

# Hebrews 6:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

## Analysis

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Human oaths invoke 'someone greater' as witness and judge, ending disputes. The Greek 'antilōgia' (dispute/contradiction) shows an oath's settling function. This establishes the principle: oaths by a superior authority provide assurance. God, having no superior, swears by Himself (6:13), providing ultimate certainty. Reformed theology sees covenant oaths as God's gracious accommodation to human need for assurance.

## Historical Context

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Oath-taking was central to ancient Near Eastern legal and covenant practices. Invoking deity to witness oaths made them binding and violations subject to divine punishment. Jesus regulated but didn't abolish oath-taking (Matthew 5:33-37, 26:63-64).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why do oaths provide assurance, and what does this teach about human nature?
2. How does God's self-oath provide stronger assurance than any human oath?

## Interlinear Text

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ἄνθρωποι    μεν    γὰρ    κατὰ    τοῦ    μείζονος    ὀμνύουσιν    καὶ  
**men**    **verily**    **For**    **by**    G3588    G3173    **swear**    **and**  
G444    G3303    G1063    G2596             G3660    G2532

πάσης    αὐτοῖς    ἀντιλογίας    πέρας    εἰς    βεβαίωσιν    ὃ  
**of all**    **is to them**    **strife**    **an end**    **for**    **confirmation**    G3588  
G3956    G846    G485    G4009    G1519    G951

ὄρκος·  
**an oath**  
G3727

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 22:11** (Parallel theme): Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.

**Hebrews 6:13** (Parallel theme): For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,