

God Has Made Promises to Us

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So that's the first point, God has made promises. But before I leave it I just want to emphasize it a little bit differently. God... has made promises. God has made promises. The one who is infinitely powerful to keep his word and infinitely good, who will not lie. One who cannot lie and one who has infinite power to keep His Word has made promises.

And the One who has made these promises, that we have here, always fulfills it. He always fulfills it.

And that is again, repeatably emphasized in Scripture, let me just give you some of them. In order to strengthen our faith God says it, He spells it out. And I won't give you every reference, but starting in Genesis, it goes through Joshua, Samuel and Kings and so on. Listen to these.

“Then the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised.” - Genesis 21:1

“The Lord your God is He who fights for you just as He promised you.” - Joshua 23:10

“And now O Lord God, you are God and your Word's are truth and You have promised this good thing to your servant.” - 2 Samuel 7:28

“And the Lord gave wisdom to Solomon, just as He promised him.” - 1 Kings 5:12

“Now the Lord fulfilled His Word which He spoke... as the Lord promised.” - 1 Kings 8:20

There are so many of these, you just read them as you go through Scripture, you see it over and over.

“You have kept for your servant that which you have promised him.” - 2 Chronicles 6:15

“Indeed you have spoken with your mouth and fulfilled it with your hand as it is this day.” - 1 Kings 8:24

How about this: “Not one of the good promises that the Lord made to the house of Israel failed, all came to pass.” - Joshua 21:45

How about this: “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.” - 1 Kings 8:56

“And you have fulfilled your promise, for you are righteous.” - Nehemiah 9:8

How about from the New Testament:

“In hope of eternal life, which God who cannot lie, promised.” - 1 Titus 1:2

Emphasizing His truthfulness.

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is faithful.”

So think of this. We have a Book full of promises. Made by a God who cannot lie and who has all of the power to keep these promises. Now here is the question: Why have we not entered in to more of these promises? And the answer is, in the first part of the verse. That you may not be sluggish, or as the KJV version says “slothful”. There both pretty good words. You’ve seen slugs moving on the ground, you know they are not just zipping along normally are they? Or sloth, as slothful, slow. If you watch some of these National Geographic commentaries they show a sloth, have you ever seen any of those? They have algae growing in their hair, their hair looks green, their so slow. And their hanging on a limb and you can barely stand to watch it, they get ready to reach up for another branch. I’m afraid that has often been the way I’ve lived my Christian life. “Now I think it’s time to trust God... (Laughter) for one promise out of a Book of ten thousand promises.

So the writer to the Hebrews said “Don’t be like that.” Instead be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

So the first point is: God has made promises to us. Second is that faith and patience are necessary to inherit the promises.