

The Promises of God - Lesson 28

Introduction:

1. As Peter stated, God's promises are "*exceeding great and precious*" (2 Peter 1:4).
2. Because God's promises are so special, they deserve our careful attention.
3. By studying God's promises we are able to learn:
 - a. information that God wants us to know about many important subjects (ex. "the judgment")
 - b. about many special blessings that God provides (ex. "comfort")
 - c. about many important Bible characters (ex. "Jesus").
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on "God's promise to send John the Baptist."

Discussion:

- I. GOD MADE THIS PROMISE IN SEVERAL KEY PROPHECIES
 - A. God made many of His promises through the prophets (Romans 1:1-3).
 - B. Key prophecies relating to the coming of John were made by Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3-5) and Malachi (Malachi 3:1; 4:4-6).
- II. GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE
 - A. The apostle John identified John the Baptist as "*a man sent from God*" (John 1:6).
 - B. The details of John's birth in Luke 1 indicate that he fulfilled the prophecies made by Isaiah and Malachi.
 1. Note the information revealed by an angel when he informed Zacharias that he and Elisabeth would have a son (vs.5-17).
 2. Note the information revealed by Zacharias as he prophesied (vs.67-79).
 - C. Matthew and Mark showed how John fulfilled the prophecies made by Isaiah and Malachi.
 1. Matthew stated that John fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Matthew 3:1-4).
 2. Mark stated that John fulfilled the prophecies of Malachi and Isaiah (Mark 1:1-3).
 - D. Jesus stated that John fulfilled Malachi's prophecies (Matthew 11:7-15).
 - E. John stated that he fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (John 1:19-23).
- III. JOHN FULFILLED HIS MISSION FROM GOD
 - A. John bore witness of Jesus (John 1:6-8).
 1. He identified Jesus as "*the Lamb of God*" (John 1:29-30).
 2. He identified Jesus as "*the Son of God*" (John 1:32-34).
 - B. John had a message that he cried in the wilderness (Matthew 3:1-2).
 1. John taught people how to receive the remission of sins (Mark 1:4-5).
 2. John taught people how to live (Luke 3:7-14).
 - C. John's reproof of Herod led to his imprisonment and death (Matthew 14:3-12).