

## PROMISES OF GOD

You might be surprised to learn that the prevalent teaching on the subject of the Promises of God is more New Testament than Old Testament. "The Bible is indeed full of 'precious and exceeding great promises' (2 Pet.1:4), although the word 'promise' is not always used in connection with them." (ISBE, vol. IV, pg.2459)

The Greek word for Promise is ep/aggelia (epi) [upon] and (aggelia) [to proclaim, announce]. "Epaggelia means to announce an intention, to offer to do something, to promise, to vow." "Epaggelia has no Hebrew equivalent." (Dictionary of NT Theology, vol.3, pg.68)

"Promise holds an important place in the Scriptures and in the development of the religion that culminated in Christ." (ISBE, vol. IV, pg.2459)

"This is the more striking because on the basis of Paul's teaching we tend to consider the OT from the standpoint of promise." (Theological Dictionary of New Testament, vol.2, pg.579)

Paul brings the promises of the word of God into single messianic history in the person of Jesus Christ.

Our lesson text is an example of this Pauline teaching on the Promises of God.

We will examine our lesson text by the following five homiletic points of the Promises of God.

Abraham Promise	(Rom.4:13-15)	Promise verses Law of heir
Abraham Covenant	(Rom.4:16-17)	Provided by God's grace
Abraham Hope	(Rom.4:18-20)	Promise of descendant
Abraham faith cycle	(Rom.4:21-22)	Performance by God
Abraham Offspring	(Rom.4:23-25)	Promised Seed (Christ)

(Gal.3:16) "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is Christ."

This lesson will study three additional points of the Promises of God so that the Church Age Believer (CAB) might understand how important a doctrine it is to the Church Age.

The fulfillment of the Scriptural Promises of God is based on the integrity of the character of God and not on the integrity and character of the believer.

This is based on the doctrinal principle of the grace of God and not on the work of man.

(Rom.3:28) "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law." (Gal.3:17-18)

SARAH:

(Heb.11:11) "By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised." (2 Tim.2:13)

(1 Cor.10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it."

(Heb.10:23) "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

(1 Cor.1:9) "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Thess.5:24)

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

It is not a matter of God keeping His promises to you (that's a given). It is matter of you completing the faith cycle until the promise is completed by Him.

(Rom.4:21) "And being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform."

The faith cycle is the way to bring completion or fulfillment to the promises of God

(Heb.6:11-12) "And we desire that each of one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Hearing (Rom.10:17)

Completing (James 2:22)

Believing (Heb.4:2)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7)

Performance to fulfillment is required of the one making the promise and not the one receiving it by faith.

(Rom.4:16) "For this reason it is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace, in order that the promise may be certain to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all."

The center piece of the Scriptural promises of God is Jesus Christ.

(Eph.2:12-13) "Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

(1 John 2:25) "To be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

(Eph.3:6) "And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life."

(Gal.3:16-18) "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'and to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'and to your seed,' that is Christ." (Acts 13:23, 32-33)

(Heb.11:13) "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth."