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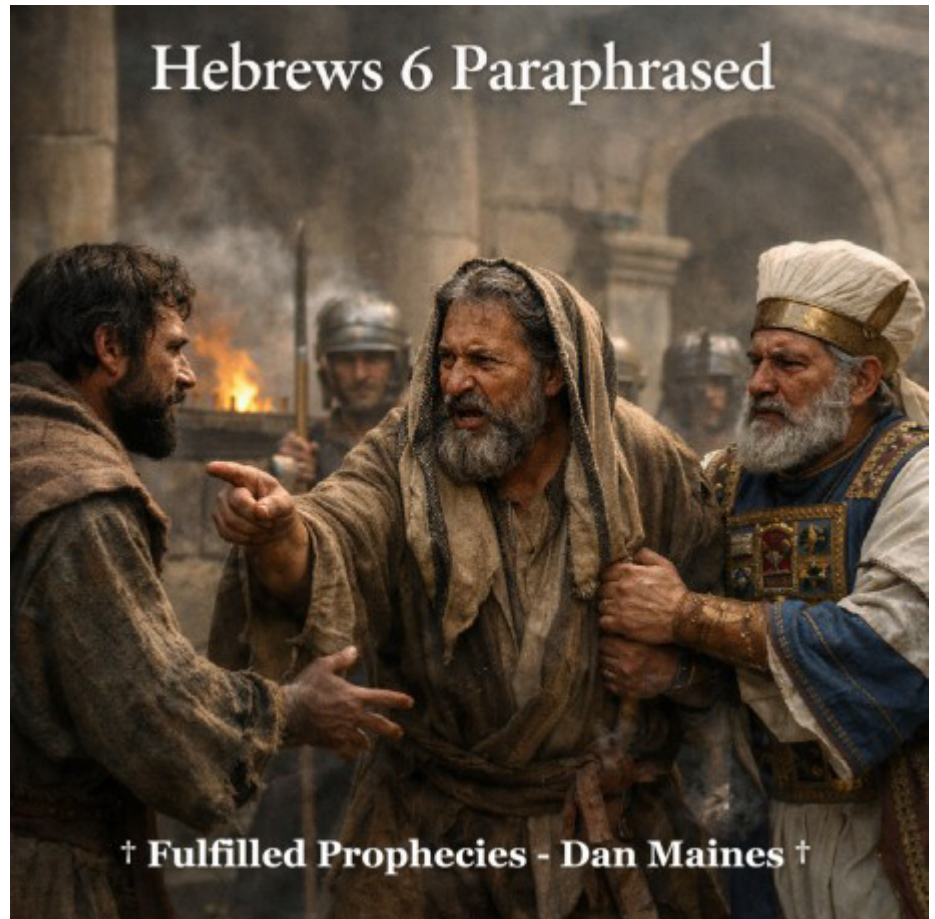
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Hebrews 6 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Hebrews 6 Paraphrased

Introduction

† The writer of Hebrews is warning believers who were living during the last days of the Old Covenant system. The temple was still standing, sacrifices were still being offered, and many Jewish believers were under pressure to return to the old system instead of continuing forward in Christ. This chapter urges them to move past the beginning stage of the faith and

press on toward maturity.

† The message isn't about losing salvation. It's about the danger of abandoning the completed work of Christ and returning to the shadows of the Law. Those things were passing away, and the readers were being urged to remain faithful as the age was reaching its conclusion (Hebrews 8:13).

† The whole context sits within the approaching judgment on Jerusalem that Jesus warned about. The believers needed endurance because the Old Covenant world was about to disappear and the New Covenant kingdom would stand fully revealed (Hebrews 12:26-28).

Hebrews 6:1

So let's move beyond the basic teachings about Christ and keep growing into maturity. We shouldn't have to keep starting over with the same foundations, things like turning away from dead works and learning to trust God.

† The foundation mentioned here refers to the elementary teachings that new believers first learn. The writer expects growth beyond those basics (Hebrews 5:12-14).

† Dead works refers to the works of the Law that could never bring life or complete cleansing of the conscience (Hebrews 9:9-10).

† The call is for believers to move forward in understanding the finished work of Christ instead of remaining spiritually immature.

Hebrews 6:2

These beginning teachings include instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal

judgment.

† Washings refers to ceremonial washings practiced under the Law and also early Christian instruction about baptism (Hebrews 9:10).

† Laying on of hands was commonly used for blessing, healing, and appointing leadership in the early church (Acts 6:6).

† Resurrection and judgment were central topics because the generation living at that time was approaching the covenant judgment that Jesus predicted (Matthew 16:27-28).

Hebrews 6:3

And we'll move forward into deeper understanding if God allows it.

† Spiritual maturity isn't automatic. It requires perseverance and obedience to the truth that has already been revealed (James 1:22).

† The writer assumes that the believers will continue growing unless they choose to turn back to the old system (Hebrews 10:39).

† This forward movement points toward the full arrival of the New Covenant order.

Hebrews 6:4

Because it's impossible for those who were once enlightened, who experienced the heavenly gift, who shared in the Holy Spirit,

† Enlightened refers to those who had heard the gospel and understood the truth about Christ (John 1:9).

† The heavenly gift points to the salvation and spiritual blessings that come through Christ (Ephesians 2:8).

† Sharing in the Holy Spirit describes participation in the life and power that God was working among believers during that generation (Acts 2:17-18).

Hebrews 6:5

and who tasted the goodness of God's word and the powers of the coming age,

† The powers of the coming age refers to the miracles and signs that confirmed the gospel during the transition between the covenants (Hebrews 2:3-4).

† The coming age was the New Covenant age that was arriving as the Old Covenant world was fading away (Hebrews 8:13).

† These believers had personally experienced the evidence that the kingdom of God had arrived through Christ.

Hebrews 6:6

and then fall away, it's impossible to renew them again to repentance because they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and exposing Him to public shame.

† Falling away here refers specifically to rejecting Christ and returning to the temple sacrifices that were still being offered at that time (Hebrews 10:26-29).

† Returning to the sacrificial system would mean treating Christ's sacrifice as insufficient.

† That would publicly dishonor Christ by acting as if His death accomplished nothing.

Hebrews 6:7

Ground that drinks in the rain that often falls on it and produces useful crops receives a blessing from God.

† This agricultural example shows how God's word produces fruit when it is received with faith (Mark 4:20).

† The rain represents God's provision and instruction given to His people.

† A productive field represents believers who respond with obedience and perseverance.

Hebrews 6:8

But if it produces thorns and weeds, it's worthless and close to being cursed, and in the end it will be burned.

† Thorns and weeds represent unfaithfulness and rejection of God's word (Matthew 13:22).

† The burning imagery connects with the coming destruction of the Old Covenant system in AD 70 (Matthew 3:10).

† Jesus used the same language to describe the judgment that was approaching that generation (Matthew 23:36).

Hebrews 6:9

But beloved, even though we're speaking this way, we're convinced of better things concerning you, things that belong to salvation.

† The writer warns strongly but expresses confidence that his readers will remain faithful.

† True salvation produces perseverance and obedience over time (John 10:27-28).

† Encouragement follows the warning to strengthen their resolve.

Hebrews 6:10

God isn't unjust. He won't forget the work you've done and the love you've shown for His name by serving His people and continuing to do so.

† God remembers the faithful service of His people (Matthew 10:42).

† Acts of love toward fellow believers are evidence of genuine faith (1 John 3:14).

† Their service was part of enduring through a difficult transitional time in history.

Hebrews 6:11

And we want each of you to show the same diligence so that your hope will remain fully assured until the end.

† The end refers to the approaching conclusion of the Old Covenant age (Matthew 24:34).

† Perseverance was necessary because believers were living in the final days before that judgment.

† Faithful endurance would bring full assurance as the promises of Christ were fulfilled.

Hebrews 6:12

Don't become lazy, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

† The faithful examples of earlier believers serve as encouragement (Hebrews 11:1-40).

† Patience was necessary because the promises were unfolding during their lifetime.

† The inheritance refers to the full establishment of the New Covenant kingdom.

Hebrews 6:13

When God made His promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself.

† God's covenant promises are grounded in His own character and authority (Genesis 22:16).

† This shows the certainty of God's plan.

† The promise to Abraham ultimately pointed forward to Christ and the blessing of all nations (Galatians 3:16).

Hebrews 6:14

He said, I will certainly bless you and multiply your descendants.

† This promise formed the foundation of Israel's history (Genesis 22:17).

† In Christ, the promise expands beyond ethnic Israel to include all believers (Galatians 3:29).

† The true fulfillment comes through the kingdom established by Christ.

Hebrews 6:15

And so, after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

† Abraham's patience becomes an example for believers facing their own waiting period.

† God's promises often unfold over time but never fail (Romans 4:20-21).

† The early church was experiencing the final stage of that long promise.

Hebrews 6:16

People swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath confirms what is said and ends all dispute.

† Oaths were used to confirm truth and settle disagreements.

† God used this familiar human practice to show the certainty of His promise.

† The message is that God's word is completely trustworthy.

Hebrews 6:17

In the same way, God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of the promise, so He

confirmed it with an oath.

† The heirs of the promise are those who belong to Christ (Galatians 3:29).

† God's purpose does not change because it rests on His own nature.

† The oath emphasizes the reliability of His covenant plan.

Hebrews 6:18

So by two unchangeable things, in which it's impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge might have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us.

† The two unchangeable things are God's promise and His oath.

† God's truthfulness guarantees the certainty of salvation.

† Believers are encouraged to hold firmly to their hope in Christ.

Hebrews 6:19

This hope is like an anchor for the soul, firm and secure, and it enters the inner place behind the curtain.

† The imagery comes from the temple where the veil separated the Holy of Holies (Hebrews 9:3).

† Christ opened access to God's presence through His sacrifice.

† The anchor represents the stability believers have in the finished work of Christ.

Hebrews 6:20

Jesus has entered there before us as our forerunner, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

† Jesus fulfills the role of eternal high priest, unlike the temporary priests under the Law (Psalm 110:4).

† Melchizedek represents a priesthood not tied to the Levitical system.

† This confirms that the Old Covenant priesthood was being replaced by a greater and permanent one.

Historical References

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that the apostles taught believers to move beyond elementary instruction and grow into maturity in Christ.

† Eusebius recorded that the early church understood the destruction of Jerusalem as the end of the Old Covenant system that the apostles warned about.

† Tertullian explained that Christ's priesthood replaced the Levitical priesthood, confirming the fulfillment of the earlier covenant structures.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Hebrews 6 reminds us that faith isn't meant to remain shallow. We're called to grow in understanding and maturity in Christ.

† The finished work of Jesus is the foundation of our hope. There's no returning to shadows or religious systems that can't

save.

† Our confidence rests in the unchanging promise of God, who cannot lie and who has already fulfilled His covenant through Christ.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why does Hebrews warn about falling away?

A The warning was directed at believers who were tempted to return to the Old Covenant temple system that was about to pass away. Hebrews 10:26-27 explains that rejecting Christ's sacrifice would leave no other sacrifice for sins.

Q What are the powers of the coming age mentioned in Hebrews 6:5?

A These refer to the miracles and signs performed by the apostles that confirmed the arrival of the New Covenant kingdom. Hebrews 2:3-4 explains that God confirmed the message with signs, wonders, and various miracles.

Q What does the anchor of hope represent?

A The anchor represents the stability and certainty believers have in Christ's completed work as our high priest. Hebrews 6:19-20 shows that our hope is secured in the presence of God through Jesus.

Q Why does Hebrews 6 emphasize moving beyond the foundation of the faith?

A The writer was urging believers not to remain spiritually immature but to grow in understanding and endurance. Many Jewish believers were tempted to return to the old temple system, but maturity meant recognizing that Christ had fulfilled

those shadows. Hebrews 5:12-14 explains that believers should move from milk to solid food, growing in discernment.

Q What does it mean that Jesus is our forerunner behind the veil?

A It means Jesus entered God's presence ahead of us as our High Priest, opening the way for believers to have direct access to God. Under the Old Covenant only the high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year, but Christ permanently opened that access through His sacrifice. Hebrews 9:11-12 and Hebrews 10:19-20 show that believers now have confidence to enter because of Him.

Q Why does Hebrews connect God's promise to Abraham with the hope of believers?

A The promise to Abraham was always pointing to Christ and the blessing of all nations. Through Jesus that promise is fulfilled and secured by God's oath and His unchanging character. Galatians 3:16 and Galatians 3:29 explain that those who belong to Christ are Abraham's descendants and heirs according to the promise.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Hebrews 6:1-20

† Genesis 22:16-17; Psalm 110:4; Matthew 3:10; Matthew 13:22; Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34; Mark 4:20; Luke 16:10; John 1:9; John 10:27-28; Acts 2:17-18; Acts 6:6; Romans 4:20-21; Galatians 3:16, 29; Ephesians 2:8; James 1:22; 1 John 3:14

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical

History; Tertullian, Against Marcion.

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