

Fact Sheet for **“So Many Questions”**  
**Hebrews 6:13-20**

Pastor Bob Singer  
05/14/2017 (Mother's Day)

1. This book was written to those with a strong Jewish background. At the same time there is much that applies to us who don't have that background. And we need to appreciate how much of a mega-shift in theology the gospel was for Jewish believers (works to grace).
2. The author of this book writes to those whom he addresses as “brothers”. He's writing to those he assumes to be Christians (3:1). At the same time he does not know for certain where everyone stood with Christ, just like we don't know for certain.
3. The author of this book did not intend to have a discussion as to whether or not we can lose our salvation. That theological discussion must involve everything that the Word of God has to say on the subject. There are five warning passages in this book (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:19-39; 12:14-29). Taken separately or together, without considering the rest of God's Word, your theology may get skewed.

**<sup>13</sup> ¶ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "SURELY I WILL BLESS YOU AND MULTIPLY YOU." <sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.**

**Question 1:** This OT quote is not an oath. Why is the author quoting this?

**Question 2:** The promise to Abraham was about descendants. How does this fit into the author's line of reasoning, and how does it apply to us?

**<sup>16</sup> For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup> 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,**

**Question 3:** Why is the author going on about an oath?

**<sup>18</sup> 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.**

**Question 4:** I see one unchangeable thing in this verse. Where is the second?

**Question 5:** What does it mean, “we who have fled for refuge”?

**Question 6:** What is the promise, like the one to Abraham, we should hold fast to?

**Question 7:** Did that promise have God's oath connected to it?

**<sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**

**Question 8:** What curtain?

**Question 9:** How was Jesus the forerunner?

**Question 10:** How does Melchizedek relate to all of this?

To answer these questions let's first go back to two verses ending the sermon a month and a half ago (6:11-12) and raise an 11<sup>th</sup> question.

**Question 11:** How can we be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherited the promises (like Abraham)?

Lots of questions! Let's begin to answer them. I want to step back and look at something statistically in this book. There is one subject that comes up again and again, and seems to be closely related to the

author's main point. Look at the references to the terms "high priest" and "priest". "High Priest" is mentioned 15 times in 9 chapters (2:17; 3:1; 4:14, 15; 5:1, 5, 10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1, 3; 9:7; 11, 25; 13:11). In addition to this "priest" is mentioned 13 times in 4 chapters (5:6; 7:1, 3, 11, 15, 16, 17, 21; 21; 8:3, 4; 10:11, 21). All but one (13:11) occur in chapters 2-10. 19 of these 28 (68%) occur in 6:13-10:39. Our passage today (6:13-20) is really a gateway into chapters 7-10.

<sup>13</sup> ¶ **For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "SURELY I WILL BLESS YOU AND MULTIPLY YOU." <sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.**

**Answer 1:** This OT quote is from Genesis 22:17. The oath is seen in the previous verse (Genesis 22:16).

**Answer 2:** I mentioned that 6:13-20 is really a gateway into chapters 7-10. There is a promise relating to the high priesthood of Christ from Psalm 110:4 mentioned in the next chapter (7:17). God made a promise to Abraham about descendants. He also made a promise about the permanent high priesthood of Christ.

<sup>16</sup> **For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup> 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,**

**Answer 3:** It was because the author was preparing his readers to see that the promise to Christ about the permanent nature of His high priesthood also came with the Father's oath (7:20-21). This is also a quote from 110:4.

<sup>18</sup> **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.**

**Answer 4:** The two unchangeable things are 1 – God's oath, and 2 – It is impossible for God to lie.

**Answer 5:** The author is applying these truths to his readers. "We" are those who no longer trust in a works-based salvation, but now trust in a grace-based salvation of faith in Christ and His high priesthood for us. Look at the first verse of our hymn "How Firm a Foundation".

**Answer 6:** The promise that we should hold fast to, the one made to Christ, is that He is our perpetual high priest who has entirely satisfied our debt!

**Answer 7:** Yes, we have already seen it was recorded in Psalm 110:4.

<sup>19</sup> **We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**

**Answer 8:** The curtain is the one behind which is the Ark of the Covenant, the inner place that only the High Priest was able to enter.

**Answer 9:** This starts with the reference to our "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul".

"...if the harbor imagery is still in mind it recalls the role of sailors who leave their ship in a smaller craft in order to carry the anchor forward to a place where it can be firmly lodged. So too the Lord Jesus, by His entrance into the heavenly sanctuary where He functions as a **High Priest forever**, has given to a Christian's hope an anchorage from which it cannot be shaken loose."<sup>1</sup> *Illustration: Anchor by Hillsong*

**Answer 10:** Chapter 7 is all about Melchizedek's priesthood being permanent, and therefore Christ's high priesthood, after the order of Melchizedek, is permanent.

**Answer 11:** Imitate the faith and patience of those who inherited the promises made for them having a rock solid faith in the promise made to Christ for us... He is our high priest forever, the anchor of our soul, Who has paid for our sins entirely. Our salvation is by grace through faith!

---

<sup>1</sup> The Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament, p. 797.