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PROMISE

— *Is Unto You* —

Bible Study



An Amazing Journey Through The Bible
In A Study Of God's Enduring Promise To Man

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The Promise Is Unto You

Is the Bible really God's Word? Does The Bible have continuity as though written by a Supreme Deity? Everyone seems to view it differently, is there common Truth that I can clearly understand? If so, what is the Bible message?

If you're searching for Truth — God's Truth, we have some Good News for you. God's most urgent and prevalent message found in the Bible concerns the salvation of your soul. The Bible states that God is not willing that anyone should perish in the fires of Hell but that all should be saved through His perfect plan.

The best news of all is YOU can understand God's plan for you. From the fall of Adam and Eve, God made a promise to man. It was a promise of hope — a promise of a coming Savior and HOW to be saved by Him. As we journey through the history of the Bible, you will see Gods' beautiful promise unfold. This plan can be followed, understood and received by you!

In this Bible study, we will walk through the Word of God together, from a unique and enlightening perspective. We will see that the Bible does have continuity, there is definitive Truth that can be understood, and the message of salvation will be brought into the light for you to clearly see. The promise is unto you...

God's First Promise to Man

The first promise found in the Bible is God's promise to Adam that he shall either live or die. God's promise could not be broken but He left the choice to Adam. Adam could eat of every tree in the garden except one and he would live. Or he could eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and he would die.

Genesis 2:7-9

- 7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
- 8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.
- 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16-17

- 16 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.

We know the tragic ending to this story: Adam chose death. In Adam's disobedience to God, he also brought the curse of death upon the human race — for Adam had brought sin into the world.

(Optional Study) READ Genesis chapter three to examine the fall of man.

However, there was some good news for Adam and his wife Eve. Before God was finished with them, God made another promise. Man had fallen from the sinless and immortal state in which he was created — but God offered them a promise of hope. This next promise was a promise that would extend to all generations. This promise even applies to you and me. It's the promise that we do not have to die and be lost forever. God's new promise made in the Garden of Eden that day was a promise that we could be redeemed from the curse of death.

Genesis 3:15

- 15 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.

Here God (talking to the devil) is actually promising Adam and Eve that Eve's seed (offspring) will one day bruise the head of the serpent, the devil. The devil will be defeated. A mighty promise indeed.

The Bible is a book of progressive revelation. God's plan for mankind unfolds over time throughout the pages of the Bible. God continually adds to the picture to make the picture more complete — like a puzzle. Not until all the pieces are in place can we see the picture in its entirety. In the beginning, God's promise of hope to Adam and Eve was wonderful, yet somewhat vague. As we continue with this Bible study, we will see God's promise begin to unfold with depth and clarity.

Many generations later, a man named Abram (who was the offspring of Adam and Eve) was visited by God. Abram pleased God and God made a promise to Abram:

Genesis 17:1-8

- 1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.
- 2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.
- 3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,
- 4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.
- 5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.
- 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.
- 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.
- 8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Abram, a 99 year-old man with no children because his wife was barren received a promise from God. Not only would he have a son, but by that son would come future generations of nations and kings. God also promised Abram a great land, an everlasting covenant, and a new name—Abraham.

This was not an entirely new promise, but rather an extension of the promise God made to Adam and Eve. God said that Eve's seed would bruise the head of the serpent. Abraham, who is Eve's seed, will also produce seed. His seed will produce kings. At the time Abraham could not have grasped the significance of this promise. Looking back we see that many great kings have come from Abraham's seed, including David, Solomon, Hezekiah and the greatest King of all, Jesus Christ. The Bible says of Jesus:

Hebrews 2:16

- 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Abraham did not understand at the time that the seed of promise included the King of kings, the Lord of glory, God in flesh, the Savior of the world — Jesus Christ!

This promise was declared throughout the Old Testament by King David, and in later generations by the prophets — Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah and others. These prophets lived after the time of Abraham and before the birth of Jesus. They continued to remind the people of God's promise — Jesus Christ the Savior would come!

Isaiah 9:6-7

- 6 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.
- 7 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.

Isaiah 7:14

- 14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Immanuel means, "God is with us." The Gospel writer Matthew explains that when Jesus was born, He was Immanuel, the fulfillment of this prophecy. (Matthew 1:22-23) Let's look at some more promises of the coming Savior:

Isaiah 19:20

- 20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a savior, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

Jeremiah confirms the Savior will indeed be of the seed of David, who was the seed of Abraham, who was the seed of Adam:

Jeremiah 23:5-8

- 5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.
 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
 7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;
 8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

The promise in the beginning was vague and left us with many questions. Nearly 3500 years later, Zechariah offers us a beautiful and more definitive picture of the coming Promise:

Zechariah 6:11-13

- 11 Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;
 12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:
 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

According to the prophets, the seed promised to Abraham included the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. By revelation from the Holy Ghost, the New Testament writers had a deeper understanding of these promises than Abraham and the prophets. Apostle Paul confirms that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham.

Galatians 3:16

- 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Paul also saw that with the promise of Jesus Christ came the promised land — eternal life in Heaven and not the land of Canaan.

Hebrews 11:8-10

- 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

The Old Testament patriarchs and saints did not live to see Jesus and did not receive the promise:

Hebrews 11:8, 9, 13, 39

- 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise

Abraham and the Old Testament saints lived under the Law and therefore could not receive the promise. The promise could only come through the righteousness of faith:

Romans 4:13

- 13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Furthermore, before Jesus came into the world, we were not eligible to be partakers of the promise:

Ephesians 2:12

- 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world

If Abraham and the Old Testament saints didn't receive the promise and we were not eligible, WHO then was to receive this great promise?

Abraham actually ended up having two sons — one by his handmaiden, Hagar, who bore him Ishmael, and one by his wife Sarah, who gave him Isaac. Ishmael was not the promised seed; Isaac was.

Galatians 4:22-28

- 22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.
 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.
 24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which engendereth to bondage, which is Hagar.
 25 For this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.
 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.
 27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not; for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath a husband.
 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Apostle Paul said WE are the children of promise, even as Isaac was to Abraham. Who is "we?" Paul said this promise pertains to the children of promise, as we shall see again:

Romans 9:6-8

- 6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:
- 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.
- 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

As we saw earlier, the promise IS Jesus Christ. However, Jesus is going to tell us that the promise is the Spirit — the Holy Ghost (This is not a contradiction, for Jesus is the Spirit—the Holy Ghost!) Israel did not receive the Holy Ghost — it was given to the church on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 1:4-5

- 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.**
- 5 **For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

Apostle Paul declares that we Gentiles can receive the promise of the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ:

Galatians 3:14

- 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

"We" is the church! The Jews always believed the promise was for the Jewish race alone. Paul said the promise of the Spirit comes through faith in Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter if you're Jew or Gentile, WE can receive the promise!

We are not the natural-born children of Abraham and Isaac, but we are the seed through adoption. This adoption can only take place through the Spirit of adoption:

Romans 8:15

- 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
- Paul, writing to the church, tells us that we have been adopted into the family of God and have become heirs of the promise, whereby God becomes our Father!

Galatians 4:4-7

- 4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.
 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, so now WE can receive the promise. We are fellow heirs and partakers of the promise:

Ephesians 3:6

- 6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel

James 2:5

- 5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

James 1:12

- 12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

We see in these two verses in James that this promise includes US as heirs of the kingdom and as part of the promise, we receive the crown of life. In his epistles to Titus and Timothy, apostle Paul also tells us that the promise includes eternal life:

Titus 1:2

- 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began

2 Timothy 1:1

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus

The apostle John boldly confirms Paul's message — the promise is eternal life!

1 John 2:25

- 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life

According to apostle Peter, the promise allows us to be partakers of the divine nature of God and escape the corruption that is in the world:

2 Peter 1:4

4 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.

Here, Peter expounds more specifically on the promise — this promise includes Heaven:

2 Peter 3:12-13

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

What an exciting promise! Yet, there is more. The promise of heaven and eternal life concludes with the defeat of the devil — he will no longer be able to tempt, harass, or inflict sickness and death. We as the seed of Adam and Abraham with Christ Jesus will bruise the head of Satan, just as God promised in the garden!

Romans 16:20

20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

I must have this promise! What about you — do you want to receive the promise? We can receive the complete fulfillment of the promise through Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us how. Isn't that good news? The Bible boldly tells us that the promise is for YOU!

Acts 2:39

39 For 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.

Wow! You can have the promise too — it is to you! But how? Tell me how!!! Let's ask apostle Peter — he'll tell us how!

Acts 2:38-39

- 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39 For 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.

There it is! You must repent of your sins, be baptized in the name of Jesus, and receive the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of adoption. Let's see others in the Bible receiving the promise:

Acts 8:5, 12-17

- 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.
- 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.
- 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
- 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:
- 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
- 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

And again:

Acts 19:1-7

- 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
- 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.
- 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
- 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

- 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
- 7 And all the men were about twelve.

There is only one way to be saved — you must receive the promise. Acts 2:38 is the promise. Let's read it again:

Acts 2:38-39

- 39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39 For 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.

Finally, let's see the promise from Jesus Christ's perspective. Jesus will shed new light on the same promise. Jesus, as the promised Son, had the authority not only to expound on the promise, but to define it and explain it in great detail.

Mark 16:15-17

- 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
- 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
- 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Jesus said those who believe AND are baptized shall be saved. The New Testament tells us that there is one baptism and that it is administered in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus also tells us in the passage above that believers SHALL speak with new tongues. This is the sign that shall follow a true believer who has received the fullness of the promise. In the Bible, we see many people who received the promise. And just as Jesus said, they spoke with new tongues. Here we see a Gentile (a non-Jew) and his family receiving the promise:

Acts 10:44-48

- 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.
- 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

- 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?
- 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

The Bible is clear — God has kept his promise. Many have already received it. Abraham, according to the promise, looked for a city whose builder and maker was God! That city is the Kingdom of God, revealed in the New Testament church. The promise of it is to those who have been made alive in Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

- 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
- 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Adam chose death and brought the curse of death to all men; but God, in His abundant mercy made a promise that each of us would have our own choice in the matter. The promise was paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ, but the decision of life and death is yours. We become partakers of the promised Savior and His blood when we choose eternal life. That choice is Acts 2:38. Open your Bible and read it in the Word of God for yourself. Then make your own choice: the way of Adam or the way of Jesus Christ.

For the promise is unto you... Will you obey Acts 2:38 and receive the promise?

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