, 9)
- Abraham, father of the Davidic monarchy (Ps 89:3, 35; 132:11)
- Levi less than Melchizedek – tithed in Abraham
- Blessing comes from the Melchizedek High Priest
A SURE AND STEADFAST HOPE

▶ The blessing – certain by God’s promise and oath
▶ The blessing – through the priesthood of Melchizedek
▶ Therefore, we draw near with confidence (10:19-24)