

Series: Standing on the Promises of God

# ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD IN HIM ARE YEA

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

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*<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

Introduction:

Our theme this year is “Standing on the Promises of God.”

I want to share a few thoughts which I hope will lay a foundation for our understanding God’s Promises.

Illustration:

In 1994, a 67-year-old carpenter named Russell Herman died in Marion, Illinois. In his last will and testament he willed the following:

- \$2.4 billion to the town of Cave-Rock
- \$2.4 billion to the city of East St. Louis

- \$1.5 billion for projects in southeastern Illinois

And in a final act of unprecedented generosity, he left \$6 trillion to the Federal Reserve to pay off the national debt. Of course it would take much more than that today.

There was only one problem: at the time of his death, the only thing Mr. Herman actually owned was a 1983 Olds Toronado.

Russell Herman may not have left behind anything of monetary value, but he did leave us all with a good reminder: you can't give away what you don't possess.

The bottom line is that he did not have the resources to make any of this a reality. Not so with God. He has all the means to make good on all His promises. Our big idea today is this: In a world of broken promises, God can be counted on.

Let's begin with a definition. The Webster Dictionary says a promise is: "A declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified...that gives the person to whom it is made a right to claim the performance or forbearance of a specified act."

Someone stated this regarding the promises of God.

“A promise is the assurance that God gives to His people so they can walk by faith while they wait for Him to work.”

Adoniram Judson, the great missionary to Burma, once said: “The future is as bright as the promises of God.” D.L. Moody has added: “God never made a promise that was too good to be true.” And here’s a statement worth pondering: “God never over-promises and He never under-delivers.”

I think it’s important to establish some guardrails on the pathway to God’s promises. Here then are some pointers about promises.

It important as we study the Promises of God to:

### **1. Put the promises in their context to get their full meaning**

One of the most popular promises is found in Hebrews 13:5:

#### ***Hebrews 13:5***

*<sup>5</sup> Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

This is so comforting, isn’t it? But we seldom quote the first part of the verse:

*“Be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have”*

Because of the promise of God’s presence we can live free from the love of money and become more content with what we have.

That’s a promise we all need.

## **2. Be careful about claiming someone else’s promise**

Turn and consider a very popular passage in Jeremiah 29.

### ***Jeremiah 29:11***

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

But if you go back to verse 1-3 we see that this is actually a sentence from a letter to the Jewish exiles living in Babylon.

### ***Jeremiah 29:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon; <sup>2</sup> (After that Jeconiah the king,*

*and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;)* <sup>3</sup> *By the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, (whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent unto Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) saying,*

In verses 4-9, the people are told to build houses, and dwell in them, plant gardens and eat the fruit of them.

They are told to increase in number – “Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands that they may bear sons and daughters; that they may be increased.”

They are to seek peace, and warned about deception.

### ***Jeremiah 29:4-9***

<sup>4</sup> *Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;*

<sup>5</sup> *Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;* <sup>6</sup> *Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.* <sup>7</sup> *And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.* <sup>8</sup> *For thus saith the LORD*

*of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. <sup>9</sup> For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.*

Then in verse 10 we hear the promise:

***Jeremiah 29:10***

*<sup>10</sup> For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.*

The promise was given to those in captivity, and they were going to be in captivity for 70 years and then God would fulfill His plans for them.

That brings us to verse 11:

***Jeremiah 29:11***

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

We not six truths in this:

- God is a promise-keeper. Who else would keep a promise for 70 years?
- God knows everything
- God is not out to harm you
- God wants to help you
- God has plans for you
- With God our future is filled with hope.

We are to:

**Put the promises in their context to get their full meaning and Be careful about claiming someone else's promise**

**3. Be willing to accept God's promises, not just the ones you like.**

For example, God also promises persecution and suffering and difficulty for the Christ-follower.

***John 16:33***

*<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Again:

**Put the promises in their context to get their full meaning; Be careful about claiming someone else's promise; and Be willing to accept God's promises, not just the ones you like**

**4. Understand the ultimate aim of God's promises is to glorify Himself.**

***Psalm 119:38***

*<sup>38</sup> Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.*

Note also:

**5. Some of the promises are conditional and some are unconditional**

God will do His part when we do ours. Often we see this in the use of "if/then" passages.

Note Deuteronomy 11:22-23

***Deuteronomy 11:22-23***

*<sup>22</sup> For **if** ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; <sup>23</sup> **Then** will the LORD drive out all*



*these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.*

Conditional promises are also found in the New Testament.

***James 4:10***

*<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

**6. Some promises are unconditional**

For the sake of time we consider only two examples. One is found in Genesis.

***Genesis 9:11***

*<sup>11</sup> And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

God promised to never destroy the earth again by a flood.

A New Testament example is found in John 14

***John 14:3***

*<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

While the introduction was somewhat lengthy I will close with just a few thoughts from our text.

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

*<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

Notice:

**1. THE DIGNITY OF THE PROMISES – “THE PROMISES OF GOD”**

- They are each made by God for His Purpose
- They are guaranteed by the character of God
- They will glorify Him as He works out their fulfilment

Note secondly:

**2. THE DIMENSION OF THE PROMISES – “ALL THE PROMISES”**

Both those found in the Old and New Testament –  
From Genesis to Revelation

There are various types of promises – bodily, spiritual, personal and general, eternal and temporal.

Note thirdly:

### **3. THE DEPENDABILITY OF THE PROMISES – “ARE YEA AND IN HIM AMEN”**

This is very interesting. A Greek word “Yea” and a Hebrew word “Amen” are used to mark certainty, both to the Jew and Gentile.

They are confirmed beyond alteration. God hath said Amen confirming their truth.

One final thing:

### **4. THE DECLARATION OF THE PROMISES – “THE GLORY OF GOD BY US”**

God should receive glory by us as He fulfills His promises in our lives.

Close: