

Fire in my Bones

The Life and Times of Jeremiah the Prophet

In his book, *All the Promises of the Bible*, Herbert Lockyer, a prolific author and pastor from England in the last century, catalogued 8,000 promises in Scripture. God is a promissory God; He loves to pledge his faithfulness and offer his promises to those who know and trust him. One could literally go right down the alphabet and find promises from God about . . .

Aid
Blessing
Counsel
Direction
Empowerment
Forgiveness
Guidance
Healing
Insight
Joy
Kinship
Love
Might
Needs
Offerings
Protection
Quiet
Refreshment
Support
Truth
Understanding
Victory
Wellness
eXuberance
Yielding
Zeal

I love what Joshua wrote about the promises of God in Joshua 21:45 "Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled."

As we continue our study through the book of Jeremiah today, we will see a remarkable promise from God; a promise that would see Israel through a very dark and difficult time of judgment and exile. It is a reminder for us today that life can sometimes be difficult. God is a faithful and holy father and he disciplines his children so that we may share in his holiness. If we are to stay faithful to God and navigate through the difficult stretches of our own lives, we must learn to receive and believe the promises of God. Let's take a look at God's promise to Jeremiah and his people and learn some lessons on how we too can become people who stand on the promises of God.

"Standing on the Promises of God"

or

"Exodus Part II"

Jeremiah 16

I have withdrawn my blessing, my love and my pity from this people," declares the LORD.

⁶ "Both high and low will die in this land. . . .⁹ For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Before your eyes and in your days I will bring an end to the sounds of joy and gladness and to the voices of bride and bridegroom in this place. . . .¹³ So I will throw you out of this land into a land neither you nor your ancestors have known, and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will show you no favor.'¹⁴ "However, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be said, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,'¹⁵ but it will be said, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors."¹⁶ "But now I will send for many fishermen," declares the LORD, "and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks."¹⁷ My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.¹⁹ LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come

You have heard of the famous Exodus of Israel out of Egypt. God is promising Jeremiah that one day the Egyptian exodus would be eclipsed in glory and importance by God's deliverance of Israel from their exile by Babylon and their miraculous return to the promised land of Israel. The judgment of God did come to Israel because they refused to repent and mend their ways before God. But even in God's divine discipline, he gives his people his pledge and promise that he will deliver them again and return them to the Promised Land. There would be much pain and suffering before that promise was fulfilled 70 years after Babylon conquers Israel, but God kept his word. And for those like Jeremiah and Daniel and many other faithful ones who are unnamed in scripture, they were sustained by this promise. Have you learned to stand on the promises of God? Here are three truths that can help you begin to live by the promises of God.

1. Living by the promises of God begins with a desire to hear his voice and receive his word.
 - Divine voice recognition (John 10:27)
"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
 - Intimate familiarity with God (Genesis 3:8a)
"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day . . ."
 - Providing accommodations for the Word (Colossians 3:16a)
"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . ."

2. The promises of God are never intended to be a substitute for God but an invitation to deeper intimacy with him.
 - God's reputation (Psalm 138:2)
". . . you have exalted above all things your name and your word."
 - Appealing to the highest authority (Hebrews 6:13-15)
When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.
 - Confidence in the midst of storm (Acts 27:20-25)
When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.²¹ After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss."²² But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.²³ Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me²⁴ and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'²⁵ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

3. To live by the promises of God is to live by faith and for eternity.

- Promises of affirmation (Hebrews 11:1-2)
“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.”
- Promises of growth (2 Peter 1:3-4)
“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”
- Promises of eternal reward (Hebrews 11:13-16)
“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

Biblical Benediction

*“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.”
2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV*