

Hebrews 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Analysis

Two 'immutable things' (God's promise and oath) in which 'it is impossible for God to lie' provide 'strong consolation' (Greek 'ischura paraklēsis' - powerful encouragement). God's inability to lie stems from His nature, not external constraint. Those who 'have fled for refuge' (Greek 'kataphugontes' - seeking asylum) to Christ find unshakeable hope. Reformed theology anchors assurance in God's character, not subjective feelings.

Historical Context

The 'fleeing for refuge' imagery recalls cities of refuge (Numbers 35), where those accused of manslaughter found protection. Christ is the believer's refuge from wrath, providing absolute safety.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's inability to lie provide comfort in times of doubt?

2. In what ways have you 'fled for refuge' to Christ, and what does this metaphor reveal about salvation?

Interlinear Text

ἴνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων ἐν οἵς
That **by** **two** **things** **immutable** **in** **which**
 G2443 G1223 G1417 G4229 G276 G1722 G3739

ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν ισχυρὰν παράκλησιν
it was impossible **to lie** **for God** **a strong** **consolation**
 G102 G5574 G2316 G2478 G3874

ἔχωμεν τῆς καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης
we might have **who** **have fled for refuge** **to lay hold** **who** **set before us**
 G2192 G3588 G2703 G2902 G3588 G4295

ἐλπίδος·
upon the hope
 G1680

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 23:19 (References God): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Titus 1:2 (Hope): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

1 Samuel 15:29 (Parallel theme): And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

2 Timothy 2:13 (Parallel theme): If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Romans 3:4 (References God): God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Psalms 46:1 (References God): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Joshua 20:3 (Parallel theme): That the slayer that killeth any person unawares and unwittingly may flee thither: and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

Isaiah 51:12 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

1 John 1:10 (Parallel theme): If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Hebrews 3:11 (Parallel theme): So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)