

Promises and oaths  
following the warning

Hebrews 6:13-20

When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

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

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. 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.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf.

He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

When God made his promise to Abraham,

Genesis 22:16-18 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."



since there was no one greater for him to swear by,

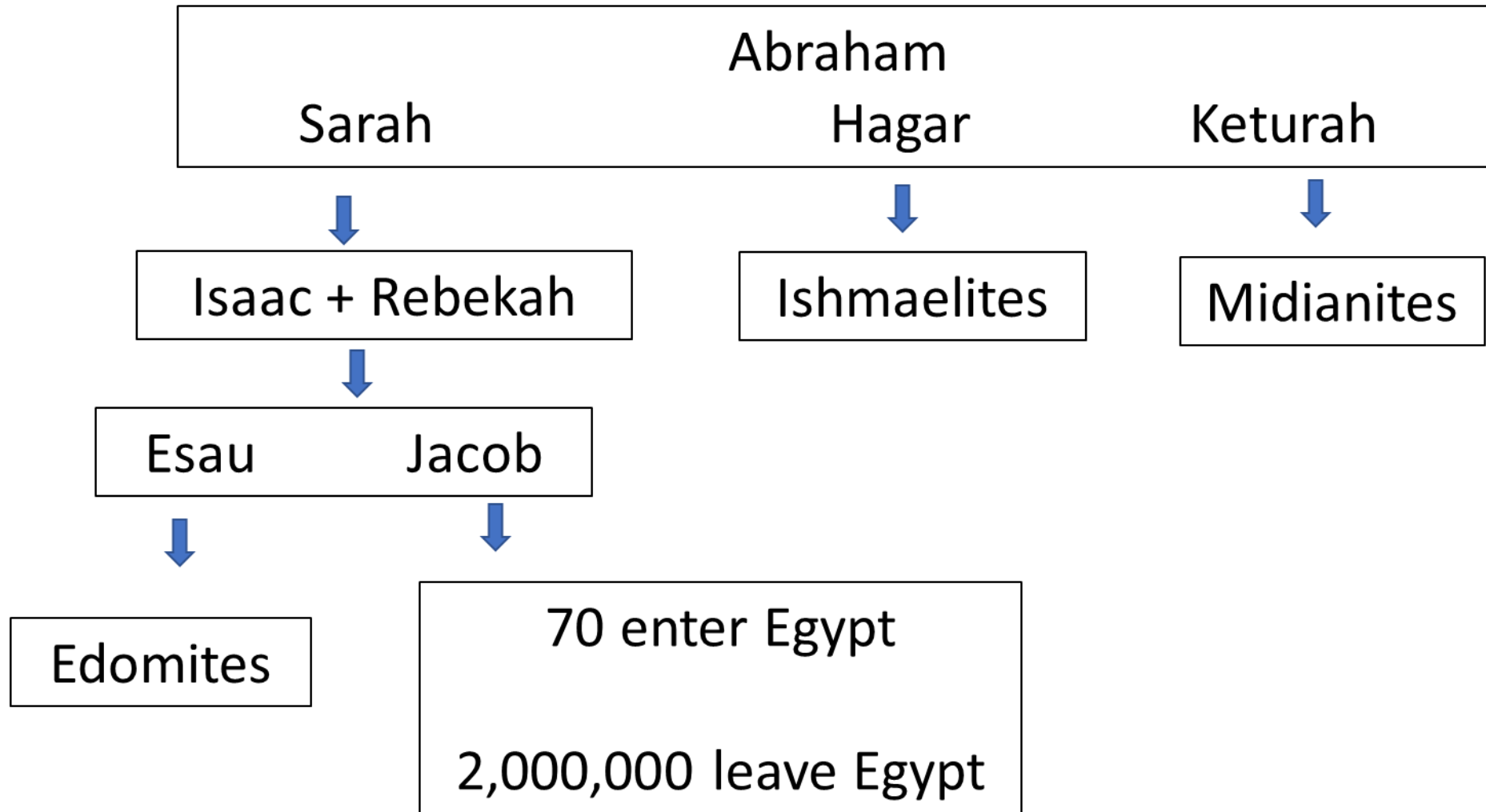


Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

he swore by himself,

*I Promise*

saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."



And so after waiting patiently,

Genesis 12:1-4 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was **seventy-five years old** when he set out from Harran.

And so after waiting patiently,

Genesis 17:1-6 When Abram was **ninety-nine years old**, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.



And so after waiting patiently,

Genesis 21:1-5 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a **hundred years old** when his son Isaac was born to him.

Abraham received what was promised.



**Why does the writer focus on Abraham ?**

Men swear by someone greater than themselves,

Men = humans = people



## What about these ?

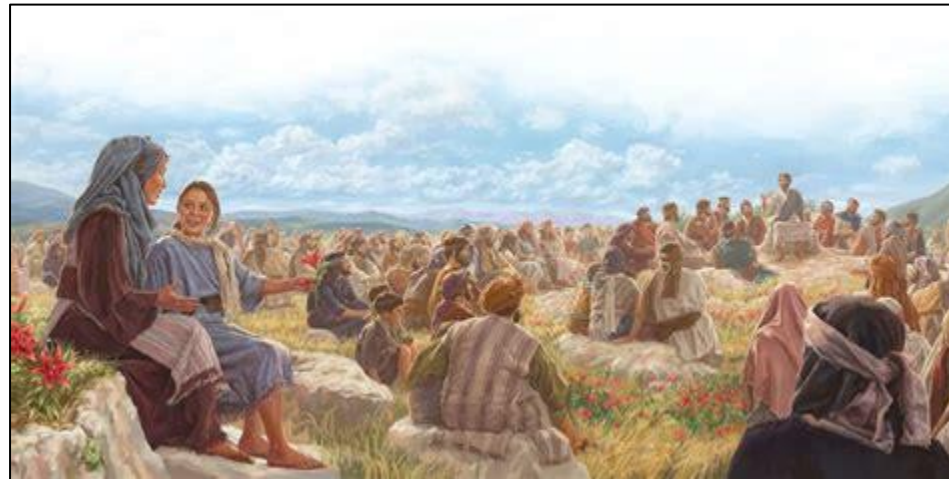
Matthew 26:62-63 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

Romans 9:1 I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit--

2 Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.

## What about this ?

Matthew 5:33-37 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfil to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.





and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.



Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised,

the unchanging nature of his purpose



Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose  
**very clear** to the heirs of what was promised,



Do you get it?



he confirmed it with an oath.

Gracious condescension  
He didn't have to do it.

God did this so that,

**PURPOSE**



by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie,

## **Unchangeable:**

1. His Character
2. His Plan

by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie,

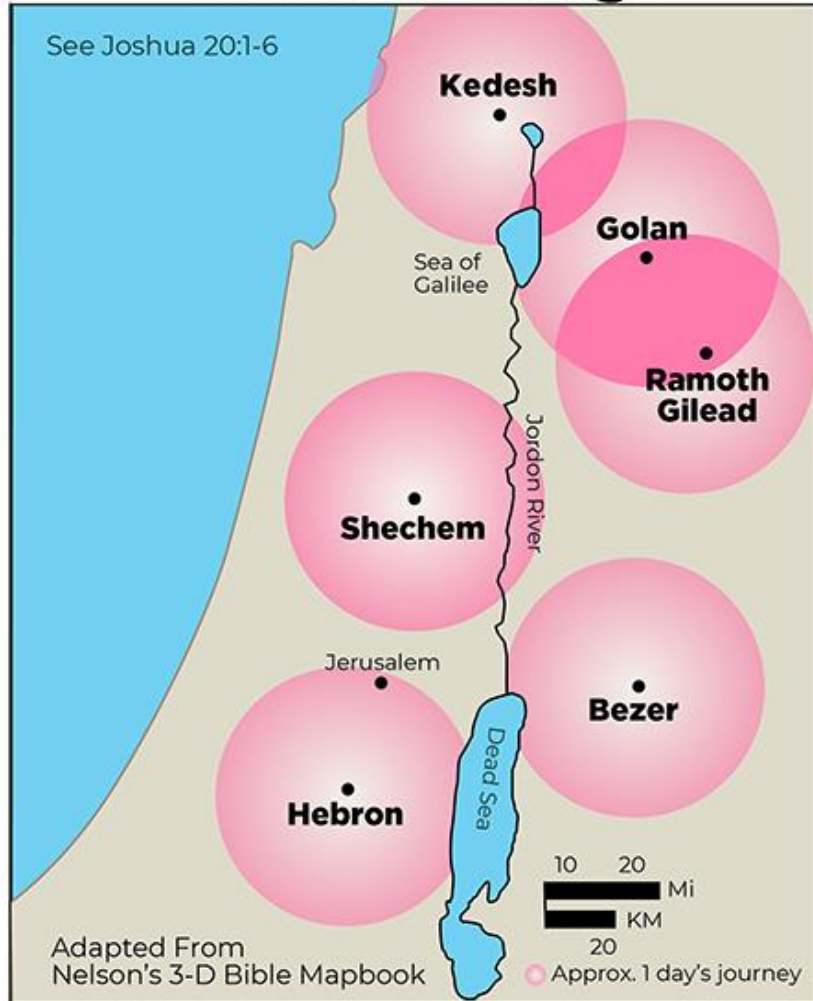


**NOT POSSIBLE**

**What is the only thing that is impossible for God?**

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

## Cities of Refuge



Joshua 20:2-6 "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge... so that anyone who kills a person accidentally ... may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood... Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them. If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, ... They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home..."

take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

Hold on !

Let God's promises strengthen your faith

We have this hope as an anchor **for the soul**, firm and secure.



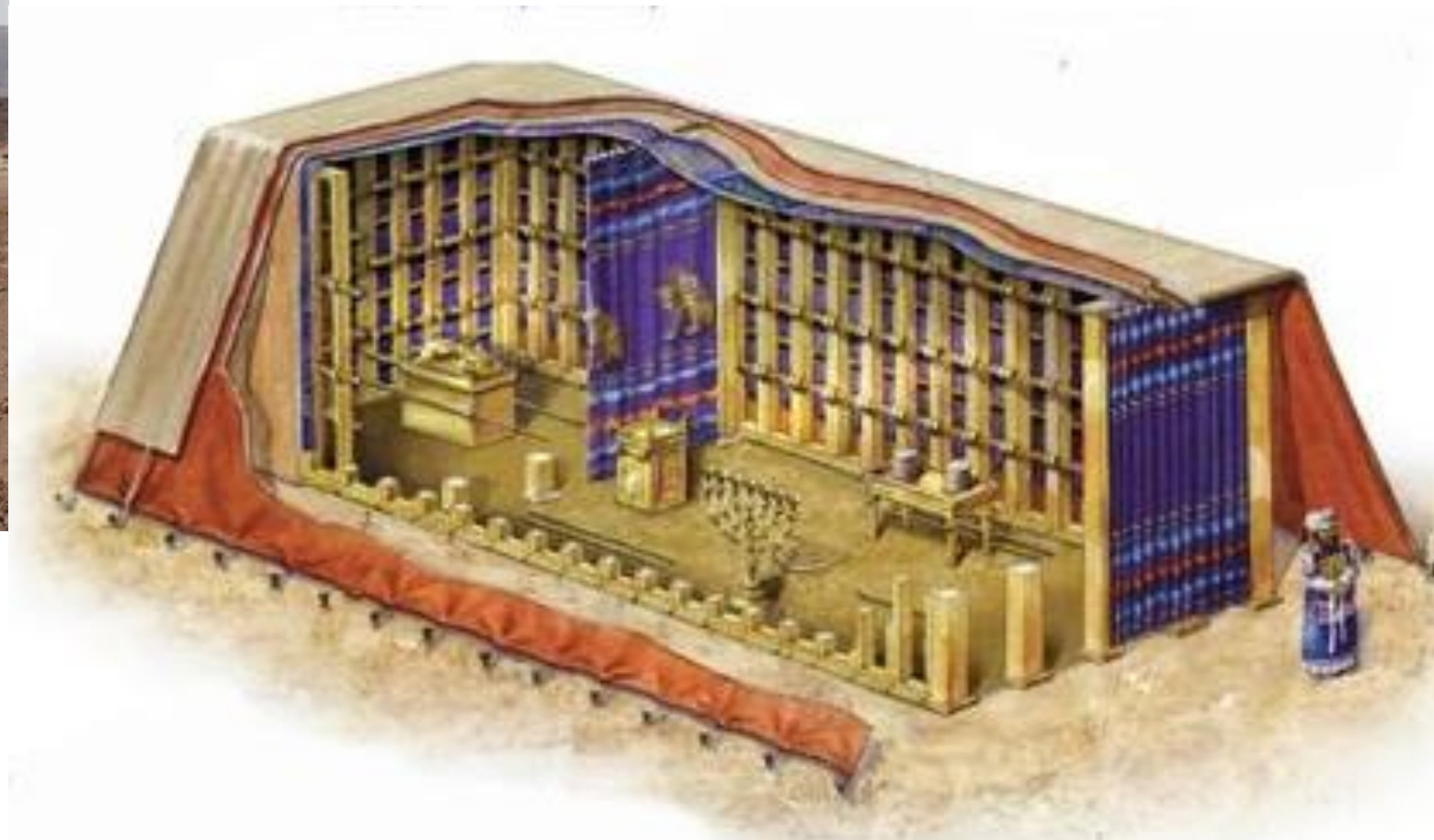
Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, **firm and secure.**

God's promises can keep us steady and safe



It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,



where Jesus, who went before us,



**Where did Jesus go?**

has entered on our behalf.





He has become a high priest forever,



He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

## Psalm 110



## Psalm 110

The LORD says to my Lord.. "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind.. "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

