

## Hebrews 6.13

### No One Greater

The power of promise is something that we have lost sight of in this age of selfish fulfillment. We have sacrificed something powerful and grand in losing sight of the fact that when someone promises and binds themselves to that promise, attaching their own reputation and character to that promise that we are also bound to them by that promise as well. This giving and taking of oaths, of covenants and promises is a statement about the power of hope, of faith and the wonder that comes when promise becomes reality. We lose out on the revelation of character and the steady infusion of joy when promise visibly matures and ripens in preparation of fulfillment. The time of waiting and the time of becoming is an incredibly wonderful agent of connection between the parties engaged in a promise. And when we increase the magnitude of the promise and the obligation by being bound to it with an oath invoking God it passes into the sublime. But God, even God Himself, has also freely bound Himself with oaths and promises; attaching His own nature and character to those promises, so that we

might know Him and the power of His purpose. So that in seeing what He is willing to do, before He does it we might learn the awesome nature of this God to whom we are bound, and to whom we owe all things.

## **I. THERE IS NONE GREATER THAN GOD**

A. He is the source of all things, and thus owes allegiance or fealty to no-one

B. What is more, all owe HIM allegiance, obedience and fealty

C. He is always the final arbiter of

i. truth

ii. intent

iii. reality

iv. meaning

v. purpose

vi. all things

D. He is the always the judge who will determine just what is and is not the standard of right and wrong

i. His will is the only one that matters

ii. His choice, His preference

iii. His ideas...

iv. and when He allows Himself to be “persuaded” by His creatures, it is remarkable that they are always the ones learning what they already knew about His nature, and are stating those things which are the self-evident truths of His very being.

*Genesis 18:25 (NKJV)*

*Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

E. Moses stated this fact as an attempt to

“pressure” God to relent from destroying Israel –

## *Exodus 32:13 (NKJV)*

*Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' ”*

It is important for us to understand that in both Abraham's case and Moses', God is teaching *them*, NOT having His mind changed. This is merely an instance of anthropomorphism, the giving of human characteristics to non-humans. But remember that:

- i. God would not violate His own intentions
- ii. God had never intended to destroy them
- iii. He WAS teaching Moses to count God's character and promises as one and the same
- iv. He WAS reminding Moses that having given the promise, God would stand by them forever because He had sworn by His own nature and name

F. He is always the one who IS Himself right in all things

- i. Whatever He decides to do is right
- ii. Whatever He determines will be best
- iii. Whatever He has decreed WILL happen

G. He is always the one who has the final say

- i. in what will and what will not happen,
- ii. what will and will not be allowed
- iii. what will and will not result
- iv. what will and will not be a consequence of any of that

### **Job 38.1-11**

H. There is no one who can challenge Him and demand an explanation

- i. for what He has done
- ii. why He has done it
- iii. the cost of that which He has done
- iv. the results of any of His actions or any of His determinations

v. But despite the absence of anyone to whom God owes either promise or explanation, He has provided both.

*Daniel 4:34–35 (NKJV)*

*And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

## **II. THE NATURE OF OATHS IS TO END ALL DISPUTE AND DOUBT...**

A. both in the mind of the one to whom the oath is given

B. and to put an end to all possibility of violation and variation of purpose in the mind, heart and will of the one giving the oath.

- i. the former has place here with God's oath
- ii. the latter has NO place for God never needs to be reminded or forced to do what He has already purposed to do

*Isaiah 14:27 (NKJV)*

*For the Lord of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?"*

C. God, who has already done the unthinkable by determining to save us, now makes us aware of the fact and then ties Himself, His very reputation to the completion of the promise.

*Ephesians 1:9 (NKJV)*

*having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,*

- i. this fact has lost much of its power in our minds in this age of wokeness and entitlement.
  - a. simple courtesy about being on time and where you say you will be when you say you will be now considered white supremacy
  - b. expectations of keeping your word and fulfilling your promises by paying your debts is deemed misogynistic
  - c. the obligations of parents to children, and children to parents are labeled as archaic and damaging in an age where the state believes that it has the right to determine what is best for children in all things
- ii. We have become a people who no longer honor our own word, and therefore do not expect others to honor theirs. Fathers abandon their families for the sake of selfish desires; husbands and wives sign pre-nuptial agreements as a matter of course, confessing their intent to betray their vows; “charities” and “foundations” spend hundreds of millions



of dollars to pad pockets and purchase graft for the benefit of their elite leadership; our elected officials take oaths of office, swearing to defend the constitution, then set about seeking to systematically dismantle it. Treason has become the order of the day, and we not only expect it, we excuse it, lie about it and participate in it...

- iii. But God has not changed, and the very real connection of nature to promise remains in force. It is the shape of the real world, the flavor of truth and we ignore it at our peril... For God still honors His word and will not hold us guiltless when we forget that, nor will He allow us to blithely disregard our own oaths without consequence.

### **III. HIS REPUTATION IS CONNECTED TO HIS CHARACTER**

A. It functions in both directions

- i. his character is defined by His nature

- a. thus the 10 commandments are reflections of who God is and are therefore not negotiable, now or ever
- b. thus the law and its consequence is completely consistent with who God actually is
- c. therefore, the law could never be simply overlooked or disregarded for anyone, at any time ever.
- d. wrath and love are consistent and necessary twins of the same truth - God is a good God who created a world which runs according to His law, which will always be honored and which demonstrates the best possible truth.
- e. in other words, the world as God created it and as He commands it to function is the BEST of all possible worlds. there is NO BETTER option than God's way of living, doing and being. He makes no mistakes and if we will live according to His law, and love Him we will have the best possible existence.

ii. His nature and character are also defended and displayed in the manner that He fulfills His stated will. He does not ever let his promise fall flat.

a. This is why the promise of wrath in the event of disobedience is connected to His character

**Jeremiah 22.1-5**

**Jeremiah 49.13**

b. It is also why the promise of Salvation to all who trust His character is rooted and grounded IN that same character

**Isaiah 45.22-25**

B. consider then the incredible and immense wonder of this God deigning to even be willing to consider saving a rebel people...

i. the cost is unbelievable, and extravagant beyond all understanding

- ii. the willingness to take on affront, shame and suffering to make it possible
- iii. But God does not stop at promising possible. He promises that He fully and completely secured that promised salvation.

C. But more than this revelation is the awe inspiring reality that it is not possible for anyone that God intends to save to be lost. For He has promised that He WILL save those who He has determined to save. We have hope and assurance because our God still KEEPS His promises and anchors them in the deepest of all possible bedrock, His own nature, and His own reputation.