

"PROMISE"

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This Week's Symbol comes from one of the most famous promises in the Bible...

- Great Wickedness had taken over the World. One Righteous man and his family were chosen to help rebuild. (Vs) Genesis 8:6-12 ESV

"This small Symbol was meant to show that God was with them and had fulfilled His promise to save those who believed... That because of His promise, He would rebuild the world."

Peter writes... (Vs) 2nd Peter 1:4 – *He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

God's promises are precious, magnificent, and have extreme value.

- **Def:** "A Biblical promise is a declaration of God's intention to graciously bestow a gift upon an individual or a group of people." For example...

(Vs) Isaiah 41:10 – "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

(Vs) Joshua 1:9 – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Whenever God gives us a promise, we can be sure He will do what He has said.

(Vs) Hebrews 10:23 reminds us to ... "...hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

- God is not going to give you a promise and then say, "You know, maybe I didn't mean that." Because... It is a matter of demonstrating His character and nature to us.
- God is not going to operate one way one day and then another way the next. What He tells us in His Word will always line up with His nature and character.

People say one thing, then go and do something else. Many will be kind and supportive in your presence but later will oppose you. – But God never will.

(Vs) Hebrews 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

- That is a promise you can claim!

God wants us to give Him glory and praise because He truly has worked on our behalf.

- In 1st Kings, we read where Solomon has been praying. In fact, he had been blessing the Lord for His faithfulness. Then he makes this statement...

(Vs) 1 Kings 8:56 – “Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He spoke by Moses His servant.”

- God did exactly what He had promised to do, and Solomon was honoring the Lord by acknowledging it.
- He had a grateful heart, and he wanted the people to respond in gratitude also. Solomon also wrote...

(Vs) Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

God is saying through Solomon...

- “I’m aware of what you are facing. I know your need. Trust Me, lean on Me and not on your human knowledge, and I will provide all that you need and so much more.” Paul underscores this very thing when he writes...

(Vs) 1 Thessalonians 5:24 – “He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.”

- The author of Hebrews admonishes us with these words:

(Vs) Hebrews 10:35-36 – “Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.”

- Notice he says, “When you have done the will of God...”

Some of God's promises are conditional.

- For instance, if we do this God will do that...

(Vs) 2nd Chronicles 7:14 - "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

"Promises are not given without a plan that involves faith and responsibility, though many times we have to wait for them to be revealed."

And it's here that people most often lose faith in God's promises...

- They live believing God's promises are precious and magnificent.
- They trust and believe He will do what He has said.
- They give Him all glory and praise every time He comes through.
- And so, they strive to live their lives within His Will.
- And then one day, a circumstance arises that doesn't go the way they had hoped...A sickness, a divorce, a friendship lost, a relationship fractured...This leaves the follower of God feeling as if they've been forgotten.
- When faced with painful trials and attacks of doubt. We often say, "God, why aren't your promises keeping these things from my life?"

God doesn't Promise lack of Pain and Difficulty.

- Instead... He promises to stay with us in spite of them...

(Vs) Hebrews 13:5b - "I will never leave you nor forsake you." - I AM With YOU!

- And not just here, almost 700 years before Jesus was born...

(Vs) Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Then to Joseph the Carpenter the Angel of The Lord said...

(Vs) Matt. 1:23 - "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel."

The Promise of Jesus coming was in part for this very purpose.

- Once again Great Wickedness had taken over the World.
- And so, one Righteous man was chosen to rebuild it...

Jesus was publicly introduced to the world at His Baptism by John...

(Vs) Matt. 3:16 - "...when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; ..."

"This small Symbol was meant to show that God was with them and had fulfilled His promise to save those who believed... That because of His promise, He would rebuild the world."

- Proclaiming for all time, that whenever we are suffering within this world, we can find our rest in the one who came to bear it alongside us... Immanuel "God with us."

From this example alone, we can be assured that even when we do not feel God's presence in the midst of our pain, we can still believe in His Promise.

- Even in the most difficult times, when you cannot see His hand, trust His heart, and know for certain that He has not forsaken you...

He is With You, and He is Enough!