

## The Promises of God - Lesson 3

### Introduction:

1. God has given "*exceeding great and precious promises*" to His people (2 Peter 1:4).
2. To fully appreciate and to properly understand God's promises, we must be aware of some general principles that relate to them.
3. In addition to being "*great and precious,*" God's promises:
  - a. are effective
    - 1) God's promises will have a positive effect upon those who trust them.
    - 2) Abraham, Sara, Isaac, and Jacob illustrate how "trusting in God's promises will lead His people to serve Him faithfully" (Hebrews 11:13-16).
  - b. are trustworthy.
    - 1) Unlike man, God "*is not slack concerning His promise*" (2 Peter 3:9).
    - 2) Furthermore, it is "*impossible for God to lie*" (Hebrews 6:18).
4. In this lesson we are examining the role of "conditions" in God's promises.

### Discussion:

- I. GOD HAS MADE SOME PROMISES THAT ARE UNCONDITIONAL
  - A. (Genesis 8:22) God said that the earth will always experience the various seasons and the regular passing of days and nights.
    1. God had made provision for this on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Creation (Genesis 1:14).
    2. God's design will continue as long as the earth exists.
  - B. (Genesis 9:8-17) God told Noah and his sons that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood.
    1. God did not say that the earth:
      - a. will never experience floods
      - b. will never be destroyed.
    2. He placed the rainbow in the cloud as the token of His covenant.
- II. GOD HAS MADE SOME PROMISES THAT ARE CONDITIONAL
  - A. God promised to give Canaan to Abraham's descendants forever (Genesis 12:1, 5, 7; 13:15).
    1. God's promise included conditions for the Israelites.
      - a. God said He would bless the Israelites if they remained faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 7:9-13; 28:1-14).
      - b. God also said He would curse the Israelites if they turned from Him and worshipped idols (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 28:15-68).
    2. God kept His promise to give Canaan to the Israelites (Joshua 21:43, 45).
    3. Unfortunately, the Israelites did not abide by the conditions that God gave to them, and He removed them from Canaan (2 Kings 17:5-8; 25:1, 21).
  - B. God promised to bless Solomon and his throne forever (1 Kings 9:4-5).
    1. God's promise included conditions for Solomon.
      - a. God required Solomon to serve Him faithfully (1 Kings 3:14).
      - b. God also said He would punish Solomon if he turned to other gods (1 Kings 9:6-7).
    2. Unfortunately, Solomon worshipped the idols of his wives, and God punished him (1 Kings 11:6-11).
  - C. God has made a special promise to Christians -- "*eternal life*" (Titus 1:2).
    1. This promise includes conditions.
      - a. Those who desire to receive eternal life must be "*faithful unto death*" (Revelation 2:10).
      - b. Those who turn from the Lord and back to the world will not receive this blessing (2 Peter 2:20-21).
    2. God's promise is trustworthy, and trusting in it will lead His people to serve Him faithfully.
    3. Those who serve God faithfully will be blessed with eternal life.