

Let “Anchor” Sink In

Hebrew 6:19

Nutshell: Our hope in God’s promises is an anchor. Let the anchor do its job!

I. Context: The promises of God are for confirming us.

II. Text

Heb 6:19 which we have as an ANCHOR of the soul, both unailing and stable, and entering into the interior of the veil

Literal Standard Version with modifications

The next four outline items, III. - VI., are based on the 4 uses of Scripture listed in 2 Tim 3:16 AND the 3 depictions of preaching in 2 Tim 4:2.

III. Teaching

A. Paul wrote an inspired book to a Jewish audience; 2 Pet 3:15-16; 1 Pet 1:1; 2 Pet 3:1. Hebrews is the only possibility.

1. The “us” of Heb 2:3 only puts the author outside the original 12
2. Peter speaks of the Apostles in the 3rd person as well, 1 Pet 1:12

B. Outline of Hebrews to this point:

The Preeminence of the Son

Authority: God has at last spoken In **Son** (*Ἰερωφητ*), ← follow this font
His express image, 1:1-3a

Theme: **The SON** purified us from sin (Priest), then sat in authority (**King**), **1:3b**

I. Supreme **over** the angels, Inheritor by ordeal, 1:4-14
Therefore hear Him, 2:1-4

II. Supreme **as** man, 2:5-9

Psalm 8- Since man must inherit, 2:5-8a
but man failed, 2:8b, **Christ** became man, 2:9a

Theme reprise: crowned with glory and honor (**King**), **2:9b**
to taste the death of “each one” of His own (**Priest**), **2:9c**
to bond with them and help them, 2:10-18
freeing them from bondage to Satan and fear, 2:14-15

III. A better stewardship than Moses, 3:1-6

Therefore **THINK HARD ON HIM**, unhardening our hearts,

- Ps 95-** for Moses' folk didn't inherit God's **rest**, 3:7-19;
consequently, **EXHORT ONE ANOTHER DAILY**, 3:13
- IV. A **better Rest** than Joshua, 4:1-11
- ◆ Therefore, fear (4:1a), lest we also miss **God's rest**
 - Ps 95-** David invited his generation into that same **rest** of Creation, a type of Salvation, 4:1b-8
 - Christ's** Salvation has become the final *Sabbatismos*, 4:9-10, which we must **EXERT** ourselves to enter, 4:11
 - For the Word penetrates, exposing us before God, 4:12-13
- Theme* reprise: Having the highest high priest (**P**riest), the **Son** of God (**K**ing),
- Let us hold to our confession of Him (*Ἰ*rephē^t), **4:14**
especially since He felt all our temptations +, 4:15
- V. A **better priesthood than Aaron, 4:14 - 10:18**
- VI. Exhortations based on Christ Supreme, 10:19-13:21
- VII. Concluding remarks, 13:22-25
- C. “**Let us approach**” (Προσερχώμεθα) in **4:16 and 10:22** tells us that Jesus' priesthood is so we will approach God.
Prayerlessness, then, dismisses Jesus' priesthood.
- D. 5:1-10, OT priests from Aaron; Christ from *Ἰ*Melchizedek
1. 5:11-14, The Hebrews were too babyish to learn of *Ἰ*M
 2. 6:1-2, Reaffirm the 6 **FUNDAMENTALS** (3 pairs): (hand-laying a fundamental?) *or* risk being beyond repentance, 6:4-6, like cultivated land that only yields thorns, v 7-8.
- F. But there are signs of life among you! 6:9-11
1. Don't be lazy. Imitate overcomers; e.g., Abe, 6:12-15
 2. God's oath to Abe was to stabilize *us* too! 6:16-18
- G. *In 6:19, our hope in Christ is an **anchor**, stabilizing us with the greatest stability ever conceived: the death of God's Son, accepted by God the Father on our behalf, brought to us and continued in us by God the Spirit.*

Kid-speak: What does a priest do in the Bible? He makes sacrifices to God. Which priest in the bible sacrificed *Himself* to take away our sins? J____.

Outline: Hebrews 6:19

I. The Hope of Our Passage: Context

- II. What, Where, and Why is an Anchor?
- III. Our Soul's Anchor is Well-Designed Against Our Own Sabotage
- IV. The Sacrificial Nature of Our Hope/ Anchor
- V. The Stability of Our Anchor

H. Let's set the stage for the ANCHOR analogy

1. Paul wants *all* the Christian Hebrew community to gain "the full assurance of HOPE until *the* end" (v 11)
2. They/we are to imitate the "faith and endurance" (v 12) of others who've inherited (come into possession of) God's **promises**
3. God has **promised** in such a way (adding an oath!) that the promises would give us "stout encouragement" (v 18)
 - a. "Give us": we "have/possess" it, v 18
 - b. Paul is banking their faith ("we" counts them with him) on their help for Christians, which showed love for God's name
 - c. *You have that*, eh? It's not some impossible bar to reach. God's not looking for something to disqualify us. Let's not try to outmatch God in that!
4. Who gets this stout encouragement? In two parts:
 - a. Those who "fled" what mankind loves and trusts
 - b. To "clasp onto" the HOPE contained in God's promises
 - c. Moving in two *directions*: Away and Toward
 - d. With two *activities*: escape and laying hold
 - i. Like grabbing a rescuer's hand from our falling
 - ii. Or a refugee who escaping his oppressive ruler, receiving welcome *and* citizenship in a good land

Kid-speak: When we believe in Jesus, what are we running away from? From the devil. We don't want to do things his way anymore.

5. This HOPE we grip is hope in God's **promises** in Christ
 - a. We're accepting a MESSAGE: what God has promised
 - b. But this HOPE/ faith is not just a story; it's real. It's *not shaky*; it's anchored.
- I. "Which we have as an ANCHOR of the soul"
1. The "which" refers back to "HOPE" in v 18
 2. The NASB saves "hope" for this v: "This hope we have"
 3. I've always made the *future* a necessary part of my

definition of hope; but here, I think it must include the *unseen* in general (including the future)

- J. “Have/ possess”
1. A 2nd “have/ own,” following v 18, of stout encouragement
 2. Now of our hope as an ANCHOR that we “have/ possess”
- K. “ANCHOR”
1. Our English word “anchor” comes from the Gk., *ánkura*
 2. If I told you all 3 of its other occurrences were in one place, you’d know they were in _____
 3. Our “laid before *us*” hope is an ANCHOR given into our possession as believers
 - a. An anchor is a device attached to a ship by a cable that ‘grips’ the seabed to hold the ship in place
 - b. **Where is an anchor?** In use, it’s at the bottom of a body of water (vs. when it’s *stowed* on/ in the ship).
 4. How does an ANCHOR grip the benthic (seabed or lakebed)?
 - a. By various hook shapes, to dig into the sand or catch on rocks,
 - b. *or* a cup shape (mushroom), to fill with sediment of sufficient weight to immobilize the ship.
 - c. Ah, consider then the design of HOPE! It’s MADE to catch- to catch hold.
 - d. *We* didn’t design it. It’s not how well I can weld and angle the hooks.

Kid-speak: Our faith in Jesus is like an **anchor**. What is an anchor? It’s a big hook you throw out of a boat to hook into the sand at the bottom and keep you from moving.

5. Our HOPE is an ANCHOR
 - a. Our hope in Christ is stable
 - b. and stabilizing
- L. But 1 Tim 1:1 says that our hope/ anchor is *Christ Himself!*
1. Hope (“set before *us*”) by nature has an object, after all
 - a. Hope without an object is hope in itself
 - b. The hope assumes the identity of its object, then- what it hopes for. *Our hope is Christ.*
 2. Are you on deck fretting? Peering down into the water to see the state of the anchor? “Oh, if I could just slide down the cable to check!”

- a. Can you improve *Christ*?
 - b. Can you make His *grip* firmer on either end?
- M. “**Anchor** of the soul”
- 1. The soul here would be the ‘ship’ being stabilized by the ‘anchor’ of hope
 - 2. Let that ‘sink’ in (heh heh)
 - a. *How wonderful to think of our souls being anchored!*
 - b. Stability! Imagine- me, stable.
 - c. Power against being driven away!
 - 3. *God means our souls to be anchored!*
 - a. Can He do that?
 - b. Do I *want* Him to anchor my soul?
 - c. If I want it, can I still *thwart* Him in it?
- N. What is the cable?
- 1. An ANCHOR conjures up a 3-part image:
 - a. The *anchor*
 - b. The *cable* attached to it
 - c. The *ship* (our soul) attached to the cable
 - 2. The ANCHOR is equated to the hope. The cable must be hope’s partner, faith.
 - 3. We didn’t create the *anchor*
 - a. Nor the *cable*: “faith... the gift of God,” Eph 2:8
 - b. Nor the cable’s *attachment* to the ship (our soul); that came with the creation of the cable (faith).

Kid-speak: Who gives us the anchor of faith that holds us to Jesus? God.

- 4. BUT our ‘soul ship’ now carries a *perception* of the anchor and of the cable attached to us
 - a. Back to our worry (III. L. 2.) WHAT can we do about this??
 - b. We must remember that the reality of the ANCHOR determines the reality of the *cable* AND the reality of its *attachment* to the ship of my *soul*
 - c. In real time terms, my looking to Jesus finds its strength in the *one I’m looking to*, not in the strength of my looking. If I’m looking at all, *that’s enough*.
- 5. When I boobytrap the transaction, I have to learn to say, “Well, that’s *me*. That’s what unbelief naturally does, and I’m prone to unbelief. OK Jesus, but You came to save me

from *me* and my unbelief. I'm looking back to *You* for that."

- a. And if I have to do that 1,000 times a day, that's 1,000 looks to Jesus!
- b. And perhaps we must add, "Forgive me for looking back at the cable and it's attachment to me *as though You couldn't secure those.*" That's OK 1K times a day too. It doesn't exhaust or demean His sacrifice.

Kid-speak: What if we say, "I'm not sure I have an anchor. I don't know if I believe in Jesus"? Well, we all doubt. What can we do? Say, "Jesus, I do believe in You. Help me believe better."

O. "Entering into the interior of the **veil**"

1. What veil? The veil of the Tabernacle/ Temple.
2. On the Ark of the Covenant/ Mercy Seat side of it- *inside*
 - a. Within the Holy of Holies
 - b. Which Heb 9:24 locates in Heaven itself
 - c. In Rev 11:19 we see the Temple in Heaven and the Ark of the Covenant! The veil is opened... or gone
3. The place God specified as a meeting place with His people
4. The place of the yearly sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur

P. "Veil"

1. "Veil" occurs 3x before this, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, of the Temple's veil being torn at Christ's death
2. The other 3 occurrences are in Hebrews: here, 9:3, and 10:20
3. Our verse is introducing the concept
 - a. 9:3 will speak of the Tabernacle's veil
 - b. 10:20 says the veil = Christ's flesh; that is, He took on the nature of the barrier in order to overcome it, cf. Rom 8:3
4. Here in 6:20, the veil = the previous *barrier* to God's unhindered, unlimited presence
 - ★ a. We're being told that Christ has unlocked that 'lock'
 - b. And now, *open it remains!*
 - c. Once again we see the force of the "let us approach" of 4:16 and 10:22
 - d. If it took sacrificial death to open it, and Christ has provided that, there's no way we should not BE THERE

Q. "Entered into the interior"

1. Where only the high priest was allowed to go
 - a. Once a year (Day of Atonement)

- b. Repeated yearly (and so never compete)
 - 2. Hence, entering within the veil means Christ is high priest
 - a. We're not left wondering whether Paul thinks Christ is a high priest, 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:5, 10, so far
 - b. Remember, that's the main point of the book
 - 3. But we are left with the dilemma of Jesus not being in the Aaronic line. Voila! Heb 6:20 ff, into chap 7
- R. What are the special characteristics of this ANCHOR? Two are listed.
- 1. "Unfailing," a Gk. compound word, fairly literal here
 - 2. "Stable," from the word for foot. Something set down firmly.
 - 3. Spurgeon notes the two flukes of an ordinary anchor, assigning them to the oath of 6:17 and the oath of 7:20-21
 - a. As opposed to the *oath* + the *promise* as the two flukes
 - b. But Paul doesn't directly attach any "2" idea to the anchor
- S. "Unfailing"
- 1. The anchor of hope in Christ cannot fail!
 - a. That can only be said of *one* anchor in the universe
 - b. And that's because of where it's grounded: in Christ, in His sacrifice, accepted in the Temple in Heaven
 - 2. *I* can fail. My *faith* can falter. But that's the point. Jesus, my Mercy Seat, covers both.
- T. "Stable"/ "based"
- 1. The anchor, hope, is fully grounded. It's going nowhere.
 - 2. That's because of its *object*! The anchor is in the Holy of Holies, where the Father **ever** accepts *Christ's sacrifice*.
 - ◆ 3. The Holy of Holies testifies of *my* acceptance! Its very design is TO promote my confidence.

Kid-speak: When we believe in Jesus, can anybody or anything take us away from Him? No. He won't let them.

- U. Shipwreck of the soul
- 1. In 1 Tim 1:18-19, Hymenaeus and Alexander had "made shipwreck concerning the faith"
 - a. Whom Paul "delivered to Satan"
 - b. That they "may be trained not to speak injuriously"
 - 2. In some way, they'd lost their anchor
 - a. Denying some aspect of *Christ* or His *sacrifice*
 - b. For our anchor to "hold within the veil," it must be the

true Christ there making *true* atonement

c. 1 Jn addresses an *untrue* Christ, Galatians an *untrue* atonement. But the NT gives us a *full prescription* against every possible counterfeit;

d. so don't dream up other ways you can sabotage it.

V. Most analogies only hold to a certain point, but whatever is true of ships and anchors will probably provide good analogies for securing out faith

1. A ship at anchor can still be tempest-tossed, making us seasick, but that doesn't remove our mooring (↑ Spurgeon ↓)
2. The more you feel the wind, the more you feel the anchor
3. When the anchor drags, it only digs it in deeper and firmer!

IV. For the Walking Wounded (1 Thess 5:14, "Uphold the strengthless")

Woe! Unseen anchors!

But seen ones would be strictly for this world.

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V. Conviction (2 Tim 4:2, "Convince, rebuke"): **What have I done wrong?**

**How have I lost righteousness?**

Is my hope anchor-like? That is, have I even defined it?

VI. Correction/ Realignment (2 Tim 4:2, "Exhort/encourage"):

**How will I correct my error? How will I regain uprightness?**

I will realize and accept the nature of my hope as an anchor from God.

VII. Schooling in Righteousness: **How do I take this on the road?**

Father, thank You for your intention to *hold me firm*.

Vision: One thing we haven't said about an anchor is the **stillness** it provides. As we've said, not absolute stillness, but sufficient to know how far we can drift. "Be still, and know that I am God."

Our weak faith + Satan piggybacking on it tell us that if the wind can move us, we can be removed. If we are anchored, we can firmly respond, "No"- and "No" as firmly as our anchor holds, for "my anchor holds within the veil."