**6 7**For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. **8**But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

**9** Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved,   
 we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.

**10** For God is not unjust   
 so as to overlook   
 your work and   
 the love that you have shown for his name   
 in serving the saints, as you still do.   
**11** And we desire each one of you to  
 show the same earnestness to  
 have the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** so that you may  
 not be sluggish, but   
 imitators of those who through faith and patience   
 inherit the promises.

**13** For when God made a promise to Abraham,   
 since he had no one greater by whom to swear,   
 he swore by himself, **14** saying,   
 “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”   
**15** And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.   
**16** For people swear by something greater than themselves, and   
 in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.   
**17** So when God desired to show more convincingly   
 to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose,   
 he guaranteed it with an oath,   
**18** so that by two unchangeable things, in which   
 it is impossible for God to lie,   
 we who have fled for refuge might   
 have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

**19** We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,   
 a hope that enters into the inner place   
 behind the curtain,   
 **20** where Jesus has gone as a forerunner   
 on our behalf,   
 having become a high priest forever   
 after the order of Melchizedek.