

**HOPE IN GOD  
VS  
WORLDLY OPTIMISM**

Hebrews 6:13-20

# Our text for tonight

- **Heb 6:13** For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear an oath by no one greater, He swore by Himself, **14** saying, “INDEED I WILL GREATLY BLESS YOU AND I WILL GREATLY MULTIPLY YOU.” **15** And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. **16** For people swear an oath by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *erving* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. **17** In the same way God, desiring even more to demonstrate to the heirs of the promise the fact that His purpose is unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath, **18** so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. **19** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil, **20** where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Fishermen tend to be incurable optimists. A guy asked his neighbor how the fishing was going. “Better,” he said “Last week I went out for four hours and didn’t catch a thing. Yesterday, I got the same result in only three hours.” (Reader’s Digest [8/87]. p. 80)

# Biblical hope vs worldly optimism

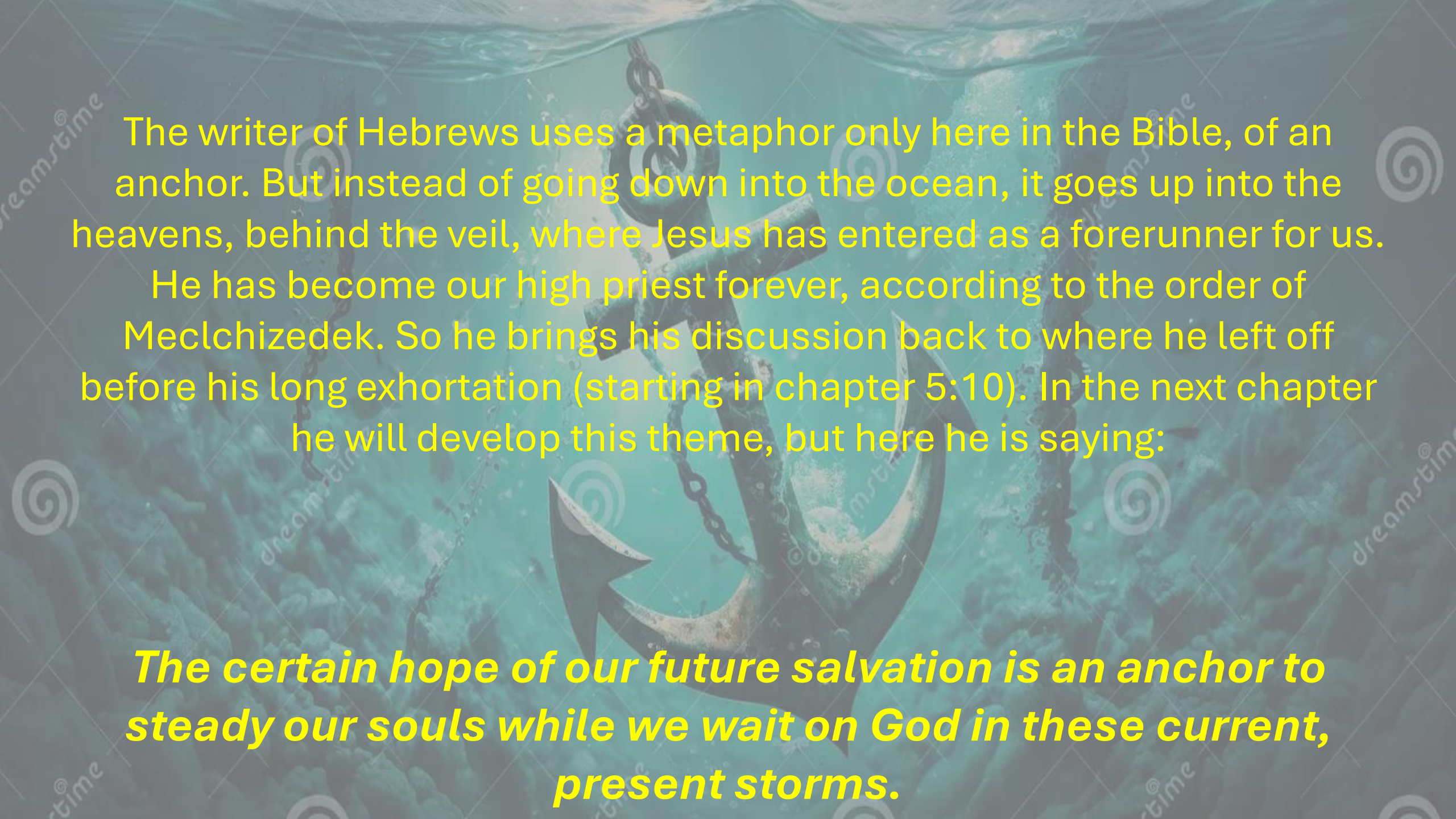
- Many confuse optimism and biblical hope
  - Biblical hope is optimistic, but it differs greatly from worldly optimism or positive thinking.
  - Biblical hope is an optimism based on certainty and truth
  - Worldly optimism is based upon a cheery disposition that looks on the bright side.
  - If hope rests on mere fantasy, it is worthless and doesn't last
  - To be valid, hope **MUST** be based on truth and certainty.

# Our God is the God of hope

- Romans 15:13
  - [Rom 15:13](#) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - Since our God is the God of hope, we who represent Him to this hopeless world must be people of hope – not mere optimists, but people filled with hope because of the certainty of God’s promises in Christ
  - Our hope is undefeatable inasmuch as we realize that our God cannot lie
  - [Tit 1:2](#) in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago

# Our God is the God of hope

- The author of Hebrews was writing to people who were facing hardship and persecution because of their Christian faith. A few were tempted to abandon Christ and return to Judaism. He is urging them to persevere by putting their focus on the superiority of Jesus Christ and the salvation that He has provided. He is trying to instill in them biblical hope—not just a positive, cheerful disposition—but a steady attitude of joy based on the promises of God, who cannot lie.

An anchor is shown underwater, suspended by a chain. The water is a deep teal color, and the anchor is dark and weathered. The background shows some underwater structures or coral. The text is overlaid on this image.

The writer of Hebrews uses a metaphor only here in the Bible, of an anchor. But instead of going down into the ocean, it goes up into the heavens, behind the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us.

He has become our high priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. So he brings his discussion back to where he left off before his long exhortation (starting in chapter 5:10). In the next chapter he will develop this theme, but here he is saying:

***The certain hope of our future salvation is an anchor to steady our souls while we wait on God in these current, present storms.***

# Our God is the God of hope

- Why does a ship need an anchor?
  - To ride out storms
  - To prevent being blown into nearby rocks or reefs
  - To prevent drift even in a safe harbor, where the ship could hit something and sink
- Whether in the storms of life, or in the harbor during the calm times of life, we all need an anchor for our souls so that we do not destroy our lives
- The anchor is the certain hope of salvation that God has provided us in Christ. In the storms of life, if we grab hold of the hope of His salvation, we will have the steadiness for our souls that we need to endure in this life of challenges, persecutions and temptations.



# The hope of our future salvation is certain

- Our hope of future salvation is certain because:
  - God's promises have never failed any that trusted them
    - Abraham – the "father of all who believe" -- Rom 4:11,18
  - God's purpose is unchangeable
    - The promise and the oath -- Hebrews 6:16-17
  - God's person is incapable of lying
    - It is IMPOSSIBLE for God to lie -- Hebrews 6:18
  - God's pledge backs up His promise
    - God confirmed with an oath – Hebrews 6:17

The hope of our future salvation is an anchor  
to steady our souls in present trials

Future salvation is secure for all that have taken refuge in Christ



Having taken refuge in Christ, we now must take hold of the hope of our  
future salvation



The hope of our future salvation anchors us to wait on God in present  
storms

DO YOU HAVE HOPE?

A HOPE THAT SHINES LIKE CHRIST?

A HOPE THAT WAITS AND DOESN'T FADE?

IF NOT, CAN I SUGGEST YOU GET TO KNOW CHRIST