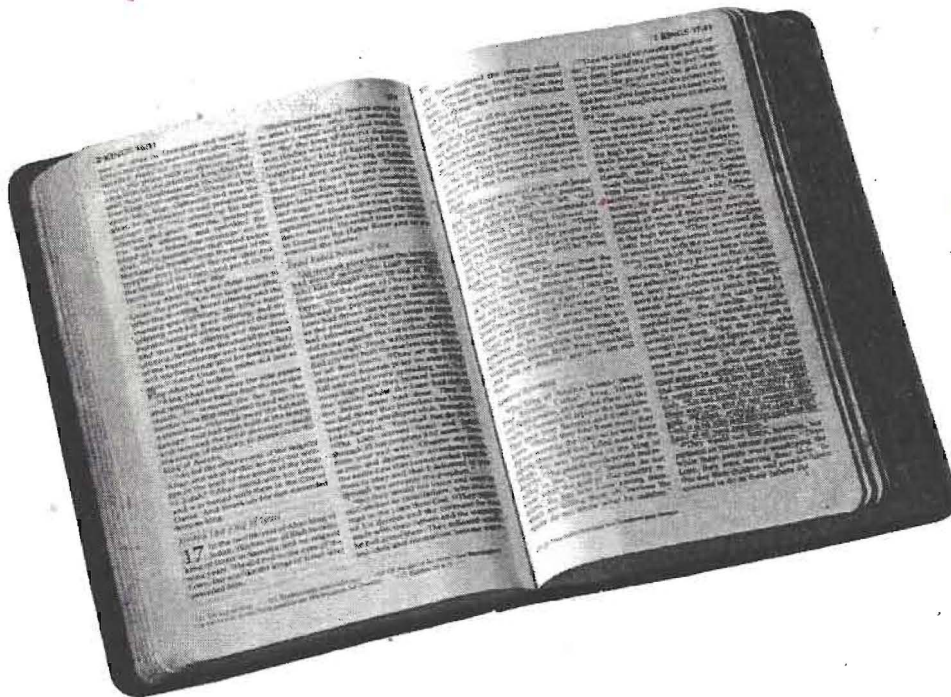


# STANDING ON THE PROMISES



## Twenty-Fifth Annual Biblical Viewpoints Lectureship

November 6-10, 2005

Directors:

Eddy Craft and Clayton Winters

Hosted by:

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**Standing on the Promises**

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# Standing On The Promises: An Overview

Clayton Winters

## Introduction

- A. If you imagine the Bible as a filing cabinet, you will find in it a major folder, labeled The Great Abrahamic Promise. Numerous other folders (Let's consider them as sub-folders under the main topic), containing many themes, are in the divine file, yet always identified with and subservient to the main topic.
- B. As we open these files it will become increasingly clear that while one is standing on the Word of God, he is indeed Standing on the Promises.

## I. The Great Abrahamic Promise: A Seed To Bless All Nations

- A. The promise as originally made to Abraham: *A Seed to bless all nations.*
  - 1. Given first in the Ur of Chaldees, then reiterated in Haran (Acts 7:2-3; Genesis 12:1-3).
  - 2. Assured of fulfillment by a Covenant in blood (Genesis 15:7-18; Jeremiah 34:18-19).
  - 3. Circumcision given as a sign of the covenant or promise (Genesis 17:9-21).
  - 4. The Covenant confirmed by an oath, thus made immutable (Genesis 22:15-18; Hebrews 5:6:13-18).
- B. After the passing of two thousand years, the promise was fulfilled down to the last detail.
  - 1. Zacharias announcement of Christ as the fulfillment of the Seed promise (Luke 1:67-79).
  - 2. Peter affirms that the message of Pentecost fulfilled the seed promise (Acts 2:39; 3:24-27).
  - 3. Paul preached Jesus as the promise fulfillment in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:22-33).
  - 4. Paul was judged for preaching the hope of the promise made to

- he fathers (Acts 27:6-7).
5. The promise was to be inherited through faith in Christ (Romans 1:13-16).
  6. The Seed promise was the gospel preached to Abraham (Gal. 3:8); the blessings of Abraham (the promise) were to come on the Gentiles (Galatians 3:14); the law, four hundred and thirty years after, could not make the promise of no effect (Galatians 3:17), it was made to and accomplished through the single Seed, Christ (Gal. 3:16-22); and those who have been baptized into Christ are recipients of that promise (Galatians 3:27-29).
  7. The Abrahamic promise was made immutable by oath, and serves as the anchor of the soul for Christians (Hebrews 7:13-20).
- C. Thus the Bible is enshrouded in this great Seed promise; and although two thousand years in its fulfillment, it materialized exactly as God said it would. We can stand on the promises of God.

## **II. The Promised Messiah Portrayed In Prophetic Detail**

- A. From conception to ascension, the life of Christ was foretold in the most minute details.
1. Virgin conception and birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23-25).
  2. Royal lineage (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:30-35).
  3. Place of birth (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6).
  4. Flight to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15,19-21)
  5. Herod's slaughter of the young children (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
  6. An insignificant life (Isaiah 42:1-4; Matthew 12:18-20).
  7. Introduction by John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3-5; Matthew 3:1-3).
  8. Rejection by His own people (Isaiah 53:3-4; John 1:11-12).



9. Arrest in Gethsemane (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31).
  10. Trial before the rulers (Psalm 2; Matthew 26:57; 27:1-2).
  11. Led to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7; Acts 8:32-33).
  12. Spit on the face (Isaiah 50:6; Luke 26:67).
  13. Garments parted by lot (Psalm 23:18; Luke 23:34).
  14. Death by crucifixion (Psalm 22:16; John 20:35).
  15. Burial with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).
  16. Resurrection from the dead (Psalm 16:10).
  17. Ascension to heaven (Daniel 7:13-14; Acts 1:9-11).
- B. Matthew is called the Messianic prophet because in more than twenty instances he speaks of events of Christ's life as fulfillment of prophetic utterances. So whether four thousand years, or short-term predictions, the prophets always hit their mark. Truly, we can "*Stand on the Promises of God.*"

### **III. Germane To The Seed Promise Was The Unfolding Of The Messianic Kingship**

- A. In conjunction with the Abrahamic promise, Prophets detailed with unmistakable accuracy the coming Messianic Kingdom
1. He would come through the lineage of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Micah 5:2; Hebrews 7:13-14).
  2. At His coming He would occupy David's throne (2 Samuel 7:13-14; Acts 2:29-36).
  3. The kingdom would be established during the days of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2:44; Luke 2:1-7).
  4. He would rule over the house of Jacob forever (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:30-35).
  5. It would be established in Jerusalem in the last days (Isaiah 2:1-4; Luke 24:44-47; Ephesians 2:12-17).
  6. John the Baptist promised that it was at hand (Matthew 3:1-2).

7. Jesus promised to build it, and he gave the apostles the keys to it (Matthew 16:18-19).
  8. He said that His generation would not pass until they had seen the kingdom come with power (Mark 9:1)
- B. The Holy Spirit was promised to reveal the nature and laws of the Kingdom (Joel 2:28-30; John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:1-5).
  - C. The church (kingdom) was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2).
  - D. The promised kingdom became a reality in A.D. 33; that is a fulfilled promise you can stand on.

### **Conclusion:**

1 Peter 1:9-12 "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

2 Peter 1:16-21 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God  
spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

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# God's Promises to Abraham

*Roby Ellis*

## **Lesson Text: Genesis 12:1–3**

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: <sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

## **Introduction**

- A. God's promise to Abraham was three-fold, including (1) the promise that his seed would become a great nation, (2) the promise that this seed would inherit the land of Canaan, and (3) the promise that a Savior would arise from among these descendents.
- B. Abraham received none of these promises during his own lifetime, but, "having seen them afar off," he was "persuaded of them, and embraced them" (Heb. 11:13).
- C. Because of Abraham's strong faith that God would fulfill these promises, God blessed him in a truly extraordinary manner!

## **Discussion**

### **I. God promised Abraham a people (Gen. 12:2, 15:4).**

- A. This promise was remarkable, given that Abraham was old, childless, and married to a woman who was barren (Gen. 15:2, 18:11).
- B. This promise was fulfilled (Exodus 1:5–7, Num. 2:32) against inconceivable odds.
  - 1. Pharaoh tried to halt the growth of this nation (Exo. 1:8–22).
  - 2. Another Pharaoh tried to return them to bondage (Exo. 14:6–8).
  - 3. Many foes sought to destroy them in the wilderness.
    - a. Amalek (Exo. 17:8–16)
    - b. Balak & Balaam (Num. 22–24)

4. Many foes sought to destroy them after they possessed the Land of Promise.

C. Abraham never saw the fulfillment of this promise (Heb. 11:13).

## **II. God promised Abraham a place.**

A. The promise of the land of Canaan was remarkable since (1) the people of Canaan were many and strong (Num. 13:28) and (2) at least some of Canaan's inhabitants feared God (Gen. 15:16) and were hospitable toward Abraham (Gen. 14:13, 23:1–18).

B. The land of Canaan was indeed given to Abraham's seed for an inheritance.

1. "The LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers" (Josh. 21:43).

2. This land was governed by Solomon (1 Kings 4:21, 2 Chr. 9:26).

C. Abraham did not live to see the fulfillment of this promise (Heb. 11:13).

## **III. God promised Abraham a person.**

A. How Abraham's seed would be a blessing was certainly a mystery to Abraham, as it would remain for centuries to come.

B. Herein God promised that a Savior will arise from among his seed.

1. Paul alludes to this seed and emphasizes its singularity (Gal. 3:16).

2. This was not the first time this blessing had been foretold (cf. Gen. 3:16), nor would it be the last (cf. Gen. 49:10, Isa. 7:14).

C. This promise was fulfilled when the Savior of the world came through Abraham's seed.

1. Satan tried to destroy this seed (Matt. 2:3–8, 13–18), just as God had predicted.

2. Peter told the crowd at Pentecost, "The promise is unto you,

and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

D. Again, Abraham never saw the fulfillment of this promise, or did he?

#### **IV. Abraham walked by faith.**

A. Although in the flesh Abraham never saw his children become “as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude” (Gen. 32:12), although he did not see when “the land was subdued before them” (Josh. 18:1), and although he did not see Jesus walk on earth with his own eyes, Jesus was able to tell his seed, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad” (John 8:56).

B. Abraham walked “by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

C. Abraham “looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10).

D. Abraham “died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and [was] persuaded of them, and embraced them” (Heb. 11:13).

E. Through faith (cf. Eph. 2:8), Abraham found (Rom. 4:1–7) something tremendous: the justification before God, which can come only through that promised seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ!

F. This same blessed promise falls to all that are of the seed of Abraham, not according to the law (Rom. 4:13–14, Eph. 2:9), but according to the faith of Abraham (Rom. 4:16) which wrought his justification by the grace of Almighty God (Rom. 4:16, Gal. 3:9)!

#### **Conclusion**

A. God always has and always will keep His promises to man. Moses knew this timeless truth when he appealed to these promises as he pleaded with God to spare unrighteous Israel (Ex. 32:7–14). Since he could not appeal to the goodness of man, he appealed to the goodness of God. We all must do

the same.

- B. Since there is no man who is righteous, “no, not one” (Rom. 3:10, cf. Ps. 53:3), God requires fidelity in place of righteousness of those to whom His promises are made.
- C. If we are found faithful in all things, we are “the children of Abraham” (Gal. 3:7), and, “if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17).
- D. Those who belong to Christ are “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the same promise” (Gal. 3:29), and “they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Gal. 5:24).
- E. Those who belong to Christ are those whom He has purchased with His precious blood (1 Pet. 1:18), those whom He has purchased He has saved from sin (1 John 1:7), and those whom He has saved He has added to His body, the church (Acts 2:47), that purchased institution (Acts 20:28) for God’s purchased people.
- F. If you are not yet a member of this blood-bought institution, wherein Abraham’s children abide, may the faith of Abraham guide you into it through the repentance of sins and baptism in the beautiful name of Jesus (Acts 2:38, Gal. 3:27).

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# God's Promises to Israel

*Ed DeVault*

## **Introduction:**

In this lesson it will be shown that the promises made to Abraham were passed to Isaac and to Jacob, and that the nation of Israel was promised great things if they would only be faithful to the God of their fathers. We want to examine some of those promises as they pertain to Israel and consider parallel promises that apply to Christians today.

## **I. God's Promise of the Messiah**

- A. Jacob's blessings upon his sons
  - 1. Genesis 49:1-2, 8-10
    - a. The "Sceptre"
    - b. "Shiloh"
  - 2. Matthew 11:28-30
  - 3. II Thessalonians 1:6f
- B. The Lord springing out of Judah
  - 1. Hebrews 7:14
- C. The genealogy of Christ
  - 1. Matthew 1
  - 2. Luke 3
- D. The promise renewed to Joseph and Mary
  - 1. Luke 1:26-33
  - 2. Matthew 1:18-20
- E. The finding of the Messiah
  - 1. John 1:37-41
  - 2. John 4:25-26

## **II. God's Promise to Be With Israel**

- A. Blessings of obedience given through Moses
  - 1. Deuteronomy 7:6-14



- B. Renewed promises of God through Joshua
  - 1. Joshua 23:6
  - 2. Joshua 24:13-17
- C. God's reassurance (I Kings 11:38)
- D. Jesus tells what kind of disciple we should be (Matt. 5:13-16)
- E. The Corinthians told to obey God (I Corinthians 8:4-6)
- F. Paul tells Titus the kind of people God wants (Titus 2:12-14)
- G. The Hebrew writer's encouragement (Hebrews 13:5-6)

### **III. God's promise of the Promised Land**

- A. The land promise to Abraham
  - 1. Genesis 12:1-3, 7
- B. The promise renewed to Abraham's descendants
  - 1. To Isaac (Genesis 26:3-5)
  - 2. To Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15)
- C. The nation of Israel enslaved in Egypt
- D. Moses delivers Israel from bondage
  - 1. Exodus 3:7-8
- E. Joshua finally guides Israel into Canaan
  - 1. Joshua 4:1-7
- F. The promised land of the New Testament
  - 1. A land of rest (Hebrews 4:9-11)
  - 2. It is a place built and prepared by God
    - a. Hebrews 11:10
    - b. John 14:1-3
  - 3. We are but sojourners here on earth (I Peter 2:11)
  - 4. Let us labor to enter that rest (Hebrews 4:11)

### **Conclusion:**

God has promised in His Word "exceeding great and precious promises (II Peter 1:4). He promised through the seed of Abraham that the Messiah, the Savior of the

world, would come. How thankful as redeemed Christians we are that God fulfilled that promise. God promised that He would be with Israel, as long as they were obedient to His Will; we today have that same assurance. God promised to Israel He would give them a land "flowing with milk and honey"; today we have the promise that God has prepared a special place for us. It is a paradise built by the living God! It is a home with God where we will spend all eternity. Whatever we need to do, either to become a Christian, or repent of sin as a Christian, we cannot afford to miss out on the rest God has promised!

*Ed DeVault/700 Jordan Rd./Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643*

## God's Promises To David

*Milton Mathers*

### Introduction:

1. I am most honored to be asked to speak on this good lectureship. I would rather be out there listening to brother David Irick. And, to be a part of the Biblical Viewpoints TV program.
2. It is a great joy to work with Clayton Winters, Eddy Craft, Terry Townsend, Charles Huff, Roby Ellis, and Laura McCuistion, in the taping of Biblical Viewpoints programs.
3. Thanks to the good elders here for allowing me this privilege. I love and appreciate you all.
4. I know that I am a New Testament Christian, one who has been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), upon repentance (Luke 13:3), and confession of faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), because, I believe what the Word of God says about salvation.
  - a. The reason being is because, God doesn't lie, He **always keeps His promises!**
    - 1) Titus 1:2: "In hope of eternal life, which **God**, that **cannot lie**, promised before the world began." (cf. Heb. 6:18)
    - 2) 1 Kings 8:56: "Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto His people Israel, according to **all** that **He promised**: there hath **not failed one word of all His good promise**, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant."
  - b. I like what the apostle John says through inspiration that concerns you and I, notice these verses, "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

And this is the **promise** that **He hath promised us**, even eternal life”  
(1 John 2:23-25).

5. Upon these inspired facts, because God cannot lie, and, He makes many promises, let’s take note concerning our subject of discussion, that God made promises to David.
6. Let us begin in the Book of Psalms, chapter 89, verses 1-37. We will spend most of our time in this marvelous chapter.

In these verses we have....

#### **I. Praise.**

- A. In verses 1 & 2, the Psalmist declares that he will praise the Lord for His steadfast love and faithfulness:
  1. I will sing of thy mercies forever;
  2. I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations;
  3. Thy lovingkindness was established forever;
  4. Thy faithfulness is firm as the heavens.

#### **II. Promise.**

- A. In verses 3 & 4, the Psalmist speaks of God’s covenant with David:
  1. Thou hast said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one”;
  2. Thou hast said, “I have sworn to David my servant”;
  3. Thou hast said, “I will establish your descendants for ever”;
  4. Thou hast said, “I will build your throne for all generations”.

#### **III. Exhortations.**

- A. In verse 5, the Psalmist exhorts:
  1. Let the heavens praise thy wonders, O Lord;
  2. Let thy faithfulness be praised in the assembly of the saints.

#### **IV. Reasons.**

- A. In verses 6-14, the Psalmist sets forth the **reasons** for the exhortation to praise.

1. He says: Let God be praised because of His **greatness**-
  - a. Who in the heaven can be compared to the Lord?
  - b. Who among the heavenly beings, is like Him?
  - c. He is a God feared in the council of the holy ones;
  - d. He is great and terrible, above all that are round about Him.
2. He says: Let God be praised because of His **faithfulness**-
  - a. “O Lord, God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto Thee? or to Thy faithfulness round about thee?”
3. He says: Let God be praised because of His **power**-
  - a. Thou dost rule the raging sea;
  - b. Thou dost still the rising waves;
  - c. Thou didst crush Egypt;
  - d. Thou didst scatter thy enemies with a mighty arm;
4. He says: Let God be praised because of His **creation**-
  - a. The heavens are Thine;
  - b. The earth is Thine;
  - c. Thou hast founded the world and all that is in it;
  - d. Thou didst create the north and the south;
  - e. Tabor and Hermon joyously praise Thy name;
  - f. Thou hast a mighty arm;
  - g. Strong is Thy hand, high is Thy right hand.
5. He says: Let God be praised because of His **character**-
  - a. Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne;
  - b. Mercy and truth go before Thee.

## V. Pronouncement.

- A. In verses 15 & 16, the Psalmist pronounces a blessing upon the people:
  1. Who know the joyful sound;

2. Who walk in the light of God's countenance;
3. Who rejoice in His name all the day;
4. Who acclaim God's righteousness.

## **VI. ReasonS.**

- A. In verses 17 & 18, the Psalmist states the reasons for the blessedness:
1. Thou art the glory of their strength;
  2. Thou art the giver of strength;
  3. Thou art the one who owns our king.

## **VII. God's Promises To David.**

- A. In verses 19-29, the Psalmist recites God's promises to David:
1. Of old, Thou didst speak-
    - a. In a vision;
    - b. To Thy faithful one;
  2. Thou didst say-
    - a. I have set the crown upon one who is mighty;
    - b. I have exalted one chosen from the people;
    - c. I have found David, My servant;
    - d. I have anointed him with My holy oil;
    - e. My hand shall ever abide with him;
    - f. My arm shall strengthen him;
    - g. The enemy shall not outwit him;
    - h. The wicked shall not humble him;
    - i. The foes, I will crush before him;
    - j. Those who hate him, I will strike down;
    - k. My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with him;
    - l. In My name shall his horn be exalted;
    - m. I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers;
    - n. He will say about Me, Thou art-

- 1) My Father;
- 2) My God;
- 3) The Rock of my salvation;
- o. And I will make him-
  - 1) The firstborn;
  - 2) The highest of the kings of the earth;
- p. My mercy I will keep for him for ever;
- q. My covenant will stand firm for him;
- r. I will establish-
  - 1) His seed line for ever;
  - 2) His throne as the days of the heavens.

### **VIII. Unfaithfulness.**

A. In verses 30-32, the Psalmist speaks of what God said He would do with regard to the descendants of David, in the event of their unfaithfulness:

1. IF-his children...
  - a. Forsake My law;
  - b. Do not walk according to My judgments;
  - c. Do not keep My commandments;
2. THEN-I will punish...
  - a. Their transgressions with the rod;
  - b. Their iniquity with stripes.

### **IX. Certainty.**

A. In verses 33-37, the Psalmist speaks of the certainty of the Covenant.

B. God says:

1. I will not remove My steadfast love from him;
2. I will not be unfaithful to My promise;
3. I will not break My covenant;
4. I will not alter the word that went forth from My lips;

5. Once for all I have sworn by my holiness-I will not lie to David;
6. His seed shall endure forever;
7. His throne shall endure as long as the sun before me-like the moon, it shall be established for ever; it shall stand firm while the skies endure.

**X. Promise Fulfilled.**

A. As Peter so inspiredly said, “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are



witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:22-36).

- B. The apostle Paul stated this inspired fulfillment in Christ in Acts 13:14-37.
- C. The author of Hebrews, chapter 1 and verse 5, makes the inspired quote from Psalms 89:26, of the fulfillment.

**Conclusion:**

1. Because of all that God has done, Christ Jesus has done; let us honor, love, the church of Christ.
2. Let us be telling others the importance of the church that Jesus purchased with His own precious blood (Acts 20:28), and that how it was in the mind of God from the very foundation of the world (Eph. 3:1-11), and has been made known.
3. If the church of Christ was important to God, and it was, it should be important to those of us who are New Testament Christians.
4. May we have better respect for her.

---

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# God's Promises to Solomon

*Shane Hoover*

## **Introduction:**

Picture the boy king, Solomon, ascending to the throne of Israel, in the footsteps of his father. He has been nurtured since birth by a mother called Bathsheba. He is given the responsibility to build the temple according to the pattern of God, handed down by his father, David. Early in his life, Solomon loved the Lord and walked in the statutes of David (I Kings 3:3). God speaks to Solomon on at least two occasions. At these times Solomon receives promises and conditions from Jehovah God.

## **Discussion:**

### **I. God Speaks to Solomon:**

- A. God speaks to Solomon on the first occasion (I Kings 3:5-14)
  - 1. In Solomon's dream, God said, "Ask what I shall give thee."
  - 2. Solomon recognized his need saying, "I am but a little child."
  - 3. Solomon asked, "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart.."
  - 4. Pleased with Solomon's request, the Lord gave him wisdom, "so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee."
  - 5. God also gave him riches and honor above all kings.
  - 6. God said, "If thou wilt walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days."
- B. The wisdom of Solomon spoken of in I Kings 10
  - 1. The Queen of Sheba came to test Solomon with hard questions.
  - 2. Overwhelmed she said, "It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold,

the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceeds the fame which I heard” (I Kings 10:5-7).

C. Wise Solomon's ambitious project, the Proverbs:

1. In Ecclesiastes 8:16 Solomon looks back at this period of his life and states, “I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth.”
2. Notice the place of his focus.
3. He wrote 3,000 proverbs (I Kings 4:32). The book of Proverbs in our Bible contains about 900 of those. The subjects not included in our Bible include nature and science. I Kings 4:33 tells us, “He spoke of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon, even unto the hyssop that springs out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts and of fowl and of creeping things and of fishes.”
4. Through divine editing, the Proverbs preserved for us today pertain mainly to spiritual matters, being our relationships with God and man. Does this fact teach us what is really important in life? Does it direct us to the whole duty of man?

D. God speaks to Solomon on the second occasion (I Kings 9:1-9)

1. The second occasion occurs following the building and dedication of the temple (I Kings chapters 5-8).
2. God accepted the temple saying, "I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built."
3. God promised, "If thou walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commended thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments, then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel forever."
4. God warned, “But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye

or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people.”

5. The proverb and byword of failure is described, “At this house, which is high, every one that passes by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the Lord done thus unto this land, and to this house? And they shall answer, Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and [they] have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the Lord brought upon them all this evil.”

E. How could Solomon be in danger of the sins mentioned in I Kings 9:6-9?

1. How could the wisest man make such foolish mistakes and not remember the source of his wisdom?
2. Would he not walk in integrity, uprightness and in God’s commands, statutes and judgments?
3. Who could imagine him turning from God and worshipping idols?

## **II. The Danger of Worldliness**

A. The New Testament warns repeatedly of worldliness.

1. I John 2:15-17 teaches, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the

lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abides for ever.”

2. James 4:4 warns, “Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

B. From I Kings 11 see Solomon’s worldliness, women and woe:

1. Solomon loved many strange women. (strange = not Israelite)
2. God had forbidden such unions, warning that they would turn away hearts after false gods.
3. Solomon had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines.
4. His wives turned away his heart after false gods, and "Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord. "
5. The Lord was angry with Solomon, and said “Thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.”
6. And so came the downfall of the united nation of Israel.
7. Nehemiah 13:26 Among many nations was there no king like [Solomon], who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish (foreign) women cause to sin.
8. II Corinthians 6:14f warns Christians, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall

be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,”

C. The price of political correctness:

1. "Solomon loved many women" Why so many?
2. These women were a sign of vast political contacts. They were part of international arrangements and diplomatic purpose.
3. Yet, they brought with them the seeds of Israel's destruction. Solomon was tolerant of their foreign religions, doing that which was politically correct.
4. Was it necessary for Solomon to secure Israel's future with trade agreements, peace treaties or wartime alliances by marrying these foreign women?
5. Matthew 7:9-10 What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? God knows how to give good gifts to His children.
6. In our nation today, many are placing greater emphasis on being politically correct than they are on pleasing God.
7. Many no longer claims this to be a Christian nation, as the founding fathers did:
  - a. Noah Webster said, "The principles contained in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all our laws."
  - b. Patrick Henry said, "This great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians! Not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."
8. Are we counting the cost of political correctness and compromise?
9. Psalm 9:17 warns, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."



- |  |   |                   |
|--|---|-------------------|
| 3.   | I sought in my heart  | 2:3               |
| 4.   | I applied my heart  | 8:9               |
| 5.   | I gave my heart   | 1:17              |
| D. Solomon, to what did you give your heart? |   |                   |
| 1.   | To worldly wisdom   | Ecclesiastes 1:13 |
| 2.   | To all the business done on the earth   | 8:16              |
| 3.   | To the reason of things   | 7:25              |
| 4.   | To foolishness and madness  | 7:25              |
| 5.   | To mirth and pleasure   | 2:1               |
| 6.   | To desires and joy  | 2:10              |
| 7.   | To folly  | 1:17              |
| 8.   | and to wine   | 2:3               |
| E. What are we doing with our hearts?        |   |                   |
| 1.   | I Samuel 12:24 Fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things He hath done for you. |                   |

**IV. Solomon Uses His Life As A Lesson And Points to His Mistakes To Warn Others.**

- A. An older Solomon writes the book of Ecclesiastes with a true perspective on life under the sun. It is Solomon's sermon of a lifetime, reflecting honestly on hard lessons learned.
1. This book can help us avoid the ways of worldliness if we will listen to it.
  2. This book exposes empty vanities:
    - a. The limited vision only of things under the sun
    - b. The drive of competition and earthly accomplishment
    - c. The folly of stockpiling money and possessions
    - d. The rich man (Luke 12) didn't take stock in the wisdom of Ecclesiastes, but instead built bigger barns. The Lord said, "*Thou fool.*"



3. This book will comfort the troubled and trouble the comforted.
4. Jesus taught, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses" (Luke 12:15).
5. If your view is under the sun, worldly, Ecclesiastes will seem pessimistic and dark. If your view is toward Heaven, spiritual, Ecclesiastes will be encouraging and realistic.

## **V. Think Soberly on These Things**

- A. After reporting his failures in Ecclesiastes, Solomon then offers wise council, discerning between that which is vain and that which is eternal.
  1. In Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 he states, "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."
    - a. A funeral is better than a banquet? Why? Because our thoughts turn upward, no longer focused under the sun.
    - b. At funerals we tend to pause and think about the brevity of life, the certainty of death, the length of eternity and the judgment of God.
    - c. The reality of death can cause us to think more soberly about life and evaluate our own relationship with God.
    - d. The thoughtless prefer times of diversion, where they are prevented from seriously considering themselves or their final end. They seek to be "amused."
    - e. Do you spend time soberly thinking?

## **VI. Death is a Great Equalizer**

- A. Solomon had earlier admitted, “Whatsoever my eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labor: and this was my portion of all my labor (Ecclesiastes 2:10).
- B. Solomon eventually realized that all his worldly labor was vanity, and says:
1. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he takes under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:3)
  2. I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. And who knows whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? Yet shall he have rule over all my labour (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19)
  3. What hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? (Eccl. 2:22)
  4. As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? (Ecclesiastes 5:15-16)

### **Conclusion:**

1. God said Solomon would excel in wisdom above all men before him and after him. Therefore, Solomon was the wisest man who will ever live.
2. We think, “What an advantage he had in being obedient to God. How could he have made so many mistakes?”
3. The wisest man failed to apply godly wisdom to his own life. I can have all the medicine in the world, but if I don't use it I will die.
4. We hear of learned, scholarly preachers departing from the faith.

Knowledge alone is not enough to save us. It requires the internal resolve to say, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

5. Solomon said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."  
(Ecclesiastes 12:13)

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## God's Promises to Judah

*David R. Pharr*

1. The emperor Fredrick the Great asked his chaplain to present evidence in defense of the Bible. The answer given was, "Sire, the Jews." The point is that the Jews exist in history and there is no way to understand their unique identity except by the explanation in the Scriptures.
  2. We understand, of course, that there is racial Israel (Jews) and spiritual Israel (the church). Our purpose in this lesson is to highlight some of the promises made regarding racial Israel, in particular Judah after the fall of the Northern Kingdom. While the Jews received many benefits as God's chosen people, so long as they were faithful, they were chosen, not because of any inherent worth, but that through them the Savior would come into the world. Their greatest benefit was in having the oracles of God (Romans 3:1-2), which provided for a remnant until the advent of the Messiah (cf. Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4).
- I. One of the amazing promises, which we find fulfilled in Judah's history, was given by Isaiah and concerned their deliverance from captivity under the rule of the Persian King Cyrus (known in history as Cyrus the Great).**
- A. Isaiah is generally divided into two parts. (You can remember the chapters in each book by remembering that the numbers are parallel to the 39 books of the O.T. and 27 books of the N.T.)
    1. Chapters 1-39 contain prophecies addressed to Isaiah's contemporaries in the 7th and 8th centuries B. C. The southern kingdom of Judah continued after the fall of Israel for around 225 years. There were good kings (i.e., Hezekiah, Josiah) and wicked and weak king (i.e., Manasseh, Jehoiakim). Throughout this period, in spite of reform efforts by such as Josiah, and the mighty prophets of the period (i.e., Isaiah, Micah, Joel,

Habakkuk, Jeremiah) there was ongoing moral and spiritual deterioration and prophecies pointed to eventual severe punishment, which would come by the hand of the Babylonians. Of particular interest is the pronouncement by Isaiah to Hezekiah.

Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon (Isaiah 39:6-7).

2. Chapters 40-66 are especially concerned with the people who would be in the Babylonian captivity a century later. (This division is not to be confused with the modernist idea of two different Isaiahs.) The second part is often called “the Book of Comfort” because of the opening words in 40:1 and in the fact that it gave assurance to the people in captivity- “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.”

B. Among the comforting promises, Isaiah assured Judah of God’s providence and power and gave specific promises that the time would come when they would be allowed to return to the land of Judah. Included was a remarkable promise that named Cyrus as the ruler who would give the orders that would bring about their restoration. (Keep in mind how different this would be from what had happened to Samaria.) See Isaiah 44:26-45:4. Some things to especially notice:

1. Jerusalem would be built and inhabited (44:26).
2. It would be under Cyrus orders (44:28).
3. Cyrus was identified by name (45:3-4).
4. (All of this is in the context of God’s power and providence to do all

that he promises. There is more about Cyrus, but time does not permit a full discussion.)

C. This promise was fulfilled in about 538 BC (II Chron. 36:22f; Ezra 1:1-4). Yet Isaiah gave the promise 150 years before it happened.

1. It was about Cyrus, and God wrote his history before he was born.
2. It was even before Persia, which Cyrus would rule, had become an empire.
3. It foretold that Cyrus and the Persian empire would overthrow the empire of Babylon, but it was even before Babylon had become a world power.
4. Cyrus would order the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple, but this was written before Jerusalem was even threatened.
5. Isaiah promised that Cyrus would free the Jews to go back to Judah, but at the time the Jews had not been taken away. There would yet be seven more kings in Judah, Nebuchadnezzar would rise to power and conquer Judah. After him would be Nabonidus and Belshazzar. Then Cyrus, heading the Medo-Persian Empire, would rise to power and would learn what God expected him to do. (We marvel over the possibility that Daniel, a statesman under Cyrus, might have come to Cyrus and showed him the great prophecy of Isaiah 44 and 45, which called him by name some 150 years before his reign.)

## **II. Jeremiah gave God's promise that the Babylonian exile would only last for seventy years and that afterwards the Jews could return to Judah.**

A. Jeremiah's life and work was just prior to and early within the time of the Babylonian captivity. Much of his prophecies were concerned with Judah and the Babylonians.

And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the

king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations (Jeremiah 25:11-12).

They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the Lord; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place (Jeremiah 27:22).

For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place (Jeremiah 29:10).

B. Daniel was still alive when Cyrus came to power and realized that the time was at hand for the promise to be fulfilled (Daniel 9:1-2).

C. Ezra 1:1-4 shows that the promise was kept to the exact year.

### **III. But all of these great promises made to Judah were concerned especially with the Messiah coming out of that nation, tribe, and land.**

A. We have seen two examples of promises made to the Jews regarding their return to the land that had been promised to Abraham and which was their land by inheritance. Though many have the mistaken notion that these promises are yet to be fulfilled, or are now being fulfilled, the fact is that these promises were all kept in the return from Babylon. What is going on with the modern nation of Israel is not fulfillment of prophecy, only real estate bickering and politics. These promises regarding the land had one underlying purpose—this was Messiah's land. Isaiah 7:14 promised the coming of Immanuel and in the contest of the invasion of the land, Isaiah cries, "O Immanuel" (8:8), which reminds that this is Immanuel's land. This is affirmed in the famous promise regarding Bethlehem:

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2).

B. The evidence for Christianity in the Old Testament can be found in

the prophecies, in the symbols, and in the history. The stories of the Old Testament are not just so many interesting events. Rather, they are the record of God's preservation of the line of people through whom the Messiah would come into the world. There is a perfect unbroken chain of genealogy from Seth to Jesus. One of the most exciting studies is in how this line of people came to crises after crises yet were preserved. Seth was chosen to head the Messianic line; Shem, the Messianic race; Abraham, the Messianic family; Jacob (Israel), the Messianic nation; Judah, the Messianic tribe; and David, the Messianic dynasty. This "History" is "His-story."

- C. Psalm 78: 67-68 says: "Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: But chose the tribe of Judah."
- D. We go all the way back to Jacob blessing Judah.

Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be (Genesis 49:9-10).

- 1. From this prophecy, "it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah" (Heb. 7:14).
  - 2. From Judah would come the Lawgiver, the author of "the perfect law of liberty."
  - 3. He is Shiloh (peace); "He is our peace" (Eph. 2:14).
  - 4. Christ is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David" (Rev. 5:5).
- E. We recall that God chose David, "a man after his own heart." We typically understand this to mean that David was a God fearing man. It seems likely that it also reflects God's purpose that the king should be of Judah, not of Benjamin (as was Saul). Numerous texts in the



Old and the New emphasize that the Messiah is from David, from Judah.

- F. All of this is contemplated in Jesus' words, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22).

**Conclusion:**

It seems fitting that we conclude, therefore, with Isaiah 9:6-7.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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## **Jesus' Promise To His Disciples**

*Michael Mayo*

**Introduction:** God in His word has given us exceeding great and precious promises (II Peter 1:3-4). As we read God's Word, we see promises that God has made and fulfilled. The record of God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises gives us comfort and hope (Romans 15:4). Because God is faithful in fulfilling His promises, we can hold fast our profession without wavering (Hebrews 10:23). In this lesson, four promises of Christ will be examined. Two of the promises have been fulfilled and two of them are still being fulfilled. Each of these promises has a profound effect on our lives today.

### **I. I Will Build My Church (Matthew 16:13-19)**

- A. Jesus is the builder
  - 1. Purchaser (Acts 20:28)
  - 2. Foundation (I Corinthians 3:11)
- B. It is His church (I Corinthians 1:9-13)
- C. One church
  - 1. Singular words: church, it
  - 2. Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:4-6
  - 3. Acts 4:12
  - 4. John 14:6
- D. Death would not prevent it's building (Matthew 16:18)
- E. Fulfilled in Acts 2
  - 1. Acts 2:47
  - 2. Mark 16:16
- F. Called out
  - 1. By the gospel (II Thessalonians 2:14)
  - 2. Into the kingdom/church (Colossians 1:12-13)
- G. Governed by the doctrine of Christ (II John 9)

## **II. I Will Send The Comforter To You (John 16:7-15)**

- A. To guide into all truth
  - 1. Bring into remembrance all that Jesus taught them (John 14:26)
  - 2. Teach them the things that they were not ready to hear (John 16:12)
- B. Baptized with the Holy Spirit and given power (Acts 1:4-8)
  - 1. In Jerusalem
  - 2. To be witnesses
    - a. Mark 16:19-20
    - b. Hebrews 2:1-4
- C. The Comforter, the Holy Spirit given in Acts 2:1-4
- D. Beauty of this promise ...we have God's word
  - 1. Revealed
  - 2. Confirmed
  - 3. Recorded (Ephesians 3:3-5)
  - 4. Preserved (Psalm 12:6-7)

## **III. Will Be With You (Matthew 28:18-20)**

- A. If we do and teach His will, He will be with us
- B. Power of this promise is seen in
  - 1. Moses, who led the people out of bondage
  - 2. Joshua, who led the people into the Promised Land
  - 3. Gideon, who defeated the Midianites as one man
  - 4. Jeremiah, who faithfully proclaimed God's word.
- C. Romans 8:31-39
- D. Hebrews 13:5-6

## **IV. I go to prepare a place for you (John 14:1-4)**

- A. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people
- B. Beauty of heaven (Revelation 21:3-7)
- C. Jesus wants us to be there (John 17:17-24)

D. He is coming back (Revelation 22:12-14)

**Conclusion:** In John 14:5-6, one sees that the way to heaven is in Jesus Christ...in His body, in His church. When we do what Jesus has said we need to do to be saved, God adds us to the church. We then live our lives governed by the doctrine of Christ. As we live and teach His word, He will be with one day, and us we will dwell with Him forever.

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## God's Promises To The Church

*Eddy Craft*

### **Introduction:**

- A. The word of God begins with a promise, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15). What a promise that God made to man! This promise was fulfilled in Christ our Lord. God always keeps His promises.
- B. The apostle Peter called the promises of God “precious.” “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Pet. 1:4). God's promises are not only precious but they are exceeding great and precious. What a trio of words.
- C. In this lesson we want to notice three promises that God made to the church. We will notice the past, present and future.

### **I. Past Promises To The Church:**

- A. God promised to establish His church in the last days. “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow **unto it**. [3] And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2:2-3)
- B. Daniel said it would be in the days of these kings. “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44).

- C. Daniel prophesied of the Ancient of days. “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:13-14).
- D. Jesus and John the Baptist taught the kingdom is at hand. “And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2). “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17).
- E. All the promises God made concerning the church in the past came to pass.

## **II. Present Promises Made To The Church:**

- A. There are many great promises made to the church. In this lesson we will only notice a few of them.
- B. The Bible teaches that all spiritual blessing are in the church (Eph. 1:3).
- C. We have God’s promise that He will not leave us nor forsake us. (Heb. 13:5).
- D. God’s promise that we will not be tempted above that which we are able (I Cor. 10:13).
- E. He promised to hear our prayers (I Peter 3:12).
- F. God promises to take care of us if we would seek first the Kingdom (Matt. 6:33).
- G. God promise that we would never fall if we have the Christian graces (II Peter 1:5-11).

### **III. Future Promises Made To The Church:**

- A. That Christ will come again (Acts 1:11). He will keep His promise (II Peter 3:9).
- B. Heaven if we remain faithful (Matt. 25:31-46).
- C. Hell if we become unfaithful (Matt. 25:46).

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. Are you a faithful member of the church of Christ?
- B. If you have never obeyed the gospel of Christ, you cannot be in His church where all spiritual blessing are enjoyed.

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# The Promises of the Devil

*Wesley Simons*

## Introduction

1. Promise: An oral or written agreement to do a thing, a pledge, to give a basis for expecting.
2. A promise is just as good as the promise maker.
3. God: 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
4. John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

## I. The Devil Lied To Adam And Eve.

- A. God gave them the following commandment: Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
- B. Lies of the Devil:
  1. Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
    - a. This is the NOT in the Devil's tell.
    - b. Some say, "One does not have to be baptized to be saved" (Mark 16:16)
    - c. Some say, "One does not have to be a member of the Lord's church to be saved" (Ephesians 5:22-25; Acts 2:47).
  2. Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof,



then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

- a. Satan questions God's goodness.
- b. Satan promises that man can be like gods.
- c. The Mormons teach that one can grow into being Gods.

## **II. The Devil Lied To Jesus.**

- A. Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.
- B. Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
- C. Lies of the Devil.
  1. Matthew 4:5-6 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, [6] And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.
    - a. The Devil makes false promises by perverting the Scriptures.
  2. Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

## **III. Lies The Devil Tells Us**

- A. You have plenty of time to obey God (James 4:14).
- B. Faith only saves (James 2:24).
- C. There is no God (Psalm 14:1).
- D. Man got here by evolution (Gen. 1:1).

- E. One church is just as good as another (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28).
- F. You will not reap what you have sown (Gal. 6:7-9).
- G. There is no hell (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29).
- H. Baptism is not essential to salvation (Mark 16:16).
- I. You can divorce for any reason (Matt. 19:9).
- J. There is no life after this one (John 5:28-29).
- K. Once you are saved you are always saved (James 5:19-20).
- L. The list goes on!!!

### **Conclusion**

1. 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
2. James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
3. Who will you believe -- God or Satan?
4. It is your choice.
5. Your decision will determine where you will be in all eternity.
6. Some angels made the wrong choice. Judas made the wrong choice. The rich man the wrong choice.
7. All heaven watches as you make your choice!

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## The Redemption of the Purchased Possession

Adam Horn

### Introduction:

- A. The book that we call the Bible, as has been discussed throughout this lectureship, is filled with the precious promises of God.
  - 1. Promises that were made to individuals and promises that were made to entire nations.
  - 2. But it always interesting to see just how those promises intertwine with one another and point man to coming of the redeemer, Jesus Christ.
- B. The hope that we gain from God's promises is that they are unquestionably and undeniably true.
  - 1. As the Hebrew writer said, "That by two immutable things, in which [it was] **impossible for God to lie**. . ."
  - 2. Knowing that it is impossible for God to tell an untruth, gives us the surety that whatever promises He has given to us will surely come to pass.
  - 3. God will not make a promise and then remove it at a whim or for some futile reason. His promises are sure and steadfast!!
- C. But of all the promises that are recorded in the Scriptures, none are as sweet to the ears, none are as comforting to the soul, as the promise that awaits the faithful of God at the end of this life.
  - 1. That promise being, of course, the promise of eternal life on that other shore.
  - 2. No promise has given man more hope than these simple words, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also." (John 14:2-3)

- D. As we enter into this study, let us do so by considering it under these three main points:
1. The Promise
  2. The Purpose
  3. The Possession

**Discussion:**

**I. The Promise**

- A. Ever since sin reared its head in the creation of God, man has had a continual struggle to escape its clutches.
1. The nation Israel constantly battled with sinfulness throughout its existence (Isa. 1:4, 59:1-2, Hosea 4:6, and many other passages).
  2. The Gentile nations were no exception; they too struggled with this dangerous enemy (Rom. 1:18-32).
  3. And, of course, even we today battle with this same enemy (Rom. 3:23).
- B. God knew the struggles of His creation and did not turn a blind eye to man's desperate situation.
1. Gen. 3:15, almost immediately after sin had entered the world, God spoke to the serpent, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
  2. This being the first prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah.
  3. It was through this Messiah, that man would be able to escape the grasp of sin and be returned to spiritual fellowship with his Creator (Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:13-14, Heb. 9:11-12, etc.).

- C. But what one must understand is that the forgiveness means that one escapes the consequence of sin, which is eternal condemnation (Rom. 6:23, 2 Thess. 1:7-9, Luke 16:19-31).
1. So then, God provided for us a way to escape the consequence of sin through the blood of His Son, but in addition to the forgiveness of sins, God has gone the extra mile. He has given us an additional promise.
  2. And that additional promise is eternal life in Heaven. Acts 26:18, Paul was commissioned by the Lord, “ To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, *that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*” (emphasis added, AH).
  3. Simply put, God has provided escape from the eternal pit of hell, but has also given us the promise of a reward that far exceeds any that we will ever receive here on the earth.
  4. 1 Pet. 1:3-4, “Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

## II. The Purpose

- A. The Hebrews writer said this, “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: Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil” (Heb. 6:19).

1. The hope that is mentioned in this passage is the hope of eternal life. The hope of receiving that wonderful promise to which we are made an heir here on the earth.
  2. But notice how it is expressed in the passage, “. . .Which hope we have as an *anchor* of the soul. . .” (emphasis added, AH).
    - a. An anchor of a boat is intended to keep the boat from floating aimlessly on the water. It is intended to keep the boat in a particular area.
    - b. The anchor of hope in eternal life works much the same way. It is our spiritual anchor. It is the thing that should keep us from floating aimlessly through life. It is our anchor to keep us near to God.
- B. No one can truly question the fact that all mankind (Christian and Non) will face trials and adversities in this life.
1. But the Christian can gain encouragement by knowing that he is pressing toward a goal (Phil. 3:14).
  2. The Christian can maintain hope in dark times by remembering the eternal rest that awaits him (1 Pet. 1:6-9).
    - a. Holding fast to this anchor of hope will help us keep running the race of life (1 Cor. 9:23-27, Heb. 12:1-2).
    - b. James wrote, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:2-4)
    - c. No one enjoys having to endure the struggles of life, but when one keeps in mind that the end result is a stronger faith and that these trials are but for a brief moment in time, it becomes much easier to overcome.

### III. The Possession

- A. Though the promise of an eternal reward is sure, and though it may provide us with great hope and strength to get us through this life, we must still realize that while on this earth we are heirs to this reward.
1. An heir being one that is to be the recipient of an inheritance at a designated time.
  2. Paul said, "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).
    - a. When we obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we then are made heirs to that mansion that Jesus promised in John 14:1-2.
    - b. And, of course, in order to remain heirs to that inheritance, we must walk faithfully here on the earth (Rev. 2:10, Rom. 6:4, Gal. 5:25, Eph. 2:10, etc.).
    - c. On this earth we possess the promise of an eternal reward of heaven in prospect. But someday we will cease to be heirs. And in that day we will finally be in actual possession of that wonderful reward.
- B. Col. 3:23-24, "And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."
1. Sadly, some Christians view the day of judgment as a day of dread. Certainly, for those who are not faithful, it will be just that. But for the faithful, it is a day of reward. A day that we should anticipate with great joy (Matt. 25:31-34, 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
  2. Without question death is probably the greatest fear that mankind possesses.
  3. But is it not wonderful to know, that through Christ we will overcome the grave!! And not only overcome it, but live

eternally in the presence of our Creator and Savior.

4. 1 Cor. 15:55-58, “O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory? The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law. But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
5. Rev. 22:3-4, “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name [shall be] in their foreheads.”

### **Conclusion:**

- A. 1 John 2:25, John wrote so simply, “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, [even] eternal life.”
  1. God has demonstrated His immense love for us in His great promises.
  2. He has provided an escape from sin. He has given us a place in His kingdom. He has promised us the continued cleansing of His Son’s blood. And if those things weren’t enough, He given us the ultimate promise of an eternal abode with Him in glory.
- B. God has done His part. He has given us the promise. But it is up to us to access those wonderful blessings.

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