

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning
Week 22 (May 25-31, 2014)

Nothing has enhanced my personal prayer life more than learning to pray God's **promises**. I want to spend our time together this week showing some passages that led me to take His word literally at face value.

Sunday, May 25 (read Romans 4:18-25)

*Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the **promise** of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had **promised**. (Romans 4:20-21, emphasis mine)*

Abraham is often referred to as a man of faith. He trusted God in matters that make most of us cringe, particularly when he offered up his only true son, Isaac, for sacrifice (see Genesis 22:1-18). Although a man of faith, nevertheless, he was not perfect; he took a short cut and produced a child through Sarah's handmaid, Hagar, a mistake behind the Arab/Jewish struggles today (see Genesis 16). But God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation (Israel) and that all the nations on earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3). He trusted God, and the Lord fulfilled His **promise** even though Abraham was a hundred years old and Sarah's womb was as good as dead (v. 19). Abraham was credited with righteousness because of his faith (v. 22). Likewise, true followers of Jesus Christ will be credited with righteousness because of our unwavering faith in the resurrection of our Lord (v. 24-25).

Monday, May 26 (read 2 Corinthians 1:18-22)

*For no matter how many **promises** God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20a, emphasis mine)*

Sometimes I am accused of being a "black or white" person. I see most things as right or wrong with very little room in the middle. That's because I have a Biblical worldview, and I try to answer all social problems with the question, "What does the Word of God say?" This passage validates the stand I have taken. Specifically, today's printed verse confirms all the **promises** of God through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. If you can just learn to take Him at His Word and claim His **promises** as you pray, your life will never be the same. Many examples of this concept can be found on our website under the heading "Praying God's Promises." The presence of the Holy Spirit within you will not only guarantee your salvation (v. 21-22), but also will teach you how to pray. Don't delay another day before you accept God's **promises** that speak specifically to you.

Tuesday, May 27 (read Numbers 23:19-23)

*God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He **promise** and not fulfill? (Numbers 23:19, emphasis mine)*

The scene in today's text takes place when Balak, king of Moab, hires Balaam (a fortuneteller who believes in God, but who uses sorcery to predict the future) to come and put a curse on the Israelites as they march toward the Promised Land. The entire story goes from chapters 22 through 24, but I want to lift only today's text out of the passage to show you how serious God is in fulfilling **all His promises**. Because of the faith of Abraham, the Lord has **promised** to protect the Jews forever (see Jeremiah 31:35-37), so he reiterates His **promise** through the mouth of Balaam. You can know for sure that He will fulfill every **promise** in your life as well. My prayer for you is that you will learn to trust His Word and His **promises** so much that you will boldly say, "God said it! I believe it! That settles it!"

Wednesday, May 28 (read Joshua 23:14-16)

*Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good **promises** the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every **promise** has been fulfilled; not one has failed. (Joshua 23:14, emphasis mine)*

This is quite a testimony from Joshua as he makes a farewell speech to his followers. I don't know how much time I have left to do the tasks God has assigned to me, but I want this passage to be remembered as my farewell speech also. Joshua and I both know that your future must be based on the **promises** of the Word of God and not on the leadership of man. These devotions will be a lasting legacy of my thoughts and spiritual growth during my earthly ministry. I can think of no greater gift to leave behind than helping you find the confidence to trust God's **promises** and apply them to your own prayer life.

Thursday, May 29 (read 1 Kings 8:14-26)

*Then he said, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with His own hand has fulfilled what He **promised** with His own mouth to my father David." (1 Kings 8:15a, emphasis mine)*

In today's text, King Solomon is dedicating the newly built temple in Jerusalem to the glory of God. His most important emphasis is on the fulfillment of God's **promises** to his father, King David. I pray that the buildings I have preached in will also be dedicated to praising God for the fulfillment of His wonderful **promises**. God had made it clear to David that his son would be the one to build the temple ((v. 17-19), so Solomon is acknowledging the accuracy of the Lord's **promise** (v. 20-21). As David's son begins to pray his dedication prayer, he raises his hands toward heaven and thanks God for keeping all of His **promises** (v. 22-26). He also looks into the future of Israel and claims those **promises** as well. Are you learning to start your day by thanking God for fulfilled **promises** as well as claiming those yet to be received? It will change your life completely!

Friday, May 30 (read 2 Peter 3:1-13)

*The Lord is not slow in keeping His **promise**, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9, emphasis mine)*

Peter teaches that scoffers will arise **in the last days** and make fun of the **promise** of the return of Jesus Christ to earth (v. 3-4). Not understanding the **mercy** and **grace** of God, they will demand that He hurry up and fulfill this **promise**. This generation will be in error because they deliberately reject the Biblical account of creation and the account of the worldwide flood (v. 5-7), holding on to man's theory of evolution instead. The Lord is patient in fulfilling His **promise** because He is not willing that anyone should perish (v. 8-9). However, all of the events prophesied in the Bible will take place just as He **promised** (v. 10). He has **promised** a new Heaven and a new earth where the people who trusted His **promises** will spend eternity (v. 13). Let's live our lives down here in preparation for the fulfillment of this final **promise** (v. 11-12)!

Saturday, May 31 (read Hebrews 4:1-13)

*Therefore, since the **promise** of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. (Hebrews 4:1, emphasis mine)*

The Lord has **promised** there will come a day when His people will **rest** in His presence in the Kingdom of God, first during Jesus' earthly reign from the current city of Jerusalem and finally in the New Jerusalem where we will spend eternity (Revelation 20 & 21). Mentally and spiritually, we can enter that **Haven of Rest** today, but few people have adequate faith to trust His Word enough to claim all His **promises**. No human can give you that kind of peace and rest on this earth (v. 8), so you have to make an effort to take God's Word literally and apply His **promises** to your own life (v.11). You must believe that the Bible is living and active (v. 12). Someday, you will give an account of your actions and words on earth based on your knowledge of and trust in the Scriptures. Start today to live according to His **promises**!