

A GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES

Six Lessons on the Promises of the Lord



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Lesson 1: GREETING THEM FROM AFAR

Acts 2:39 ESV *“For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*

Rom 4:13 ESV *For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.*

Three Kinds of Story Endings:

Happily Ever After

Failure or Defeat

Left Hanging With Hope

(The Old Testament is an unfinished story.)

GREAT EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT GOD
WILL DO:

God's Purposes and Promises in the Old
Testament.

The unfinished story of the Old Testament:

- Begins with the creation of all things by God.
- God pronounces his creation "Good." Genesis 1:31
- The creation includes love and companionship: man, woman, and God.
- It is soon marred with sin, conflict, and hatred.

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But God did not give up on his creation.

His purposes will not be frustrated.

The Bible is the story of how God works things out.

^A About 4,000 years ago God called Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3: *Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*



Later, God promised Abraham a son and repeated his earlier promises: Genesis 15:5-7: [In a vision, God brought Abraham outside and said,] “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The promises to Abraham were passed on to his descendants: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and all of Israel.

A thousand years pass from Abraham to King David:

David is now king in the land of promise

He rules over the people of the promise!

David wanted a temple in Jerusalem, but God's response:

A 2 Samuel 7:12-29: *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, ... and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. ... Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.*

Consider:

1. Abraham and David were great men of God to whom God gave great promises. Did that mean they were “perfect men”? Both have exceptional instances of faith and both have big problems with failure.
2. David wrote Psalm 52, a confession of his great sin.
3. What kind of people live with hope in the promises of God?

Almost 4,000 years ago: God gave promises to Abraham of a nation.

3,000 years ago: God gave promises to David of a kingdom.

300 years after David, Isaiah prophesied the coming fulfillment of God's promises.

In Isaiah's day, Abraham's descendants were living in the land of promise.

At times, they had been faithful to God.

Often, they were disobedient and even worshiped the sex gods of their neighbors.

The nation had divided into a northern part, Israel, and the south, Judah.

God called Isaiah:

Isaiah 6 : And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

{{ God called Isaiah to be His messenger to those who inherited the promises given to Abraham.}}

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The people of the promises were not keeping covenant with their God:

Isaiah 1:1-20 (redacted)

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, the Lord has spoken:

“Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.

They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel,

“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord;

Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me.

When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil, learn to do good;
seek justice, correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.
“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 1:1-20 (redacted)

God holds his people accountable for their sins.

Isaiah saw Israel fall to Assyria. And the northern kingdom never again rose to be a nation.

Isaiah prophesied Judah's fall to Babylon 100 years later.

Both nations were the people of the promises.

{{They were unfaithful to their call. How could this happen in view of God's promises to Abraham and to David?

Are God's blessings sometimes lost, or delayed, through disobedience?

Church, God's promises always call for allegiance.

While God does not demand sinless perfection He will punish stubborn rebellion.

God Can Change His Plans

Jeremiah 18:7-10 ESV If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, (8) and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

(9) And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, (10) and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do.

Nevertheless, God will not forget the promises.

Isaiah 44:21-23:

Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant;

O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it;

For the Lord has redeemed Jacob,
and will be glorified in Israel.

{ { God never forgets his promises; his people sometimes think God has forgotten them. Sometimes the people forget their God.
Such destruction as Judah faced, usually meant the people conquered were lost to history. But the Jews returned from captivity, rebuilt the temple, and the Messiah came from them. } }

Israel--God's servant--will yet be a light to the nations.

Isaiah 2:1-3

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

The selection of Israel does not mean God rejects all others:

Isaiah 49:6: *“I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”*

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But in Isaiah's prophecy there is a suffering servant , not a glorious & earthly monarch.

Isaiah 53:7-10:

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

Who Else But Jesus?

Isa 53:11 ESV Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

The Jews return from captivity and rebuild the temple.

Still, Israel does not become “a light to the nations.”

While Israel as God's people, often failed to live as God's people,
this nation did exactly what needed to be done to usher in the
advent of the messiah.

So, as the Sun sets on the Old Testament, it ends as an unfinished story,
but great with expectations and hope.

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A final word about the Old Testament:

Hebrews 11:13 [NLT]: *"All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth."*

A What should I take away from today's lesson?

1. God's ways are not hurried but are certain.
2. One life span will not see all of God's purposes complete.
3. All history has been influenced by God's promises to Abraham and David.
4. Ask yourself, "Will I trust God's promises?"