

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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## The Promises of God

*by Dempsey Collins*

Scripture Reading: II Peter 1:1-4

Introduction: Eccl. 7:8 – “The end of a thing is better than the beginning...” But in order to understand and fully appreciate the end we are compelled to learn of the beginning and all segments in between. Especially is this true of the scheme of redemption. It is a plan conceived in the mind of God before the foundations of the world and ends with the promise of eternal blessing or eternal curse. Understanding this and all the segments in between is the purpose of our study.

- I. Review chart and place subject in the proper time frame and relevancy of the total scheme of redemption.
- II. The Promises of God
  - A. The Bible, to a large degree, is a book of promises.
    1. God created man that man might honor and glorify Him. Man does this by choosing to be like his heavenly Father (II Pet. 1:4; Matt. 5:45; Eph. 4:24; Heb. 12:10); that he may someday be glorified with Him (Rom. 8:30). God has never required any man to serve Him without promise of future reward.
    2. The promises of God run from Gen. 2:17 to Rev. 22:20.
    3. They are both positive and negative, and contain blessing or curse (e.g., Deut. 30:15-20).
    4. Every promise has been or will be fulfilled (Tit. 1:2 hence II Pet. 3:13).
  - B. Promise defined
    1. A solemn pledge, vow or personal commitment.
    2. “To give one’s word to do or not to do something; to give cause for expectation; to agree to give; to assure by a promise; to give grounds for hope” (Webster).

- C. Promises play an important part in everyday life.
  - 1. Promise to be on the job; employer promises to pay.
  - 2. Promises made to children. Their respect for you is largely dependent upon you carrying out your word.
  - 3. Use of credit is just another way of making a promise.
- D. Four essential elements of a promise. Before making any promise four essential elements must be kept in mind.
  - 1. I know – I am aware of the ramifications, complexities and details of the promise. Otherwise it becomes rash or vain (e.g. Jud. 11:30, Num. 30).
  - 2. I have spoken – declaration of intent proclaimed to the concerned parties.
  - 3. I remember - Weld in sacred trust to perform and not erased by time or circumstances.
  - 4. I fulfill – brought to fruition.
- E. God’s promises always contain these elements (Heb. 10:23; II Cor. 1:20).

III. God’s promises to Abraham. The Patriarchal age focuses attention on three great men representative of the blood lineage of Christ – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Mark 12:26; Luke 13:28; Acts 7:32). These men were considered by the Jews to be the epitome of Patriarchal faith (Matt. 8:11). Beginning with Abraham, God made three great promises. These promises contain the hope of both physical and spiritual blessings and most of the Old Testament is taken up with their fulfillment. Our study will focus attention upon the promises as they were given to Abraham.

A. The call of Abram

- 1. God first commissioned Abram while he was living in Ur of the Chaldees (Acts 7:2, 3; Gen. 11:31).
- 2. In Haran, God once again appeared to Abram and told him to leave his relatives and travel to a land which He would show him (Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8).

B. Promises given to Abram. God called Abram to leave his home country and at the same time gave to him three great promises.

- 1. Gen. 12:2 – “I will make you a great nation.”
  - a. Promise reconfirmed (Gen. 13:16; 15:5; 17:2-6; 22:17).
  - b. Descendants to be as numerous as the stars of the heaven and the sands of the seashore. In view of such a numerous progeny, Abram’s name is changed from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham – father of a multitude (Gen. 17:2-6).

*to be continued*

**News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.  
*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

James 5:16