

"12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." (Heb 6:12-15)

The three great warnings of the Book of Hebrews thus far are these:

1. 2:1: Don't let the words of Christ slip away from you. He is greater than the angels, and thus greater than the Old Testament. We will not escape if we neglect so great a salvation.
2. 4:1: Don't be lazy and come short of the eternal rest that is promised in the Gospel. We are to labor to enter into that rest, for the word of God penetrates to the core of man and discovers everything about him; we are therefore to come boldly to Jesus Christ, to the throne of grace, and there we will find rest for our souls.
3. 5:12-6:9 Grow up. Baby things are good for babies, but strong meat belongs to adults. It is time to bring forth the fruit for which the seed is planted. The Old Testament is the seed, but the fruit is the perfection that is in Christ.

These three warnings are essentially the same warning: The book of Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians to warn them that they must no longer be Hebrews, but followers of Christ who is their Messiah, promised since the world began. The seed was planted in the Old Testament, but now it is time for the seed to bring forth the fruit of righteousness and peace, for which it was sown. So it is fitting at this point, in the midst of the Third Warning, to introduce Abraham and the Promise that God made to Him. Next week I plan to speak on the Oath and Promise of God; and the week after, August 7, on the Priest-King Melchisedec. But today it is the Promise and Blessing of Abraham in 6:12-15

There are three things here:

1. The Promise to Abraham: of blessing and multiplying
 2. The Blessing of Abraham
 3. The Multiplying of Abraham
- The application: The necessity for enduring faith.

- I. The Promise to Abraham vs. 14 It was in the form of an oath. Included two things of eternal substance.
 - A. Included specific things concerning the land and material blessings which were all fulfilled in the time of Joshua. We do not concern ourselves with these today, for they were figures and signs for the church, we to whom the ends of the world are come.
 - B. The writer of Hebrews does not speak of these but only of the spiritual things of the Gospel: the blessing and the multiplying.
- II. The blessing
 - A. "blessing" in the Greek simply means "a good word" God spoke good to Abraham
 - B. I will bless thee: God is the author of blessing; He is the author of the good word, the good report of Heb. 11. "by faith they obtained a good report."
 - C. Blessing originates in God who Himself is the blessed One.

1. The Scriptures:
 - a. In the Old Testament: “Happiness, bliss.” “to go straight, in the right direction” Bavinck says. Therefore, blessedness is ascribed to God over and over in the Old Testament. “Blessed be God...” “Blessed be the Lord our God,” etc.
 - b. In the New Testament: 1Timothy 1:11: “According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.” And 1Timothy 6: 13-16: “I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen.”
2. The Blessedness of God:
 - a. His absolute perfection. All good things have their origin and perfection in Him. He is pure light, no darkness without or within. Nothing crooked in His lot. Nothing incomplete or can be incomplete. Sum total of all virtues: love, joy, power, peace, patience, justice, kindness, etc. all have their perfection in him. He is the perfection of life: It is good to Live: Life does not stink: it is good to be alive. Life: how precious it is; how wonderful it is; the perfection of life is in God: He is the only LIVING God; all other gods are dead and are served by dead people with dead faith marching with dead eyes to eternal death and destruction, without God and without hope in the world.
 - b. He knows that He is perfect. He delights in His perfection. He rejoices in His perfection. He is not sorry He is perfection, for sorry cannot apply to God. He needs nothing, and rejoices that He needs nothing. “I am that I am” is His Name.
 - c. He, because He knows and Delights in His perfection, rejoices in Himself. He knows and loves Himself, for He knows that he is love and strength and justice and power and might. He knows that He is worthy to be praised and magnified. Hence we sing in Psalm 72:
 - 17 His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.
 - 18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.
 - 19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen
 - d. The blessedness of Abraham
 - (1). The gospel was preached to Abraham and he believed:
 - (2). Galatians 3:8.9 “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

- (3). Romans 4:1-8. [read] The good thing spoken by God of Abraham was justification and forgiveness of sins.
 - (4). This blessedness is in Christ: John 8: Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad. He found that city that hath foundations whose builder and maker is God.
 - (5). This blessedness is the gift of the Holy Spirit: Gal. 3: 13-14 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”
- e. This blessedness is ours through faith in Christ as the passage we just read teaches. This is expressed in Psalm 1 [quote together] God also speaks well of us; justifying us from our sins; giving us LIFE and promise of eternal blessedness with Him in which we will LIVE as we have never lived before. 1Cor 15:42-45 “So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”

III. The multiplying. A numerous company of the children of the flesh and the children of the spirit.

- A. To return to Galatians 3: [READ] Galatians 3:8.9 “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”
- B. See also Romans 4:13-16 “For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was* not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression. Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,” [that is, all of faith]
- C. Revelation 7:9-12 “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.”

Application:

1. We have an eternal inheritance in Christ our Lord, as was promised to Abraham, that he would be heir of the world.
2. We inherit is through faith and patience. Abraham believed and endured, and we believe and endure.
3. We must not be slothful, or lazy.
 - a. Difficult choices must be made in which we deny ourselves and our desires and live, believing the promises are true, although we do not see them with our eyes.
 - b. Labor to enter into that rest, for everything of the world, the flesh, and the devil conspires against us. Do not let it drift by; do not fail to enter into the eternal rest that you may begin in your soul right now.
 - c. Ephesians 4:14-16 “That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”
 - d. Get your life into order: Don’t be a child. Do not “walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful.” Grow up into Christ. I think God is telling us “Go clean up your room.” Take your responsibilities and be a blessing to others as God has blessed you. Amen.

May God bless you. Amen and Amen.