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## **The Promises Of God – Lesson 1**

*God's Promises*

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

**Online Bible Study**

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

## I. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

- A. Why this subject area?
- B. What we hope to gain from this study

## II. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "THE PROMISES OF GOD" AND "THE PROMISES IN THE BIBLE?"

- 1. There are approximately 8,810 promises in the Bible.
- 2. Not every promise in the Bible is a promise that was made by God.
- 3. Subjectivity of the topic.

## III. THE "PROMISES" OF GOD VS. THE "COVENANTS" OF GOD

- A. Is there a difference?

*The concept of covenant is not exclusive to the Bible. It was familiar to those in the ancient world. Biblical covenants address the unique relationship between God and humanity. "A biblical covenant is a clear statement of God's purposes and intentions expressed in terms that bind God by solemn oath to perform what he has promised."*

- B. The Basic Biblical Covenants (5)
  - 1. The **Noahic** Covenant (Genesis 6-9)
    - a. Edenic and Adamic Covenants
  - 2. The **Abrahamic** Covenant (Genesis 12)
  - 3. The **Mosaic** Covenant (Exodus 19-20)
  - 4. The **Davidic** Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
  - 5. The **New** Covenant
- C. Other Covenants
  - 1. Palestinian Covenant
  - 2. Everlasting Covenant
  - 3. Covenants within Covenants

## IV. HOW SHOULD WE REVIEW EACH PROMISE? GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- 1. What is the **context** of the promise?
  - a. Are we looking at a **promise** or a **principle**?
  - b. What do the surrounding verses say?
  - c. Who is being spoken to? Why?
- 2. Is the promise **conditional, unconditional, general, or specific**?
  - a. **Conditional** – look for the words "if-then" in the context. This promise requires the cooperation of the people.

<sup>11</sup> When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, <sup>12</sup> the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. <sup>16</sup> I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. – 2 Chron. 7:11-16

b. **Unconditional** – the fulfillment rests solely with God, no matter how people or the world behaves. There are no conditions attached.

- The significance of the word "never"

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: **Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.**" – Genesis 9:8-11

<sup>5</sup> "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" – Hebrews 13:5

c. **General** – one that is given by the Holy Spirit to every believer in every age. No limitations on time period or recipient.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "**Everyone** who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but **whoever** drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." – John 4:13-14

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:7

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9

d. **Specific** – one that is made to specific individuals on specific occasions.

When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, <sup>2</sup> the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. <sup>3</sup> The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. <sup>4</sup> "As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, <sup>5</sup> **I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'**

3. What does the promise reveal about God?
4. Does God/The Holy Spirit intend for me to claim this promise today or was this a promise which applied to another time?
  - a. Do not presume to know when the promise will be fulfilled.
5. How am I supposed to respond to God who makes this promise?
6. A promise does not make God bend to our will.

#### **V. WHAT ALLOWS US TO BELIEVE A PROMISE THAT IS MADE?**

1. Certainty
2. Character
3. Credibility

#### **VI. OUR STUDY PLAN OVER THE NEXT 6 WEEKS**

- 3 conditional promises of God
- 3 unconditional promises of God
- Bible Study ends on June 28. In recess July and August

<sup>18</sup> But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." <sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." <sup>20</sup> **For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.** <sup>21</sup> Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup> set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line daily at 6 am & 9:30 pm.

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