

On Whose Promise do you Rely?

Issue date: 19 Aug 2007

In the year 1863 an American president, Abraham Lincoln, proclaimed that all men are equal regardless of the colour of their skin. A few years later was the American Civil War where many people were killed. Five days after the ending of this war he was shot dead in a theatre balcony.

In 1957 in a stadium containing about 1/4 white and 3/4 black people stood and listened to Martin Luther King. He made a speech:

‘I had a dream that all men will be equal Let freedom rule and ring us all when black men and white men will shout - Free at last, O God Almighty, free at last!’

After that he stopped speaking and there was pause where everything was quiet. Then everyone started to shout his last refrain. A commentator there said: You almost felt for a short period of time that heaven was here on earth! However in 1968 he was shot dead in a balcony - and that dream went with the man.

We had the Florida riots a few years ago which showed that promise not to be fulfilled, the race hatred and persecution.!

In 1938, a man stepped off a plane in England, waving a piece of paper to the cameras saying: 'Peace in our time'. within a year there was a world war and when it finished, 55 million lives later, it gave lie to that piece of paper!

In the early 1990's President Bush said: There is a new world order. But look at the war in Bosnia and Angola for examples of this!

In 1940, the president of America was saying: Your boys will not go to war! But at the same time he was in secret negotiations with England in bringing in America as support.

What about religion?

As an example, the Muslin fundamentalists proclaim that in a Holy Jihad a holy warrior who kills themselves in war (a martyr) will immediately go to heaven! What a lie put out by those imams who love the power over people to cause further pain and suffering within Satan's present world being his desire that they fulfil!

To the other extreme: Worldly Christian leaders falsely claiming “God always love you!”

Plus many other falsities stated as being ‘from God’ by all worldly religious leaders!

With all this disinformation, where can we get accurate, correct and solid information from?

We hear people say: A promise is a promise!

But this declaration is made by someone who has just had a promise broken on them: This is too late and the original 'promise' was just a shallow phrase said to pacify someone!

This is clearly wrong!

If we promise to meet someone, and we keep breaking our promise to meet them, surely they will have no faith in us.

A promise is therefore something that we must work at fulfilling!

Unfortunately some people deliberately manipulate a situation by promising a reward if the other party does something for it. This, sadly, can lead to heart-breaking situations. An example may be proposing marriage and then turning your back on it later!

Continuing this theme, marriage is a promise for life. It is a tremendous responsibility to continue it through very difficult times that will certainly arise in the partnership and it is up to both sides to work at this mutual promise.

Again with many people it is just empty promises, only taken for the convenience at the time - whatever it may be!

The previous examples are given to show us that many humans are just not prepared to, or even intend to, keep their promises.

What we should do is look to Almighty God and find out if His promises are kept and what some of these promises are.

Eze. 21v25-27 And you, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end; this says, the Lord God. Remove the diadem, and take off the crown; this will not be the same: Exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will make it a ruin, a ruin, a ruin, and it shall be no more, until he comes whose right it is; and I will give it to him.

While we think about this, let us bring into context this period of time by looking at this incident in another book of the Bible:-

2Chr 36v11-13 Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the Lord. And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: But he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the Lord God of Israel.

It is very interesting that a foreign king made Zedekiah swear against his very own God, Yahweh, to be faithful. But Zedekiah was not faithful to either his God or Nebuchadnezzar! So he broke his promise, and God let Israel become a ruin. But note that God made a promise:- A kingdom would be established again but for a rightful king who was lowly but then made high. This, as we will find out later was his beloved Son, Jesus Christ who took a lowly position in a human frame knowing that he would be exalted to the highest position of power – in God's Time.

Lets look at what a vow means. It means a going forth to make a commitment. What does The Bible say about this?

Eccl. 5v4-6 Whenever you make a vow to God, do not hesitate to pay it, for he has no pleasure in fools. What you vow, you pay! It is better that you should not vow, than you vow and then not pay. Do not let your mouth to cause your flesh to sin; neither say before the angel that it was a mistake. Why should the true God become angry on account of your voice, and have to destroy the works of your hands.

An oath is similar. It is a promise that a person makes who will also then put strings to it to make it more of a commitment.

Simply put:- If you do this for me, then, I will do that for you.

Baptism can be like an oath. I will put on my new life for you, if you will look after me with your daily Holy Spirit.

A leading warrior made an oath to God - what did it mean to him?

Judg. 11v30-35 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If you shall without fail deliver the sons of Ammon into my hands, and it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. And Jephthah smote them from Aroer and to Minnith and destroyed twenty cities.

And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tumbrels and with dances; and she was his only child; beside her he had no son or daughter. And when it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are the one who has done it; for I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot go back on my word!

How does this affect us?

What would we do?

We must learn from this that we must think very carefully before we promise or place an oath with God. If we do offer an oath to God then we must carry out what we say, out of complete reverence and respect to The Almighty God.

Clearly Jephthah was brought very low before The Almighty God and it took great effort to keep his promise.

We must remember too, that in this present world, truth is not very easy because we live in a world at present where things will be difficult if you are trying to do God's Will. We are living in an earthly system where True Christians are swimming against the flow of water.

Psalms 15v1-4 Lord, who shall abide in your tabernacle? Who shall dwell in your holy hill? He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart. He that does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbour, nor takes vengeance against his neighbour. In his eyes a vile person is despised; and is one who honours those who fear the Lord. He that swears to his own hurt, and changes not.

Do we want to be left outside?

For those who fear God; then God will be with them.

Rom. 1v31-32 They are foolish, faithless, heartless and ruthless. Though they know God's decree: Those who do such things deserve to die. But they not only do such things but approve of others who practise such things.

All Christians know full well what God's Standard is, but many choose to ignore it. When you take on Christianity you know full well that you make a promise and you should not only take it on for yourself but also make other people aware of it too. It affects us Christians severely and if you are aware of these requirements, then if you practice things against God's standard then you are in a very dangerous position.

Isaiah 55v11 So shall my word be, that goes forth from my mouth: It shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing that I sent it to.

Essentially what God says – **Is Done!**

God has all the power in the universe; He created all things and obviously knows all things (because He created them).

Isaiah 14v24 The Lord of Hosts has sworn, saying: Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.

Again what God says, so it will occur; there is no entity who can break up what God Wills.

What God says, He will do.

Heb. 6v17-18 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.

Here the text shows us that God is so different to the earthly rulers mentioned at the beginning of this discourse, because they did not have these perfect and wonderful qualities that our Almighty God has. Not only has The Almighty

God got the power to ensure that what He says “becomes to be”, but He is merciful and faithful to those who trust and rely on Him.

We see that God is not a wish-washy God as so many humans seem to portray, but as the Bible accurately says, He will make things occur as he so Desires.

He has loyalty to His own Word (= The promises made through The Bible and Jesus).

Rom. 4v20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God.

Here Abraham was solid in the Word of God.

How can we have faith that this is being done with our human leaders?

Simply we cannot, because they have proved themselves by their actions!

God can be seen however, to be faithful, solid and IS prepared to back up his word by actions!

Lets look at The Bible to see what He did.

Gen. 3v15 And I will put enmity between you and the women, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

The first identification of Jesus Christ being bruised in the foot, but recovers by rising on the third day.

Gen. 22v18 And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice.

Gal. 3v16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.

It does not say "And to offsprings," referring to many; but, referring to one, "And to your offspring," which is Christ. Christ is identified as being that seed.

Dan. 9v24-27 (This is the promise in weeks of years from the building of the temple to the coming of the Messiah and will be cut off in the middle of the week (*prophecy = being 3.5 days = years of ministry to his death and resurrection*)).

This scripture does mean your very life, because it holds together the promise that God made, to the time when The Ransom Sacrifice of His beloved Son for us, occurred. When this promise was fulfilled it was a culmination of redemption for our sins, hence holds the whole scriptures together.

Rev. 12v10-14 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven,; Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: For the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives even to death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them. Woe to the inhibitors of the land and of the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time.

Clearly there is going to be a terrible upheaval on this earth at that time (Matt.24v21-22).

A war to end all wars was stated by politicians after the end of the 1st World War. What a hollow promise!

But we have this promise from Yahweh with which past prophecies have proved Him to be faithful.

Rev. 21v1-4 (The promise of a new heaven and earth, where none will be unhappy any more!)

We will have an opportunity to be with God, a loyal promise from The Word of God, is now given, and we know that it will be kept because of the other promises that He has given which have come true.

This wonderful promise is something that all these earthly leaders could never keep!

One currency in the world prints:-

'In God we trust!'

What a hypocritical statement!

Ps 146v3-4 Do not put your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom their is no help. His breath departs, he returns to his earth. In that very day his thoughts perish.

Hence do not put your trust in earthly leaders.

2Peter 3v13 But according to his promise we wait for a new heaven/sky (*being all things under it pertaining to this earth*) and a new earth (*being The New World order of The Millennium under Jesus' rulership*) in which righteousness dwells.

But the question we must ask ourselves at the end of this discourse is this:-

When we are Baptised (thus enter into a mutual agreement) and asked God to be with us at that time, can we return the promise so that we will be there in this Holy City (= *The New Jerusalem, see Glossary*) when it comes here on earth!