

Hebrews 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

Analysis

God's promise to Abraham was confirmed by oath. Since 'He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.' This emphasizes divine self-sufficiency and the absolute reliability of God's promises. Reformed theology grounds assurance in God's oath-bound covenant promises. God's character guarantees His word - He cannot lie or change. This divine oath-taking condescends to human weakness, providing maximum assurance.

Historical Context

Genesis 22:16-17 records God's oath to Abraham after the near-sacrifice of Isaac. This oath became foundational to Jewish identity and hope, now applied to Christian confidence in God's promises.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why did God swear by Himself, and what does this reveal about the certainty of His promises?

2. How does God's oath to Abraham relate to your confidence in salvation?

Interlinear Text

Τῷ	γὰρ	Ἄβραὰμ	ἐπαγγειλάμενος	ό	θεός	ἐπεὶ	καθ'
G3588	For	to Abraham	made promise	G3588	when God	because	by
G1063		G11	G1861		G2316	G1893	G2596
οὐδενὸς	εἰχεν	μείζονος	ῷμοσεν	ῷμοσεν	καθ'	ἐαυτοῦ	
no	he could	G3173	he sware	he sware	by	himself	
G3762		G2192	G3660	G3660	G2596	G1438	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:73 (References Abraham): The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,

Micah 7:20 (References Abraham): Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Isaiah 45:23 (Parallel theme): I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Jeremiah 22:5 (Parallel theme): But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.

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