

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Two**

#### **Two Immutable Things**

Heb. 6:13 "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18 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: 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

The two immutable things spoken of above are God's counsel or covenant, and God's oath of confirmation. God had sworn to Abraham that he would multiple his seed as the stars of heaven, and as the dust of the earth, and as the sand upon the seashore. He further, told him that in his seed, all nations of the earth would be blessed, and all kindreds of the earth would be blessed. Additionally, he said that his seed would possess the gate of his enemies. His seed is defined for us in Gal. 3:16 "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect."

The covenant promises made to Abraham were thus confirmed before in Christ, who was the seed of Abraham. While God made promises to Abraham, yet these promises were unconditional to Abraham. These promises made to Abraham point us to God's eternal covenant that he made with himself and sware by himself to uphold.

By the witness of two immutable things, we Old Baptists who believe the truth have a strong consolation. The bible teaches that God made a covenant with himself before the foundation of the world (Rom. 8:29, 30) and in which he foreknew, predestinated, called, justified, and glorified a people to be his. God cannot change from this covenant. All that God foreknew, he also predestinated, called, justified, and glorified.

Furthermore, God has sworn an oath to confirm this covenant. We read of this confirmation in several places:

1. Matt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
2. John 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."
3. John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and my Father are one."
4. Is. 46:9 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."

Aren't you thankful for these two immutable witnesses that God has given us that we may have a strong consolation? I am.

Next: Two Witnesses for the Gospel