

The Surety of God's Promises

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By John Stuart

Scriptures from various places

- I. Introduction
 - a. As Christians we say we are standing on God's promises
 - b. Yet when asked, sometimes we know very few of them
 - c. Further, we get anxious about our circumstances and forget the surety of God's promises.
 - d. In Sunday School we were able to look at questions such as:
 - i. Is this promise conditional?
 - ii. Is this promise for me?
 - iii. What is the timeframe?
 - iv. And others
 - e. Today I want you to know
 - i. The veracity of God's promises
 - ii. The unfailing nature of God's promises
 - iii. Some promises for you
- II. Abraham
 - a. First consider God's man Abraham
 - i. He was God's man not because of who Abraham was, but because of God's gracious choice
 - ii. Critical distinction because if it was because of who Abraham was, then there would be the consideration that if Abraham changed, then he would no longer be God's man, and thus God would be looking for another to be His man to give His promises to.
 - iii. However, if Abraham is God's man because of God's choice, then any promise made to Abraham is given to accomplish God's plan and purposes and thus will undoubtedly come to pass despite any shortcomings or failings of Abraham

- b. Genesis 12:1-4
 - i. I will make of you a great nation
 - ii. In you will all the families of the earth be blessed
 - iii. 75 years old at the time of the promise
- c. Genesis 16:1-4
 - i. Over 10 years had passed since the initial promise – we think in short timeframes (eg. Braces for 2 years; text in 30 seconds)
 - ii. They figured the promise as they understood it is not happening
 - iii. Perhaps they should try something else to help this promise along
- d. Genesis 18:9-14
 - i. The promise will be fulfilled next year
 - ii. She laughed. Why laugh?
 - iii. They had in some ways given up. She had gotten her hopes up before and nothing had happened. She had endured such great pain, anguish, embarrassment and failure with no further hope, and here one speaks so utterly contrary to her experience over the last 24 years she can only laugh, as it sounds nice, but impossible.
 - iv. Nothing is too difficult for God.
 - v. Matthew 9:23-25
 - 1. They laughed at Jesus.
 - 2. Human experience tells us that after a certain time in a woman's life, she will not have children, and when a person dies, she's not coming back.
 - 3. In the midst of their deep grief Jesus spoke what seemed to them absurd, so they laughed, as if to say, "For being a teacher, this guy sure is naïve."
 - 4. Nothing is too difficult for God.
- e. Genesis 21:1-5
 - i. At the right time, Sarah had a son, just as He promised

- ii. Abraham was 100 years old. It had been 25 years since the original promise.

f. Genesis 22:1-2

- i. Take your son, your only son, whom you love, and sacrifice him
- ii. After all of that waiting and anguish and trial, You now want me to sacrifice the promise you so carefully fulfilled?
- iii. The only thing he could figure, as we are told in Hebrews, is that in order for God's promise to be sure, if Abraham sacrificed Isaac, then God would have to raise him again from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19)

III. Isaac

a. Genesis 25:19-21, 25-26

- i. 40 years old when he was married
- ii. Children were not coming -> Was the promise going to fail?
- iii. Isaac prayed – most likely according to the promise
- iv. Isaac was 60 years old when he finally had children – he had waited 20 years!

IV. Jacob

a. Genesis 28:10-14

- i. Fleeing for his life
- ii. No wife or children
- iii. A dangerous journey ahead
- iv. And a promise from God

b. Genesis 28 – 31

- i. Gains wives
- ii. Gains children
- iii. Looks like the promise is succeeding nicely

c. Genesis 32:6-8

- i. Very afraid for his life and the lives of his wives and children
- ii. Was the promise, after having such a good start, going to be cut off because of the circumstances?
- iii. Jacob devises a plan, but it doesn't matter
 - 1. It's good to make plans, but trust in God

d. Genesis 32:24 – 33:4

- i. Jacob had an encounter with the living God
- ii. And he lived, and received a blessing
- iii. After his encounter with God, he went to the front to meet his brother.
- iv. When we encounter God, the constraints and concerns of this world fall away

V. Salvation

a. Romans 10:8-11 (Conditional)

- i. If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead
 - 1. Belief in the resurrection. Not the incarnation? The perfect life? The atoning death?
 - 2. The resurrection is the victory, the culmination of the rest and as such the summation of it all. The resurrection would not have happened without the rest, and so to believe in the resurrection is to believe in the rest.
 - 3. Not merely mental assent, but belief from the depth of your being
- ii. If you confess Jesus as Lord
 - 1. Just to say the words? No, a confession is a verbal affirmation of something to be true. Prisoners of war who give public “confessions” against their country are often assumed to be under threat or duress to say the words, but the statements are not regarded as a true confession.
 - 2. The confession arises out of the belief stated previously and as such is a necessary outworking of it. The order given in verse 9 is working from the conclusion of the matter and revealing the background, whereas verse 10 shows the development of faith up to its conclusion.

3. Roman context where Caesar was considered lord and to state otherwise was to risk your life. To confess Jesus as Lord was to place your full identity in Him and be ready and willing to submit to whatever He might command. You are stating that you belong to Him. That confession today is also life threatening. If you make a true confession, the old you is put to death and God creates a new you.
 4. Thus a true confession is one arising out of a true faith with disregard for negative consequences.
- iii. There are no other conditions
 - iv. You shall be saved
 1. From the judgment to come
 2. Without a doubt
 - v. You will not be disappointed
 1. Ever? In anything? No, you will not be disappointed on the last day when all is revealed and you go to live forever with Jesus Christ and understand that those who did not believe go to their punishment.
- b. John 6:37-40
- i. All that the Father gives to Jesus shall come to Him
 - ii. All who come to Him, He will not cast out
 1. Some try to decide first if they are given by the Father, if they are chosen
 2. Come. If you come, you're in, He's chosen you, and He will not cast you out. Come.
 - iii. All who behold and believe have eternal life
 1. Back then they could behold Him bodily.
 2. Today think of it as when a person sees who Jesus is, does he believe?
- c. Salvation is the first promise
- i. If you reject Jesus Christ, there are no other glorious promises from God for you.

- ii. You may benefit in this life from living according to Biblical principles, but ultimately there is only the expectation of the judgment to come, and it will not go well with you.
- VI. Preservation
 - a. John 10:27-30
 - i. My sheep hear Me and follow Me
 - ii. They have eternal life
 - iii. They shall never perish
 - iv. No one can snatch them out of the hand of Jesus or the Father
- VII. A Place in Heaven
 - a. John 14:1-6
 - i. Jesus goes to prepare a place for...those who believe
 - ii. He will come back to receive those who believe
 - iii. Those who believe will be together with Him
- VIII. Blessed Life
 - a. Romans 8:28
 - i. God causes all things to work together for good
 - ii. Only for those who love God
 - iii. They are the ones who have been called by God
 - b. Philippians 4:4-7
 - i. Rejoice in the Lord always
 - ii. Be anxious for nothing
 - iii. Pray to God with thanksgiving
 - iv. Make your requests known to Him
 - v. God's peace will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.
- IX. Finding the promises
 - a. They are like precious gems buried in the Word of God
 - b. They cause rejoicing when you find one
 - c. Be sure to understand the context
 - d. Understand any conditions
 - e. Pray to God that He would keep His promise in your life
 - f. Trust Him to do so