

# Hebrews 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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Τῷ	γὰρ	Ἀβραὰμ	ἐπαγγελιάμενος	ὁ	θεός	ἐπεὶ	καθ'
G3588	<b>For</b>	<b>to Abraham</b>	<b>made promise</b>	G3588	<b>when God</b>	<b>because</b>	<b>by</b>
	G1063	G11	G1861		G2316	G1893	G2596
οὐδενός	εἶχεν	μείζονος	ᾧμοσεν	ᾧμοσεν	καθ'	ἑαυτοῦ	
<b>no</b>	<b>he could</b>	G3173	<b>he sware</b>	<b>he sware</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>himself</b>	
G3762	G2192		G3660	G3660	G2596	G1438	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.